

## Multi-Crore Investment Fraud

# Police Conducts Midnight Raids In Srinagar

## Electronic Gadgets, Documents Seized During Searches At Five Locations

Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** The cyber wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted midnight raids at at least five locations in Srinagar, seizing documents and electronic gadgets as part of an investigation into a multi-crore investment scam. The move comes a day after a 59 crore investment scam surfaced in Srinagar, shocking those who had invested their hard-earned money in the firm. The company exploited people by falsely claiming that their investment would double in 15 days. Sources within the police department told Kashmir Observer that a manhunt has been launched to nab the accused following the formal registration of a case at the Cyber Wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The main accused involved in the scam linked to the private firm Curative Survey Agency, are reportedly on the run after the

revelations came to light a day earlier.

This fraudulent company has subsidiaries located in various districts across Kashmir. A formal case (FIR number 39 of 2023) has been filed under sections 66D of the Information Technology Act and Indian

Penal Code (IPC) sections 429 at the Cyber Police Station.

"All available human and technical resources are being employed to zero in on the accused, as part of the extensive investigation into the multi-crore investment scam involving a private investment business. Documents and electronic gadgets have been seized during midnight raids in Srinagar," officials said.

Regarding the number of people accused of duping investors, the police said that since the inquiry is in its early stages, hasty conclusions cannot be drawn. "Let the



# LG Stresses On Increasing Female Literacy Rate In J&K

## Says No Child Should Be Deprived Of Education

Observer News Service

**Udhampur:** The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that the socio-economic empowerment of the poor, women, farmers and marginalized sections of the society is essential to realize the goal of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Jammu Kashmir.

"Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is a resolve and guarantee of Prime Minister



Narendra Modi to fulfill the dreams of common man. It has a pivotal role in bringing transformation in the lives of

people by ensuring that all the benefits reach citizens and to bring holistic, inclusive development in rural and

urban areas," the LG said.

Sinha, who joined the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Ballian Panchayat here on Wednesday, congratulated the people of J&K for overwhelming participation in the Yatra which aims to saturate government flagship schemes.

He said the socio-economic empowerment of the poor, women, farmers and marginalized sections of the society is essential to realize the goal of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Jammu Kashmir.

The LG called upon the elected representatives and political leaders for active participation | [More on P6](#)

## 'Transform Youth Into Ambassadors Of A Progressive India'

### Attends Annual Day Celebrations Of Sainik School Nagrota

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called upon the educational institutions and the teaching community to reinforce the ideals of nation building and transform the youth into the ambassadors of a progressive India.

"Education nurtures future leaders. They are symbols of ambitious India, determined to create a knowledge society and advance India's economic prowess in | [More on P6](#)

## LS Passes 3 Key Bills To Replace IPC, CrPC; Evidence Act

### Focus Is On Delivering Speedy Justice Rather Than Handing Down Punishment: Shah



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed three key bills that seek to overhaul the criminal justice system, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserting that the focus is on delivering speedy justice rather than handing down punishment.

Replying to the debate, Shah said the three bills - Bharatiya

Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill -- also have a clear definition of terrorism and scrap sedition as a crime while introducing a new section titled "offences against the State".

Members of the Congress, DMK, TMC and other opposition parties were not present during the debate | [More on P6](#)

## Contractual Can't Be Sacked Without Opportunity Of Hearing: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said that a contractual appointment cannot be terminated without affording an opportunity of hearing if founded on allegation of misconduct which casts a stigma on such an employee.

A single bench of Justice M. A. Choudhary made the observation while allowing a petition filed by at least 16 persons for setting aside an order dated 16 September 2022 issued by Managing Director of the J&K Handicrafts Corporation regarding their disengagement.

According to the petitioners, the petitioners were engaged in the Corporation on

consolidated, contractual, need or contingency basis from time to time against different posts and were discharging their duties diligently. However, they said, on a complaint of some persons before the Anti Corruption Bureau against the then Managing Director, the ACB issued a communication, recommending disengagement of the petitioners for the reasons that these engagements have been made by the "abuse of authority by various Managing Directors of the Corporation." They said that disengagement was done without affording any opportunity of being heard to the them when it was incumbent upon the Managing Director | [More on P6](#)



## J&K Gears Up To Tackle New Covid Variant

Observer News Service

**Jammu:** Two days after Centre asked states and union territories to maintain constant vigil amid an uptick in Covid-19 cases, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday directed health department officials to activate Covid-19 testing facilities and conduct ample testing following the revised surveillance strategy.

Secretary Health and Medical Education (HME), Bhopinder Kumar also directed Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) and head of the departments (HODs) to meticulously report influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases while adhering to recommended testing protocols.

He passed these directions while reviewing the Covid-19 situation and preparedness of the public health system across J&K particularly in light of the recent advisory issued by the Union Health Ministry concerning the emergence | [More on P6](#)

## Covid Strain JN.1 'Variant Of Interest': WHO

Press Trust Of India

Geneva: The World Health Organisation has classified COVID-19 strain JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest" given its rapidly increasing spread but said that it poses a "low" global public health risk.

The JN.1 variant was previously classified as a variant of interest (VOI) as part of the BA.2.86 sublineages, the parent lineage that is classified as a VOI, the world body said on Tuesday.

However, in recent weeks, JN.1 continues to be reported in multiple countries, and its prevalence has rapidly increased globally. India has also reported its first case of the JN.1 variant.

It now represents the vast majority of BA.2.86 descendant lineages reported to the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAI), according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"Due to its rapidly increasing spread, WHO is classifying JN.1 as a separate | [More on P6](#)

## No Shortcut To Success: Div Com

Majid Nabi

'There is no shortcut to success', Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said on Wednesday, urging people to exercise caution and think twice before falling for con artists, who he said, deceives people by luring them with tempting schemes.

The Div Com Kashmir however said the police and security agencies were activated as soon as the multi-crore investment scam surfaced in the valley. | [More on P6](#)

**6 LET THE INVESTIGATION REACH ITS CONCLUSION; IT'S A MASSIVE SCAM, and the agency cannot draw conclusions until the facts are known. A massive hunt has been launched to nab those who are absconding."**

## Sonia Demands Immediate Statehood To J&K

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Sonia Gandhi Wednesday said the Congress' position on Jammu and Kashmir has been clear and consistent, asserting that full statehood must be restored immediately and elections be held there at the earliest.

She accused the government of "strangling democracy" by suspending MPs over a legitimate demand and said the Congress has its task cut out for next year's general elections both as a party and as INDIA bloc member.

Noting that the assembly election results being very disappointing is an understatement, the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson urged party MPs to channel their disappointment into positivity for next year's general



elections. "This was the first time that Sonia Gandhi spoke on the recent assembly poll results.

Addressing party MPs at a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party in the Central Hall of Parliament, Gandhi said, "To say that the assembly election results in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh

and Rajasthan have been very disappointing for our party is an understatement."

"The Congress president has already had a first round of reviews to understand the reasons for our poor performance and to draw the needed lessons for our organization," she said.

"We are facing enormous challenges. Yet, I am confident that our fortitude and resilience will see us through. Our ideology and our values are our guiding light at this difficult time. We must never forget that our leaders fought against insurmountable odds with great courage and fortitude to give us freedom."

Gandhi told the MPs to "channel the disappointment into a positive drive for the coming general elections".

