

WAR ON DRUGS

Govt's Crackdown Leads To Significant Drop In Substance Abuse Cases

GMC Srinagar's Drug De-Addiction Center Received 1560 Patients In 2023, Compared To 3395 In 2022

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: The government's crackdown on drug peddlers in the valley appears to be yielding results, as the drug de-addiction center, Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar has experienced a notable decline in the number of individuals seeking treatment for substance abuse this year.

Figures from the Institute

of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) reveal that 1560 patients visited the center in the year 2023, compared to 3395 in 2022.

Last year, 1909 patients were from Srinagar district only while the rest came from other districts of the valley. However in 2023, only 728 such patients from the city visited the centre for treatment.

"The outpatient department (OPD) at IMHANS has



seen a significant drop in visitors seeking assistance in the current year as compared with last year. Over 1500

DECLINE IN ADDICTION MAGNITUDE SEEMS TO BE GOOD NEWS FOR NOW, THE NEWS would be better if we are able to sustain our collaborative efforts and continue with this reduction in the number of cases for the next few months to years to achieve the goal of drug free society"

new patients visited OPD and among them 330 addicts were admitted in the hospital," an official from the de-addiction center said.

"Over 95 percent of them are males while 5 percent are

females," the official added. Likewise, figures obtained from the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at Jhelum Valley Medical College (JVC) Bemina reveal that the OPD attended to 563 fresh | [More on P6](#)

6 Chargesheeted For Rs 60L Financial Fraud

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday filed a chargesheet in a local court here against six persons for duping investors of over Rs 60 lakh after inducing them to invest in a Haryana-based private company in 2017, an official said.

The 1266-page chargesheet was filed by the economic offences wing of Crime Branch, Jammu against six affiliates of Swarn Bhavya Gold Pvt Ltd, including its Managing Director Balwinder Kumar of Haryana, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, a spokesperson of the agency said. A case on the matter was registered in 2020.

The official said the accused hatched a criminal conspiracy to induce the complainants and other people to invest their money in the company by promising to provide bonus income on their deposits after every | [More on P6](#)

Posts Under PSC, JKSSB To Be Filled Within 6 Months: LG

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha announced on Thursday that all government posts whether under Public Service Commission (PSC) or Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board will be filled within 6 months, while a legal framework will also be prepared to ensure employment opportunities to Divyangjan in private sector

"In last financial year, 384 Divyangjan were provided government jobs. Reservation has increased from 3 to 4 percent. The posts whether under PSC or JKSSB will be filled within 6 months. We will prepare a legal framework to ensure employment opportunities to Divyangjan in private sector," he said.

The LG made these remarks after jointly inaugurating J&K's first festival of Inclusion, Purple Fest with Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar here on Thursday. The Union Minister had joined the function virtually.



The festival aims to showcase a kaleidoscope of abilities hidden inside disabilities and celebrating resilience of Divyangjan. The Purple Festival is also a call for action to the people and exhort the society to take proactive steps in creating a more inclusive environment.

On the occasion, the LG observed that in many areas of life, be it music, films, sports, art, or literature, persons with disabilities have achieved success and greater goals and today they are inspiring the entire society.

He said many such great personalities have | [More on P6](#)

'Committed To Empowerment Of Divyangjan'

Asserting that specially-abled are equal partners in the economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his administration has taken several steps post August 2019 to ensure empowerment and comprehensive rights of Divyangjan in the Union Territory. "Divyangjan are equal partners in the economic growth of J&K. The administration will ensure Divyangjan lead a life of dignity and self-respect," he said. The LG made these remarks while inaugurating the temporary Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for skill development, rehabilitation and empowerment of Divyangjan here on Thursday. The facility will | [More on P6](#)

J&K Panchayati Raj Act Amended To Incorporate OBC Reservation



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has amended Panchayati Raj Act to incorporate reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC), an official spokesperson said on Thursday.

The amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act proposed by the administration led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha aim at making the statute more effective by ensuring transparency in the functioning of the panchayati raj institutions (PRIs), constitutional alignment and consistency with the practices in other states where reservation has been provided to the OBC, apart

from the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), the spokesperson said.

He said the administrative council, which met here under the chairmanship of the LG, approved amending the Act to incorporate the definition of the OBC in it to ensure their reservation in these grassroots democratic institutions.

Earlier, the draft Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was submitted to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The observations of the MHA were examined and the necessary amendments incorporated in the revised bill. The amendment bill proposes the incorporation of the | [More on P6](#)

Man Trapped In 40 Ft Well Rescued After 8 Hours

Agencies

Srinagar: After a gruelling rescue operation spanning over eight hours, a 47-year-old man has been successfully brought out safely from a 40-ft deep well in Tangmarg area in Baramulla.

An F&ES official said that they were fortunate enough for being successful in bringing the man out of the well. "We had to fight every inch amid bone chilling cold to reach the man, who as per his family had fallen into the well while cleaning it", the official said.

"As soon as we received the message, we reached the spot with men and machinery and launched a joint operation alongside Police and locals", the official said.

"After over eight hours of gruelling rescue operation, we were able to successfully bring out the man from the well", the official said.

"The man has | [More on P6](#)

CHEQUE BOUNCE CASE

Court Sentences Man To 2 Yrs Jail, Fines Him Rs 82.5L

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court here has sentenced a man from Srinagar to two years in jail and directed him to pay fine of Rs 8250000, one and half of the dishonoured amount, in three cases of cheque bounce.

According to the complainants, dealing in the sale of golden items and ornaments, the accused person had purchased golden items from their shops and issued various cheques against the amount. However all the cheques came to be dishonoured and returned to the complainant without payment by the concerned bank.

Consequently, the complainant filed complaints interms of Section 138 of the N.I. Act in 2015. "The complainant has been

able to prove the commission of offence under section 138 by the accused Hilal Ahmad Khan R/O Hussani Public School, Industry Area H.M.T Batamalo, Srinagar for which the accused is hereby convicted," said Third Additional Munsiff, Moneer Ahmad, adding, "... by commission of the offence the accused person has dragged the complainant to litigation which is pending for the last more than seven years."

Consequently the court ordered that the "accused is punished for two years of simple imprisonment and he is fined Rs.37,50,000, which is one and half of the cheque amount to be payable to the complainant."

The court also convicted and sentenced the accused to 2 years jail in another | [More on P6](#)



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Kashmir Engulfed By Fog, Shivers In Intense Cold

Srinagar: Minimum temperatures in several parts of Kashmir have dropped below the minus three degrees Celsius-mark as a cold wave sweeps the region. Kashmir is currently in the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter

period, when temperatures drop considerably leading to freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake, as well as water in supply lines.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas. | [More on P6](#)

ARTICLE-370

J&K Parties To Move Review Petition Before SC

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Awami National Conference (ANC), one of the petitioners who had challenged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution before the Supreme Court, on Thursday said it is considering filing a review petition before the court as legal experts maintain that its verdict in the matter was "full of flaws".

"Legal and constitutional experts say the Supreme Court judgment was full of flaws. It remained silent on many basic issues. A review petition is being prepared and once it is ready, we will put it before our legal teams and the 23 petitioners. Most likely, we will file the petition in the apex court," ANC's senior vice-president Muzaffar Shah told a press conference here.

He said it is a matter of

discussion as to what shape the course of legal action would take.

"One thing is definite that since the judgment is full of flaws according to legal and constitutional luminaries, we will knock the doors of the Supreme Court again. Whether a review petition will be filed or some other route taken, we will discuss that," Shah added.

The ANC leader expressed hope that those who believe in history and the Constitution will stand together in this legal battle.

"We also hope that the Supreme Court will restore Article 370," he said.