She told the Congress MPs that the Lok Sabha polls are to be held in the | [More on P6](#)



## Harshest Winter Period 'Chilla-i-Kalan' Begins Today

Press Trust Of India

The minimum temperature in Kashmir stayed several degrees below the freezing point as the valley braces for 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period, officials said on Wednesday. Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, down from the previous night's minus 3.7 degree Celsius, the officials said. Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, they said. The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in | [More on P6](#)

KO Photo | Abid Bhat

## PDP Favours Pre-Poll Alliance With NC

Favouring a pre-poll alliance with the National Conference for the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, the PDP on Wednesday said the people of the Union Territory should unite to achieve the larger goal. PDP Parliamentary Board chairman Mohammad Sartaj Madni said the party wants | [More on P6](#)

## SHORT TAKES

### Blast In Poonch Police Compound

An explosion occurred inside the compound of an armed police unit in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, prompting authorities to launch a probe, officials said on Wednesday. Windows of some vehicles parked near the compound were damaged due to the explosion that occurred on the intervening night of December 19 and 20 in Surankote area, they said.

### NIA Takes Up Kokernag Encounter Case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the investigation of the Kokernag, Anantnag encounter case, on the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, sources revealed Wednesday. They said following the Ministry of Home Affairs notification, the NIA took charge of the case and registered it with FIR number RC-04/2023/NIA/JMU at | [More on P6](#)

### Copper Utensils Worth Rs 3L Stolen

Police have registered a case after thieves stole copper utensils worth lakhs of rupees in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. Reports said that burglars looted the copper utensil shop at Ratnipora village during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. The shop belonged to one Zubair Ahmed Ahangar who claimed that thieves decamped with | [More on P6](#)

### Migrant Worker Falls To Death

A 26-year-old worker from Bihar was killed after he accidentally fell to the ground from an under construction pillar of a bridge in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Wednesday, police said. The labourer named Mohammad Israil was working on the bridge pillar at Ramsoo along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway when he lost balance and fell to | [More on P6](#)

### Drug Peddler Booked Under PSA

A suspected drug peddler was arrested under the stringent Public Safety Act and sent to Central Jail-Kot Bhalwal on Wednesday, police said. Gurdit Singh alias Prince alias Pindi -- a resident of Gangyal -- was wanted for his alleged involvement in drug peddling and other criminal activities, a police official said. Four cases have been registered against | [More on P6](#)

### Man Bites His Wife's Nose Over Dowry

A man allegedly injured his wife by biting her nose over dowry demand, police said on Wednesday. Victim Ajmi (22), a resident of Maheshpur, lodged an FIR against six members of her husband's family at the CB Ganj police station on Tuesday. Bareilly Additional Superintendent of Police, City, Rahul Bhati said that Ajmi lodged an FIR against her husband Nazim, | [More on P6](#)



Srinagar Based Paper Mache Artist Exports Christmas Items Abroad

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Srinagar based paper mache artist crafts Christmas decorative items like Santa, Christmas trees and Christmas bells and claims to receive orders from across the globe.

Nayeem Mir said his artistic prowess has garnered attention beyond borders. "I get orders from abroad and sell my products in the global market through online marketing apps like Flipkart and Amazon," he said.

"My commitment to preserving the centuries-old tradition of paper mache art while infusing it with

festive motifs has earned me accolades and orders from across the globe, turning my quaint workshop into a hub of global Christmas fervor," he added.

According to Nayeem, each meticulously crafted piece carries the essence of Kashmir's heritage, which is intricately designed to radiate the festive cheer of Christmas.

"The valley itself becomes a canvas during this festive season and gets adorned with vibrant decorations," Mir said, adding, amidst the snow-capped mountains, his art serves as a testament to the artistic brilliance thriving in Kashmir.

DC Holds Mega Public Grievance Redressal Camp At Ranbirgarh Pratapgarh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to listen the Public Grievances at their doorsteps and ensure their time bound redressal, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday undertook an extensive tour of Ranbirgarh Pratapgarh area in the outskirts of Srinagar District and presided over a Public Grievance Redressal Camp as a part of Public Outreach Program under weekly Mukham Diwas.

The Program witnessed a large participation of people from Ranbirgarh Pratapgarh, Mirgud, Panzianra and other adjoining areas of the Tehsil Shalteng of Srinagar District.

The Public Grievance Redressal Camp was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Tehsildar Shalteng and other Zonal and Sectoral Officers of the District.

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/S: Executive Travels" situated at Hamdania Colony Bemina Srinagar

Whereas I Mr:Shahid mushtaq magray S/O Mr Mushtaq Ahmad Magray, R/o: Bemina Srinagar Kashmir intends to apply in the department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/S: Executive Travels" situated at Hamdania Colony Bemina Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile, Qualification certificate, PAN card, Experience certificate (Minimum 05 years), Character certificate(Police Department), Bank statement(Minimum balance 10000), Site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by Sub-registrar, Printing material (Letter head/Visiting card), Photograph of the unit(Indoor and Outdoor), and two passport size photographs to the department of tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/Organisation etc. For objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism registration (e-mail ID:ddtreg123@gmail.com) within the period of (07) days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. No objections beyond a period of (07) days shall be entertained.

ازعدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر

با اجلاس: اروند شترما
J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Srinagar
بنام
Zeenaat Javeed
دعویٰ وصولیابی رقم مبلغ
Rs: 149250.00
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
Zeenaat Javeed D/o Javeed Ahmad Durgaroo R/o Aklmir Kawa Mohalla Khanyar
مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تعمیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی۔ الا نہ تو یہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معین تھیں لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار نہ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ = Rs: 149250.00 سیرت عدالت ہذا ہے۔ لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار نہ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیروی ابراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 21-12-2023 اصالتاً یا وکالتاً بروقت چھیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیروی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ شخیر ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر

ازعدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر

با اجلاس: اروند شترما
J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Srinagar
بنام
Sabreena
دعویٰ وصولیابی رقم مبلغ
Rs: 124037.00
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
Sabreena W/o Furqan Ahmed R/o Aquilmir Khanyar Sgr
مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تعمیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی۔ الا نہ تو یہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معین تھیں لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار نہ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ = Rs: 124037.00 سیرت عدالت ہذا ہے۔ لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار نہ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیروی ابراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 21-12-2023 اصالتاً یا وکالتاً بروقت چھیری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیروی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ شخیر ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر



Clad in (Pheran) a traditional Kashmiri winter attire, an elderly man enjoying hubble-bubble in Dal Lake amidst intense cold on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Fateha Of Mrs Mustafa Ansari Observed Mirwaiz, EJAC Offer Condolences To Sajjad Haider

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A large number of people from different sections of the society, including political leaders, leaders of the trade and religious organizations, bureaucrats, converged at the residence of the Editor Kashmir Observer, Sajjad Haider at Shalimar to attend fateha of his mother, Sayeda Hameeda. She was the widow of prominent scholar, late Maulana Mustafa Hussain Ansari and daughter of late Aga Syed Muhammad Shah Jalali. She passed away here on Sunday, December 17 and was laid to rest at Baba Mazar, Zadiibal. A large number of people from different walks of life converged at the residence of Sajjad Haider to attend Chaharum of his mother. Congregational Fatiha Khwani was offered at Baba Mazar at 8 AM and later a day-long memorial service continued at Gulshan-e-Ali Shalimar. Meanwhile, the representatives of

Awami Action Committee (AAC) and Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) visited the residence of Sajjad Haider to offer their condolences. AAC expressed grief over the demise of mother of Kashmir Observer editor-in-chief Sajjad Haider who was also the aunt of Ittehadul Muslimen Chairman Moulana Masroor Abbas Ansari. On the directions of AAC Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a delegation visited the residence of Sajjad Haider in Shalimar and conveyed the condolence message of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir to him. The delegation conveyed Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir's condolence message to Sajjad Haider, Moulana Masroor and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family members. The delegations prayed for Jannatul-Firdous to the departed souls and forbearance to the bereaved families at this hour of grief. Employees Joint Action Committee Jammu Kashmir (EJAC) president, Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam also expressed

immense grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the mother of editor Kashmir Observer, Sajjad Haider. While expressing condolences on the demise, Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam in his condolence message said that the EJAC leadership shares the grief of the bereaved family. Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam prayed to almighty Allah to bestow Jannat ul Firdous to the departed soul and grant patience and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss. Meanwhile, Shabnam visited the house of the deceased to express condolences and sympathies with the bereaved family especially with Sajjad Haider. Anjuman Sharie Shiayan leader Agha Syed Mujtaba also visited the bereaved family to offer condolences. Agha Syed Hadi al Musavi has also expressed solidarity with the bereaved family. In a statement he paid rich tributes to the mother of Sajjad, Shahid and Hamid Ansari.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Office Of The Executive Engineer Right River Works Division Regal lane Lal Chowk Srinagar

Notice inviting e-tender for Regal lane Lal Chowk Srinagar. Includes details on tendering process, terms and conditions, and contact information for the Executive Engineer.

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

AIRPORTS
SHEIK 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
07 Jumada al-Sani 1445
PRAYERS
FAJR 6:02
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 3:48
Magrib 5:29
ISHA 6:55

This Day In History

- 1866 - Fetterman Massacre: Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians kill all 81 US Army soldiers in the worst military disaster ever suffered by the U.S. Army on the Great Plains
1894 - Mackenzie Bowell becomes the 5th Prime Minister of Canada
1898 - French Scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discover radium
1906 - British Parliament pass two important pieces of social legislation: The Trades Disputes Bill, legalizing peaceful picketing, and The Workmen's Compensation Act, broadening employers' liability for accidents
1907 - Dutch government of De Master falls due to war budget
1910 - Explosion in coal mine in Hulton England, 344 mine workers dies
1912 - Denmark, Norway & Sweden declare neutrality in Comende war
923 -- Nepal changes from British protectorate to independent nation
1932 Giants sign former outfielder Billy Southworth as a coach
1933 - Dried human blood serum 1st prepared, University of Pennsylvania
1933 Fox Films signs Shirley Temple aged 5, to a studio contract
1933 Newfoundland reverts to being a crown colony of Great Britain
1936 Bradman's 2nd consecutive Test Cricket duck! Australia all out for 80
1937 - The first full-length animated feature film and the earliest in the Walt Disney Animated Classics series, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", premieres at the Carthay Circle Theatre
1937 - Chicago Black Hawks left wing Paul Thompson becomes first player in NHL history to score a goal against his brother; scores on bro Cecil of the Boston Bruins with just 9 seconds left in regulation; Bruins win though, 2-1
1939 - Adolf Hitler names Adolf Eichmann leader of "Referat IV B", responsible for evictions and Jewish immigration

From KO Archives

Mehdi Hasan Anxious To Sing Again

Mubashir Hasan
LAHORE- Severe mental stress, excessive use of pan with tobacco contents, smoking and fluctuating blood pressure are some of the factors which led to severe paralysis stroke to world's renowned singer and Ghazal Maestro, Mehdi Hasan who is currently under treatment at Sheikh Zaid Hospital here. This is what his doctors said while talking to The Nation newspaper on Monday. This did not come as a surprise to the great singer as he had already suffered a mild stroke of paralysis almost a year back when he was in India in connection with some musical concert. He has been under treatment since then complaining weakness in his right leg, his son Kamran told this scribe. "I underwent a similar low intensity attack of paralysis as far back as in 1968 but recovered soon by the grace of God Almighty, Mehdi Hasan himself told in a stumbling tone while recalling his past medical history. "The stroke affected left side of his brain where lies the speech area and thus paralyzed the right side of the body including the tongue", said Dr. Farrukh Iqbal who is closely monitoring the health of the great singer of the subcontinent. Khan Sahib is also suffering from asthma and has difficulty in breathing, he further said, adding that he is being nebulized every six hours to ease his breathing. Kashmir Observer, 21 December, 1998)

KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 21-12-2023

## Opposition Unity Struggles

In the latest meeting of the INDIA alliance, the echo wasn't of unity but rather the fresh differences within the opposition bloc. From the crucial issue of seat sharing to the face for Prime Ministerial candidacy, the gathering laid bare the challenges confronting these 28 Opposition parties. As the country gears up for the next Lok Sabha elections around May next year, it's becoming increasingly evident that unless these hurdles are swiftly overcome, victory might remain a distant dream for the opposition.

Seat sharing, a persistent stumbling block for the alliance, is yet to begin despite the elections being around the corner. The reluctance of certain parties, chiefly the Congress, to expedite this process risks marring the unity crucial in what would be a difficult electoral contest in which the BJP will participate as a favourite party. The disagreement over seat-sharing loom large, particularly in states like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, and Delhi, underlining the urgency of reaching a consensus before fissures deepen irreparably.

Amid this quandary, Mamata Banerjee's unexpected proposal to nominate a face for the alliance sparked skepticism and intrigue. While her suggestion to project Mallikarjun Kharge as a potential leader raised eyebrows, it also fueled suspicions and divisions within the coalition. The timing of this proposal, juxtaposed against unresolved seat-sharing issues, added further complexity and fueled speculation regarding ulterior motives.

The differences of opinion witnessed during the meeting highlighted not only the internal fault lines but also a lack of enthusiasm and camaraderie among the alliance members. Instances of friction, such as the disagreement over EVM resolutions and linguistic differences, highlighted the need for a cohesive front. The absence of key leaders from the post-meeting discussions once again brought forth the challenge of presenting a united front to the public.

The Congress's efforts to form a national alliance committee is a recognition of the need for inclusivity and accommodation within the coalition. However, past instances of refusal to accommodate allies and the cancellation of joint meetings have sown seeds of discontent, emphasizing the imperative for the Congress to exhibit magnanimity and collective vision.

The urgency of the hour lies in the opposition's ability to swiftly resolve seat-sharing discrepancies, chart a common agenda, and foster a genuine unity. The upcoming Lok Sabha elections demand a robust, coherent opposition—one that addresses internal discord, articulates a shared vision, and presents a compelling alternative to the electorate. But that doesn't seem to be happening. Any further delay in doing so will only give the BJP a walkover in a contest in which it already has achieved a psychological victory over the opposition, as its recent wins in the three major states would have you believe.

### OTHER OPINION

## India's Challenge

The Delhi summit comes when the revolution in AI is set to accelerate at a dizzying pace and produce long-term social, political, economic and military consequences for the world. Many nations — from mighty America and China to tiny Singapore and the UAE — are scrambling to intensify their national quests to develop AI and broaden international partnerships. In his opening remarks at the forum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recognised the salience of the moment and laid out a broad set of markers for India's national development of AI and outlined a balanced global approach to promoting the beneficial uses of the new technology and limiting its potentially massive harms.

Translating PM's goals into practical outcomes will, however, test the cumbersome ways of India's administrative state that must now deal with a rapidly changing technological landscape in artificial intelligence and respond to the policy imperatives it presents. The NDA government's successful recent push on semiconductor manufacture in India gives hope; but the scale of the effort involved in AI is far more demanding. The Indian enthusiasm for AI at the level of highest political leadership and the popular level will need to be matched quickly to overcome critical weaknesses. One is the lack of massive computing power — "compute" in the AI jargon.

In his address to the forum, PM Modi referred to the planned launch of the national AI mission that aims to strengthen India's compute capabilities. AI systems need large volumes of data to train on. PM Modi hinted that the government agencies could release the large volumes of data in their possession. He will have his hands full, though, in compelling the Indian state to shed its entrenched habit of hoarding data. India must also invest massively in basic sciences, including mathematics, material sciences, computer sciences, linguistics, and neurosciences.

Delhi must also focus on multiplying manifold the number of engineers in AI-related technologies quickly. The demands on the external front, too, are immense. Through 2024, India will preside over the work of GPAI in developing norms for the responsible development and use of AI. This is a deeply contested arena not just between the democracies and autocracies but also within the West and between North and South. That Delhi has not decided on how exactly to proceed in the global governance of AI is reflected in its reluctance to sign several recent declarations on responsible civilian and military uses of AI. If India wants to lead in constructing a new global architecture for AI, it must shed some of its past multilateral baggage and develop an approach rooted in the first principles of national interest and collective global good.

*The Indian Express*

# Globalising Kashmiri Literature Through Translations

Translated works, even if they exist, are either poorly done or passed down to publishers with no national, let alone an international outreach. The result has been obvious: the disappointing absence of our literary stalwarts from the global literary scene



Amir Suhail Wani



**In my opinion, if we want Kashmiri literature to have a niche in the international literary landscape, translation needs to go alongside literary creation. Our poets should be celebrated when they're alive. Translators and worthy scholars should not wait for the demise of the author to publish her in translation posthumously**

Literature moves people and stirs their emotions in the deepest possible way. The translations of literary works carry this effect far and wide, enabling people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds to participate in universal paths and joys of humanity. The importance of translation literature cannot be undermined. If the West enjoys Iqbal and Tagore and the East celebrates Dante and Goethe, it is all because of translation — the translation works that have carried these writers beyond their native lands far and wide and spread the aura of their literary works across the globe. Such translations are cultural bridges, enabling people to connect and experience human diversity.

Though shrouded in obscurity and oblivion, Kashmiri poetry has had some instances of its voices being carried far and wide. With the arrival of Britishers in the valley, Kashmiri language and literature immediately caught their attention. They were at once drawn to the rich literary heritage of the valley. It was in continuum to this trend that Sir RC Temple wrote a book as wonderful as, "The Word of Lalla"; J.Holton Knowles compiled "A Dictionary of Kashmiri Proverbs and Sayings"; and Sir George Greirson rendered invaluable services to Kashmiri linguistics. Additionally, travelogues, surveys and memoirs written by English travellers also helped popularise the cultural charm of Kashmir and enlarged its literary bank.

The tradition of translation has survived to this day in Kashmir. The tireless work of the likes of Shafi Shauq, Mufti Mudasir Farouqi, Huzaifa Pandit, and Mushtaque Barq has been catalytic

in Globalising Kashmiri literature and placing Kashmiri classics in the transnational orbit.

The intrinsic beauty, the universal import and heightened poetic sensibilities found in Kashmiri literature have been discussed for long. Comparisons have been drawn between Keats and Rusul Mir, Wordsworth and Mahjoor, Jami and Mehmood Ghami, Sa'adi and Sheikh Ul Aalam and others. Such comparisons, though contestable, aren't entirely misplaced. If anything, they reflect the intrinsic richness and global flavour present in our own vernacular poetry.

However, what has often prevented our poets from reaching the rest of the world is that the translation of their works is not given the attention that it deserves. Translated works, even if they exist, are either poorly done or passed down to publishers with no national, let alone an international outreach. The result has been obvious: the disappointing absence of our literary stalwarts from the global literary scene.

A year ago, I lamented on the death of the doyen of Kashmiri literature, Rehman Rahi, who had been lost without being translated. A year later, we now have a translation of some of his writings in the book, "The Vyeth is Not Asleep".

In my opinion, if we want Kashmiri literature to have a niche in the international literary landscape, translation needs to go alongside literary creation. Our poets should be celebrated when they're alive. Translators and worthy scholars should not wait for the demise of the author to publish her in translation posthumously.

Kashmir is blessed with contemporaries like Farooq Nazki,

Naseem Shifayi, Shahnaz Raheed and a cluster of other poets who deserve to go global. But this can only be realised only through a robust culture of coming up with good translations.

I recall sharing one of the poems of late Rahi sung by Vijay Malla with one of my non-Kashmiri friends. Moved by the rendition, my friend asked me for its translation, which to my great dismay, I could not furnish. Even as the poem is one of Rahi's famous and oft-quoted poems, there was no translation of it at the time. These handicaps come in our way of exporting our literature and pitching it at a scale where it can have the widest possible reach.

If we are enjoying the works of Chekhov & Tolstoy, Shakespeare & Milton, Firdausi & Rumi and many others by means of translation, we need to equally pay back to the world and introduce them to our literary stalwarts, past and present, so that we carve for ourselves a place of prominence in the niche of international literature, which Kashmir undoubtedly deserves. Those of our writers like Agha Shahid Ali, Basharat Peer, Mirza Waheed and others who chose English as their medium of expression, received global acclaim for it. This only proves the inherent merit which our writers carry. If literature is to have a future, Kashmir needs to take its well deserved place. But the caveat remains: Who will bell the cat?

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer  
The author is a Srinagar-based columnist*



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## Urgent Need to Educate the Public on Earthquake Safety Measures

I am writing to highlight a critical aspect that demands immediate attention in the wake of the recent seismic activities that have shaken our region. The recent earthquakes have underscored the urgent need for comprehensive education and awareness programs on earthquake safety measures within our communities.

Earthquakes, unpredictable and often catastrophic, remind us of the necessity to be adequately prepared. It is concerning to note that despite living in regions prone to seismic

activities, many individuals lack essential knowledge on what to do before, during, and after an earthquake strikes. This knowledge gap puts countless lives at risk and jeopardizes our collective ability to effectively respond to such natural disasters.

Therefore, it is imperative that educational initiatives be implemented at various levels, starting from schools and extending to workplaces and community centers. These programs should encompass practical guidance on creating emergency kits, developing family communication plans,

securing household items, and understanding safe evacuation procedures.

Furthermore, public campaigns utilizing multiple mediums such as workshops, seminars, informational pamphlets, and digital platforms should disseminate crucial information on identifying potential hazards in buildings and the importance of retrofitting structures to withstand seismic activity.

Local authorities, along with community leaders and organizations, play a pivotal role in spearheading these efforts. They should

collaborate to ensure that resources, training, and educational materials are readily accessible to all members of the community, regardless of socio-economic background.

As responsible citizens, we owe it to ourselves and our communities to be well-informed and prepared for any eventuality, especially natural disasters like earthquakes. By investing in education and proactive measures, we can significantly mitigate the risks and ensure a safer, more resilient society.

*Wani Mudasir*

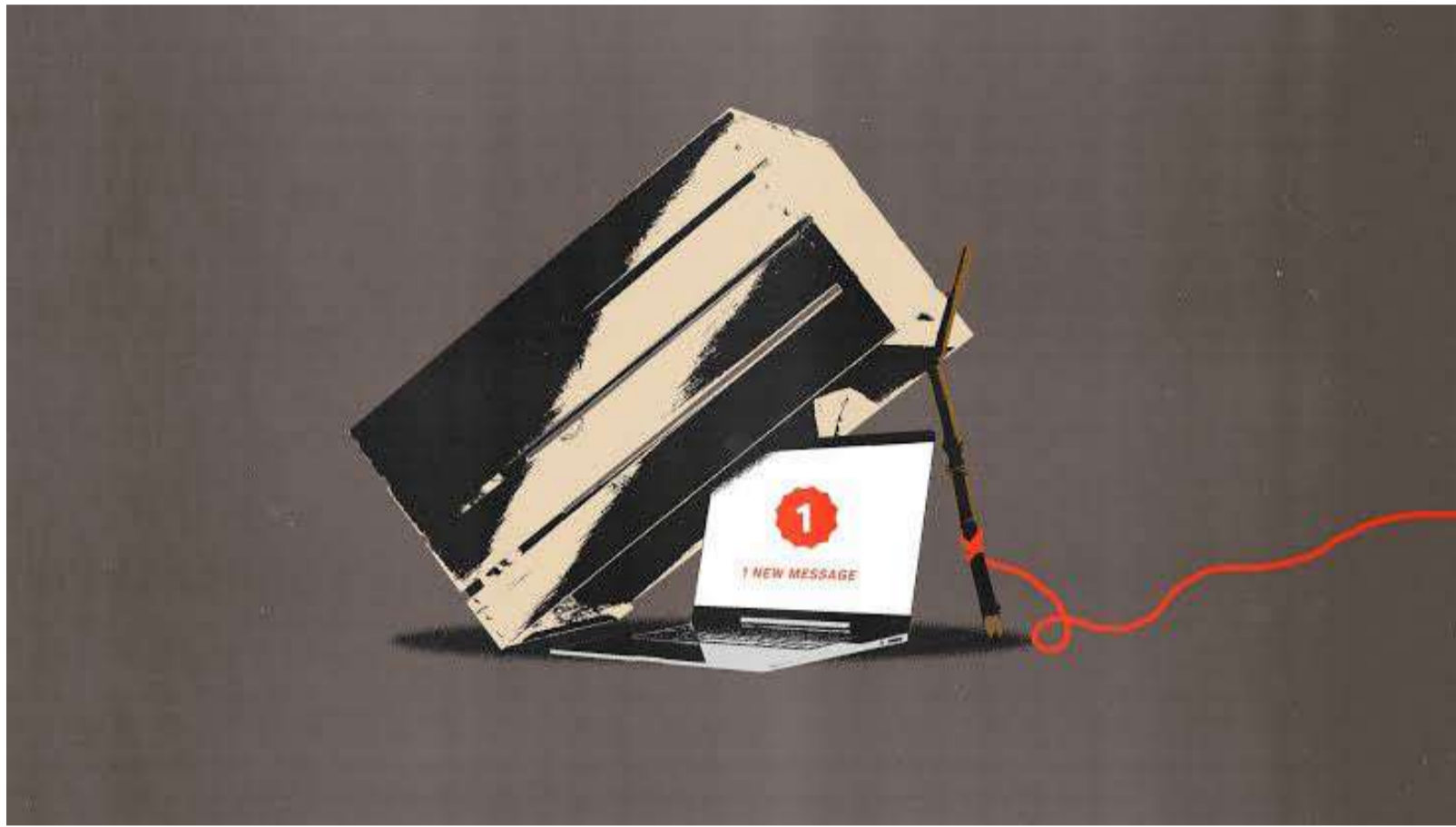
# WHEN TRUST BETRAYS

## The Dark Side of Influencer-Backed Scams

Dr Mudasir Ahmad Gori

Online scamming can occur in any region, and Kashmir too is a fallen victim of such scams. These can take various forms, such as phishing, fake websites, identity theft, investment fraud, and more. It's important for individuals to be aware of common online scams and take measures to protect themselves. Here are some general tips to avoid falling victim to online scams:

- **Be cautious with emails:** Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments from unknown sources. Phishing emails often appear legitimate but may lead to fraudulent websites designed to steal your personal information.
- **Use strong, unique passwords:** Create strong and unique passwords for your online accounts. Avoid using the same password across multiple platforms. Consider using a password manager to generate and store complex passwords.
- **Secure your devices:** Keep your devices, including computers and smartphones, updated with the latest security patches and antivirus software. This helps protect against malware and other security threats.
- **Verify websites:** Before providing any personal or financial information online, make sure the website is secure. Look for "https://" in the URL and check for a padlock icon in the address bar. Be cautious of fake websites that mimic legitimate ones.
- **Beware of investment scams:** Be skeptical of unsolicited investment opportunities, especially those promising high returns with little risk. Research and verify the legitimacy of investment opportunities before committing any funds.
- **Protect personal information:** Avoid sharing sensitive information, such as Social Security numbers, bank account details, or credit card information, un-



less it is absolutely necessary and the website is secure.

- **Educate yourself:** Stay informed about common online scams and fraud tactics. Being aware of the latest scams can help you recognize and avoid potential threats.
- **Monitor your accounts:** Regularly review your bank statements, credit reports, and online accounts for any unauthorized or suspicious activity. Report any discrepancies to your financial institution immediately. If people have been influenced or misled by social media influencers promoting fraudulent companies, they should take several steps to protect themselves and report the fraudulent activity. Here's what individuals can do:



**IT'S IMPORTANT FOR INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE SWIFT ACTION TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF FRAUDULENT PROMOTIONS. Social media platforms, when informed, may take actions against influencers who violate their policies**

#### ▶ STOP ENGAGING:

- Cease any further interaction with the fraudulent company or its promoters.
- Do not make any additional payments or provide more personal information.

#### ▶ DOCUMENT EVERYTHING:

- Save screenshots of the influ-

encer's posts or promotions related to the fraudulent company.

- Keep records of any communication, including messages or emails.

#### ▶ REPORT TO SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS:

- Report the influencer and the fraudulent content to the social

media platform. Most platforms have mechanisms for reporting fraudulent or misleading content.

- Provide details and evidence of the misleading promotions.

#### ▶ WARN OTHERS:

- Share your experience on social media to warn others in your

network about the fraudulent activity.

- Encourage others to be cautious and skeptical of promotions from influencers, especially those related to financial investments or services.

#### ▶ CONTACT AUTHORITIES:

- Report the fraudulent activity to relevant authorities, such as local law enforcement agencies or consumer protection agencies.
- Provide them with the evidence you have collected.

#### ▶ SEEK LEGAL ADVICE:

- Consult with legal professionals to understand your rights and options.
- In some cases, legal action may be possible against both the fraudulent company and the influencers involved.

#### ▶ REVIEW FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

- If you have made any payments to the fraudulent company, review your financial statements carefully.
- Contact your bank or credit card company to report unauthorized transactions and seek their guidance on potential chargebacks.

#### ▶ STAY INFORMED:

- Keep yourself informed about common scams and fraudulent activities to avoid falling victim to similar schemes in the future.

It's important for individuals to take swift action to protect themselves and others from the consequences of fraudulent promotions. Social media platforms, when informed, may take actions against influencers who violate their policies. Additionally, reporting to law enforcement and other relevant authorities helps in investigating and taking legal actions against fraudulent companies and individuals.

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

# Supervising AI

Siddharth Pai

About a month has passed since the kerfuffle at OpenAI which saw Sam Altman booted out as its boss, only to triumphantly return three days later. The last bastion of 'responsible' artificial intelligence (AI) seems to have fallen, as I have written elsewhere.

Let me explain: OpenAI was first a non-profit research lab whose mission was to safely develop AI that was at a human level or beyond, often called artificial general intelligence or AGI (and "singularity" the point where AI is beyond human intelligence).

The emphasis was on "safety" to avoid what historian Yuval Noah Harari said some years ago in the Financial Times: "Once big data knows me better than I know myself, authority will shift from humans to algorithms".

The structure was governed by the original non-profit board, which answered only to the goals of the original mission, and had the power to fire Altman, as he himself said once in an interview. The truth is that Altman was not in fact replaceable by the board, as we have seen. Now that the old boss is back and most of the board is gone, a new board that will probably be more pliant has taken over. This means we are in a free-for-all.

We are now back to the point where we must look at voluntary safeguards set in place by these companies (OpenAI, Amazon, Microsoft, Google, and others) to keep us from the point where AI can become a horror.

For instance, OpenAI has now announced early results from its "superalignment"



team, its voluntary, in-house initiative to prevent a computer with superintelligence—one that can outsmart human beings—from going off unsupervised and creating harm.

Today, the primary method used by these models (primarily generative AI models such as ChatGPT and Google's Gemini) is reinforcement learning via human feedback. Simply stated, human testers give the model high scores when they see output they like and low scores when the output seems subpar to them (as human beings). This is partly what con-

tributes to their output being so engaging.

According to OpenAI's superalignment team, however, co-led by Ilya Sutskever, OpenAI's chief scientist (who was supposedly behind the board's push to fire Altman), the issue with this method is that it requires human beings in the first place to tell the model what is desirable and what is undesirable—but the team thinks that a supermodel will go off and do things that a human is unable to score.

The team proposes to use older models to supervise

newer ones. So, for example, instead of human beings, GPT-2 (a five-year-old product) would supervise GPT-4. The flaw in this reasoning is plain to see, but according to OpenAI's superalignment team, if this could be pulled off, then it may be evidence that similar techniques could be used by humans to supervise superhuman models. I'm still foxed; maybe you can understand this reasoning better than I.

Apart from such internal and voluntary methods, there is nothing else seeking to rein in the horrors that unbridled

AI development may rain on us (save a few bleatings by governments).

Now, hope is centered around the European Union's AI Act which would require extra checks for "high risk" uses which have the most potential to harm humans. Europeans led the way around data privacy legislation a few years ago, and the hope is that they will light this technology path, yet again. Two and a half years after it was mooted, after grueling negotiations and much back and forth, the EU's lawmakers have reached a deal

and moved the AI Act into law. As with data, the Europeans will become the world's guard dogs around AI. The rest of us will follow.

Not to be outdone, the US also issued a proclamation on October 30, 2023, in the form of an executive order. I say proclamation since the US' legislative bodies are in polarised disarray and can barely stay in business, let alone ratify laws, and it's likely that a change in an incoming President next year could also topple the current executive order.

That said, in the current ex-

ecutive order, President Joe Biden says: "In the end, AI reflects the principles of the people who build it, the people who use it, and the data upon which it is built." He has also said "We need to govern this technology. There's no other way around it in my view. It must be governed."

The executive order makes many statements like these, and touts voluntary safeguards, but in my opinion, somewhat like my columns, lacks enough specifics on how the rules show be enforced.

AI can become a horror long before we reach the point of singularity, which is when machines theoretically become smarter than humans. Jobs, while front and centre in our imaginations, are far from what should be worrying us the most about the advances in AI. To my mind, the AI-based development of autonomous weaponry, which can decide for themselves when to take human lives, is far more frightening.

According to The Independent, the UN says military drones may have already attacked humans without being instructed to. As Ifeoma Ajunwa, an expert in this field, says, "The actual present danger is not AI becoming too intelligent. It's more that humans are using AI in ways that are counter to our democratic beliefs about equal opportunity and equal protection." And that's exactly the point. Let's have humans govern humans first—before we worry about machines governing machines.

*The article was originally published by Financial Express*



## Atal Dulloo Given Rousing Welcome At Srinagar Secretariat



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo was given a rousing welcome by hundreds of employees on reaching Srinagar Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday for the first time after assuming the charge of the post at the beginning of this month.

Atal Dulloo, 1989 Batch IAS officer has served in J&K for most part of his service. He has earlier been the Administrative Secretary of many important departments including Health & Medical Education, Finance, Agriculture besides being Deputy Commissioner of several districts of J&K.

Before being elevated to the post of Chief Secretary he was serving J&K as Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department and has been instrumental in devising of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aiming at revolutionizing the Agri sector with manifold increase in farmers' income.

On reaching Srinagar Secretariat this afternoon the Chief Secretary was received by hundreds of employees in Secretariat premises who accompanied him in congregation to his office chamber.

Later he also took round of the Secretariat and interacted with the employees working in different departments here. He enquired about their work and other facilities available to them for smooth functioning of official work.

During his visit the Chief Secretary was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary Science & Technology; Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Secretary Tourism and Culture; Director Estates, Kashmir besides other senior civil and police officers.

Chief Secretary also listened to grievances of several delegations and gave on spot instructions for their resolution and early disposal.



A MAN BREAKS ICE to make way for his boat in the interiors of Dal Lake on a freezing Wednesday morning.  
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## UNMASKING THE SCAM

# Meet The Tech Influencer Who Exposed Curative Survey

Syed Mohammad Burhan

**SRINAGAR:** While controversies have ensued over some Kashmiri content creators promoting the dubious company caught up in a multi-crore scam, a tech influencer is gaining widespread appreciation for being the first to uncover the truth behind Curative Survey.



Hailing from South Kashmir's Kulgam district, 25-year-old Nafi Javaid, a computer engineer creates tech videos on social media platforms by the channel name 'NAFxx Tech'. On 16th of December, Nafi posted a video on his handle cautioning people against investing in the firm. He had found that the company's website was full of grammatical errors and there was no information about the owner.

In a conversation with Kashmir Observer, Nafi said that his viewers, who were familiar with the type of content he creates, had sent him messages and emails, urging him to investigate a company named Curative Survey.

"I received a lot of mails and messages from people who were about to invest money to make a video on Curative survey. It took me around four days to investigate and I found out it was a scam. The company had no proper information about their business model," Nafi said, adding that many investors started to abuse him

after he exposed the fraud.

"People questioned me about how I could label it a fraud when they had been earning from it for the past year. Some very popular social media influencers and some journalists from Kashmir had promoted it on their social media platforms," he said.

Undeterred by the accusations of seeking views and fame, Nafi emphasized the responsibility he felt toward his audience. The aftermath was swift, he said. "As soon as I uploaded the video, the fraudsters anticipated people withdrawing their money, so the next day, Curative Survey stopped the withdrawal process. By Monday, their offices were shut, and no one was to be seen," the content creator said.

This, however, is not the only scam he has exposed, as he had previously unveiled the deceit of Star Ocean Mall, another fraudulent company. "I am not a stranger to exposing fraudulent activities. About nine months

back, I unearthed the reality behind another company."

Following the exposure of the scam, Nafi's following has soared across social media platforms. His Facebook followers have reached an impressive 74,000, and on YouTube, he is swiftly approaching 10,000 subscribers. The video uncovering the fraudulent company has garnered widespread attention, accumulating over 1.5 lakh views, highlighting the expanding impact of Nafi's influential expose.

Nafi emphasizes that online platforms promising quick doubling of money are deceptive, asserting that earning money is inherently challenging. He categorizes such schemes as money circulation scams, where investors' funds are merely shuffled among themselves.

Advocating for responsible content creation, Nafi said, "This scam gained traction with the endorsement of influential figures in J&K. So, Content creators need to understand the amount of impact their endorsements have on the general public."

"With great power comes great responsibility," he added.

According to Nafi, his motivation to create scam awareness videos stems from witnessing people in Kashmir falling prey to deceit. "I do it to protect them. With numerous scams prevalent online, this won't be the last one," he said.

## DGP Swain Visits Railway Headquarters Jammu

Reviews Security Of Railways And Functioning Of GRP In UT

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Director General of Police J&K, R.R Swain on Wednesday visited the Government Railway Police Headquarters Jammu where he chaired the officers meeting and reviewed the overall security of Railways and functioning of GRP in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the meeting, the DGP said that in order to enhance the level of surveil-

control at various railways stations and on the periphery of the railway stations to check any attempt of transportation of weapons, explosive or narcotic substances. He said that he is well aware that lot of efforts are being made but a lot more needs to be done to enhance the preventive and detective capabilities of Railway Police for which he also gave thrust on enforcement, investigation and intelligence gathering. The DGP directed the officers



lance, it is very necessary to identify the 'deficient capabilities' by all of us particularly at supervisory level and officers should strive to fill the gaps through technology and intelligence gathering. The filling of the gaps of these capabilities will yield better results. He directed to dive deeper into the past incidents of different natures and try to find the present status, whereabouts of the persons involved and those behind that particular incidents. He advised the officers to inculcate the habit of curiosity of looking for and checking all the possibilities of any information and look into all angles of investigations of any incident.

The DGP advised for making best use of CCTNS and usage of such software through which desired 'search' is easy. While dwelling on the challenges and responses, the DGP gave thrust on strengthening of access-

for smart identification of resources which can be projected for funding.

ADGP Railways Sunil Kumar gave a powerpoint presentation in which he highlighted the role of different forces viz GRP, RPF, Police, CAPFs and private agencies. During the meeting duties and responsibilities of stakeholders were also discussed. The administrative and structural setup of GRP was discussed. Discussions were also held on the security plan for Katra Banihal Section of 111 Kilometers of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line.

The DGP, J&K later planted a sapling in the lawns of the GRP Headquarters.

The review meeting was attended by ADGP Railways Sunil Kumar, DIG Railways, Haseebur-Rehman, DIG Traffic Shridhar Patil, SSSP of GRP Jammu/Kashmir/Katra and SO to ADGP Railway

## Cheque Bounce Case

# Court Sentences Trader To 2-Year Imprisonment

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A local court in South Kashmir's Shopian district has awarded two-year imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh to an accused in a cheque bounce case.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Shopian in its judgment observed that: "I hold the accused guilty for the commission of an offense under section 138 Negotiable Instrument Act, as such is convicted who shall undergo for the imprisonment of 2 years and double the cheque amount with 10% interest with Rs. 50,000 as compensation from the date of its issuance which shall be paid to the complainant."

The court directed the prosecuting officer to take custody of the accused so that he shall serve imprisonment.

The court judgment came in response to a petition filed by the complainant Zahid Amin Malik, a resident of Chowgam Shopian wherein he through his Counsel stated that he is dealing in busi-

ness of electrical appliances having godown at Bijbehara besides having an office at Nowgam, Srinagar. The accused 'ANT Enterprises Srigufwara Anantnag whose proprietor is Nisar Ahmed Thukroo of Kanelwan Bijbehara purchased certain electrical goods from him including wires, cables etc for an amount of Rs. 7,46,326 and in order to satisfy the above legally enforceable debt of said amount the accused issued three cheques bearing No.830559 dated 21.08.2023 for an amount of Rs. 4,57,568, bearing no: 830560 dated 25.08.2023 for an amount of Rs. 1,44,379 and another cheque bearing no: 830561 dated 830561 for an amount of Rs. 1,44,379 to the complainant to be encashed at JK Bank Ltd B/U Court Road, Shopian but the concerned bank returned the cheques due to insufficient funds.

The accused admitted his crime in the court of law, however, the court didn't oblige and said in a criminal case there is either acquittal or conviction. (KNT)

## JAL JEEVAN MISSION

# 38495 Households Connected With Tap Water In Bandipora

121 Schemes Taken For Execution In Mission Mode

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** As part of the initiative to enhance water accessibility both qualitatively and quantitatively on a long term basis, district Bandipora has made substantial strides by connecting 38495 households out of 47358 targeted households.

While sharing details, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad said that under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) program, 121 Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) have been taken up for execution on mission mode in the district. He said that the infrastructure consists of 38 Rapid Sand Filtration Plants, 22 Over Head Tanks, 18 Borewells and 149 pipe network, Service Reservoirs and allied works. Out of total 47358 FHTCs, 38495 households stand connected till date (81.22%).

The DC further said that every tap water connection provided is being reported on IMIS portal with full beneficiary detail in public domain. About 768 women have been trained for use of Field Testing Kit (FTK's) in checking the quality of water and reporting the results online through WQMS Portal. Under the WQMS, the UT is at 4th Rank at National Level.

Moreover, 16 WSSs have so far been completed and are under different stages of testing and commissioning. Besides, other schemes are at various stages of completion and are expected to be completed before the closure of the current financial year 2023-24 subject to fair weather conditions. Presently 220 civil works and 84 Mechanical works are apace besides 13 Borewells stand drilled and are being developed.

The concerned authorities said that adherence to guiding principles/ JJM guidelines for execution are being maintained. Proper Monitoring by TPI Agency and Consultants/DPM Unit is being done to ensure Quality of works. Technical issues, Impediments (if any) flagged by concerned PHE Divisions for safe and smooth execution of works are being coordinated with better synergy by the DPM unit with the proactive intervention of District Administration.

# 50 Couples Tie Knot In Mass Wedding At Budgam

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** AASH—the hope of Kashmir on Wednesday conducted a mass marriage ceremony of 50 couples at Khanshib area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Quratul Ain Masoodi, founder of the NGO while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that at least 50 couples from different areas of Khanshib tehsil have tied the knot today.

"In the 5th phase today, we have achieved the target of 50 marriages, taking the number of

overall marriages so far to over 250," she added.

"Most of these brides are orphans and their financial condition is quite dire. Financially sound individuals come forward and donate generously, allowing us to continue our work but this is our last mass marriage function," she added.

She further added that AASH has conducted scores of functions throughout Kashmir, in which it has helped the youth to tie the knot, adding that the NGO is now planning to shift the focus from mass marriages to mental

health and child development.

"When we started conducting mass marriage functions years ago, there were only a few organisations working on this cause but now there are a number of such NGOs helping the poor people to tie the knot," she added.

She appealed to people to make Nikkah ceremony simple to promote simple marriage in Kashmir, saying that it is unfortunate that the people don't shy away from wrong and non-permissible habits, but have been showing reluctance to promote and accept the culture of simple Nikkah.

**Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
Estates Department  
Zonal Office Pulwama  
Website: www.jkbank.com

**PREMISES REQUIRED**

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from owners of premises for outright purchase/on lease basis for housing its Branch Keller Shopian

Carpet Area of Premises	Location
10 marla land for outright purchase or Apprx.2200-2800 sft Built Up Space on lease (Preferably Ground Floor)	Keller Shopian

The interested parties/persons owning the premises (built up space or land) and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before **31 January, 2024**.

The tender documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office mentioned above during working hours and also can be downloaded from **www.jkbank.com** from **December 21, 2023**. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

**Dated: December 21, 2023**

**Sd/-**  
**In Charge**  
**Estates & Engineering Dept.**  
**Zonal Office Pulwama.**

**DIPK-NB-4889-23**  
**DT: 20/12/2023**

Registered Office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK19385GCO0048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928;  
E: info@jkbank.com; W: www.jkbank.com

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE FLORICULTURE OFFICER DISTRICT SRINAGAR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE KASHMIR**  
e.mail: fosrinagar123@gmail.com

**GIST OF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE: 02 of 2023-24**  
**DATED: 20/12/2023**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.6/- (Rupees six only) Revenue Stamps are invited through Registered/speed post/ Courier services/by hand from Government approved suppliers/Contractors on the prescribed tender form for below mentioned job:

Name of work	Estimate quantity	Cost of tender document (Non-refundable)	Cost of Call Deposit Receipt pledged to Floriculture Officer District Srinagar	Date for issue of tender document	Last date for receipt of bids on prescribed tender form.
Supply of Wild Brooms 4-5 feet of 10 sticks per bunch (Berberis Aristata).	3000 Nos	Rs.100/-	Rs.1800/-	From 17/10/2023 till 28/12/2023 upto 4.00PM	30/12/2023 upto 4.00 PM

The tenders will be opened by the Local Purchase Committee on the same day or next working day convenient to committee. However, in case of any eventuality, the tender issue/receipt/opening date will be considered the next working day without any change of fixed time and venue.

The tenderer shall have to keep (Technical bid) containing Copy of Registration with upto date Renewal, GST Registration, Latest GST clearance, PAN Card & Call Deposit Receipt in sealed envelop marked as "A".

The Financial bid duly filled in and pasted with Revenue Stamps worth Rs.6/- should be kept in separate Sealed Envelope marked as "B" and both technical bid envelope "A" and Financial Bid envelope "B" should be put together in large Envelope addressed to the Floriculture Officer, Pologround Park Srinagar.

No: FOS/DOF/GS-NIT-02/2239  
Dated: 20/12/2023  
**DIPK-14064-23**  
**DT: 20/12/2023**

**Sd/-**  
**Mubashir Ahmad Wani)**  
**Floriculture Officer,**  
**Department of Floriculture District, Srinagar.**

## Ministry Of Youth Affairs & Sports Announces National Sports Awards 2023



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Sports Ministry on Wednesday put its stamp on the nominations for the annual sports awards, confirming the prestigious Khel Ratna honour for badminton players Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty and the Arjuna award for 26 sports persons, including pacer Mohammed Shami.

The awards will be conferred on the athletes by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 9.

Chirag and Satwik are Asian Games gold medallists, World Championships bronze winners and Commonwealth Games silver medallists. On the other hand, Shami, 33, had a spectacular run in the ODI World Cup, where India finished second-best, losing to Australia in the final. Shami was the leading wicket-taker in the World Cup, with 24 wickets to his name in seven outings.

The athletes selected for this year's Arjuna award include hockey players Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Sushila Chanu, archers Ojas Pravin Deotale and Aditi Gopichand Swami, boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin, chess player R Vaishali, golfer Diksha Dagar, shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Esha Singh, wrestlers Antim Panghal and Sunil Kumar, paddler Ayhika Mukherjee and para archer Sheetal Devi, among others.

The athletes were nominated for the awards by a government panel on December 13.

The ministry also cleared five

coaches for Dronacharya award in the regular category and three in life-time category.

The Dyan Chand award in the life-time category will be conferred to three persons.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar is the recipient of the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023, while Lovely Professional University, Punjab and Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra are the first and second runner-ups.

National Sports Awards are given every year to recognise and reward excellence in sports.

List of National Sports Award winners: Major Dhyana Chand Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (badminton).

Arjuna Awards for 2023: Ojas Pravin Deotale (archery), Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Murali Sreeshankar (athletics), Parul Chaudhary (athletics), Mohameed Hussamuddin (boxing), R Vaishali (chess), Mohammed Shami (cricket), Anush Agarwalla (equestrian), Divyakriti Singh (equestrian dressage), Diksha Dagar (golf), Krishan Bahadur Pathak (hockey), Sushila Chanu (hockey), Pawan Kumar (kabaddi), Ritu Negi (kabaddi), Nasreen (kho-kho), Pinki (lawn bowls), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), Esha Singh (shooting), Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (squash), Ayhika Mukherjee (table tennis), Sunil Kumar (wrestling), Antim (wrestling), Naorem Shobina Devi (wushu), Sheetal Devi (para archery), Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy (blind cricket), Prachi Yadav (para canoeing).

## India Face South Africa In Deciding 3rd ODI

Press Trust of India

**PAARL:** With a similar storyline of faltering opening combination running through the first two matches, India's hopes of registering their second ODI series triumph in South Africa will revolve around a sturdy start from the openers in the third and final match here on Thursday.

India's lone ODI series win in the Rainbow nation came in 2018, and for an encore they require a robust beginning from Ruturaj Gaikwad and B Sai Sudharsan as a pair. Sai Sudharsan has been impressive in his two outings in the series so far, notching up 55 and 62. But Gaikwad could not support him from the other end. The right-hander fell for five and four as India's first-wicket alliance ended at 23 and four at Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth.

In contrast, South African opener Tony de Zorzi, who cracked his maiden century, and Reeza Hendricks milked 130 runs to kill the chase. Similarly, Tilak Varma, who showed some early promise in his career, seemed to have



tapered off a bit in the last couple of months.

The elegant left-hander who packs a punch struggled to touch his peak in the home T20I series against Australia and the struggle seemed to have followed him to South Africa as well. The Hyderabad batter is yet to hit his peak here.

It is important for Gaikwad and Varma, unless he is replaced with uncapped Rajat Patidar for tomorrow's match, to rediscover their range be-

cause India no longer have Shreyas Iyer in the middle-order to shore up the innings. The 30-year-old Patidar usually bats at No. 4 for Madhya Pradesh. Iyer had joined an inter-squad match to prepare for the upcoming Test series after the first one-dayer. However, these top order batters can draw some solace from the Boland Park pitch, which often tends to lean towards batsmen.

Match starts at 4.30 PM IST.

## Amid Conflicting Reports, Punjab Kings Say They Picked Right Player

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Punjab Kings on Wednesday issued a clarification that they had picked the right cricketer during the IPL auction in Dubai, contrary to reports that they had bid for a "wrong" player because of confusion in the name.

Sashank Singh was bought during the later part of the auction on Tuesday with fran-

chises looking to add a few uncapped Indian players in the base price range of Rs 20 lakh.

When the auctioneer announced Sashank's name, PBKS co-owner Preity Zinta raised the paddle and the cricketer was quickly sold. According to reports, the franchise later 'realised' that it had made a mistake and approached the auctioneer to reverse the deal.

In its clarification, PBKS said, "Media have reported on Sashank Singh being bought erroneously by Punjab Kings. The Kings would like to clarify that the player was always on our target list."

"The confusion was due to 2 players of the same name being on the list. We are delighted to have him on board and see him contribute to our success," said the PBKS statement.

## Shubman Loses Top ODI Batters Spot To Babar Azam

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India opener Shubman Gill's reign at the top of the ODI batters' list was short-lived as he was replaced by former Pakistani skipper Babar Azam in the ICC Player Rankings issued on Wednesday.

The Indian attained the top spot during the ODI World Cup last month, but since then he has not played any ODI. Babar is back at the top with 824 rating points, while Gill (810) is the second spot followed by teammates Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Shreyas Iyer has dropped to 12th, while KL Rahul has moved a spot to 16th.

In the bowlers' chart, South African spinner Keshav Maharaaj remains at the top followed by Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood. Fast bowler Moham-

one spot among T20 bowlers, becoming only the second English spinner after Graeme Swann to do so.

Rashid has replaced Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, thanks to his seven-wicket haul in four T20Is against the West Indies, while Ravi Bishnoi (3rd) is the top-ranked Indian.

Shakib leads the chart among T20 all-rounders, with Pandya (4th) being the highest-ranked Indian.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson dominates the number one spot among Test batters, followed by Joe Root (2nd) and Steven Smith (3rd).

Australia's Usman Khawaja has risen to the fourth spot following a stellar show in the opening Test against Pakistan in Perth. Rohit (10th) is the highest-ranked Indian.



med Siraj (3rd), Jasprit Bumrah (5th) and Kuldeep Yadav (8th) are the other Indians to feature in the top 10.

Mohammad Shami is at the 11th spot, while spinner Ravindra Jadeja is ranked 22nd.

The all-rounders' list remains relatively unchanged, with Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan staying at the top spot.

Jadeja (12th) and Hardik Pandya (17th) are the only Indians in the top 20. In T20Is, India's Suryakumar Yadav remains atop the batting chart. Adil Rashid holds the number

Veteran India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin tops the Test bowlers' chart, followed by Kagiso Rabada, Shakib and Jadeja. A few Aussies have scaled heights, with skipper Pat Cummins climbing to the third place, followed by Nathan Lyon (5th), Mitchell Starc (8th) and Josh Hazlewood (10th), thanks to their dominant display against Pakistan.

In the all-rounders' chart, Jadeja remains at the summit, followed by Ashwin in the second spot, while Axar Patel is ranked fifth.

**MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR**  
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —  
**DIL KE EHSAAAS**



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