Shah said the issue would also be discussed at the next meeting of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), which was formed in 2019 to fight for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

The BJP-led | [More on P6](#)

Aes Kaeshir

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KASHMIR OBSERVER





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No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Subject: Grant of Registration of proposal Travel unit under the name and style "CADBURY TOUR AND TRAVELS situated at Kakapora Pulwama, 192304, Neer social welfare office kakapora

Whereas, I EHSAN UL HAQ S/O:- MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT R/O :- TRICH PULWAMA KASHMIR intend to apply in the department of tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style CADBURY TOUR AND TRAVELS situated at Kakapora Pulwama, 192304, Neer social welfare office kakapora under the tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification certificate, pan card, Experience certificate (Minimum 5 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank Statement (Minimum balance Rs 10000), Site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub-registrar, Printing material (Letter head/Visiting Card)/photo graph of the unit (Indoor and outdoor) and two passport size photographs to the department of tourism as per the prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an excursion agency. Now as per J&K registration of tourist trade act of 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 (email id:dotregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days after the publication of this notice in leading newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

fko_j

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I intend to change the name of my electricity connection bearing consumer Id no. 0202050022658 from Bashir Ahmad Malik to Shahid Shafi Dar S/o Mohammad Shafi Dar R/o Rahmoo Pulwama if anybody has any objection he/she may contact PDD sub division concerned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Bashir Ahmad Malik
S/O Gulam Ahmad Malik
R/o Alamdar colony
Rawalpore nj

**NORTHERN RAILWAY
CRS INSPECTION OF NEW LINE
FROM BANIHAL-KHARI SECTION
OF FIROZPUR DIVISION**

Newly constructed line in **Banihal-Khari section (14.869 Kms)** of Firozpur Division will be opened with electric train operation shortly. High speed trial of the section by special train will be conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety on **03.01.2024** after trolley inspection. Thereafter, new line train working will start between **Banihal-Khari Stations of USBRL Project.**

General public is informed to stay away from Railway lines in above section. Crossing the track at any location is trespassing and is a punishable offence and liable for prosecution under Railway Act.

No: DyCE/C/BAHL/CRS Dated: 28.12.2023 4068/2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that an old connection of electricity stands registered on the name of my grand father Ghulam Rasool Wani however the said person has died in the year 2006. Now the connection bearing consumer id as 0212010011449 is to be registered on my name. In this regard if anyone has any sort of objections he/she may file the same in the Office of Executive Engineer PDD Department Baramulla within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the lapse considered period no objections shall be entertained.

Mohammad Anwar Rather
S/O: Gulam Mohi-ud- Din Rather
R/O Shapora Delina Baramulla jm

NOTICE

I Sameem Yaqoob Bhat S/o
Mohammad Yaqoob want to correct my name in my Driving License Having License No:- JK-0120040067621 from Mohammad Sameem to Sameem Yaqoob as per Aadhar. Regard this, if anybody is having any objection He/She may file the same to the RTO Office Srinagar within a week after that no objection will be accepted.



Medialine

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Government Order No. FD-Code/154/2022-03-Dated-10-05-2023 Mr.Farooq Ahmad Wagay has officially applied for a change of surname from Wagay to Chopan The notice is hereby given to the public, including colleagues, residents and the educational community. Any objections to this change must be submitted in writing to the relevant authorities within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. The objections should be addressed to the Zonal Education Officer khanshab, Budgam and include valid reasons for opposition. Mr.Farooq Ahmad Wagay is currently employed as a teacher at Govt. Middle School Tangnar,Zone Khanshab with dedication and commitment to the education sector. The change of surname does not alter the professional standing or qualifications of the individual, and all records will be duly updated. This notice is issued to ensure transparency and public awareness in the matter of surname change, as mandated by the government. All concerned parties are requested to comply with the specified procedures.

fko

**Srinagar Municipal Corporation
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Right River Works Division**

Regal lane Lal Chowk Srinagar | Email:- eerrwsmc@gmail.com

**SHORT TERM
NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER No.41of 2023-2024
Dated: 27.12.2023**

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Commissioner, e-tenders are invited on a percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned works.

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in lacs	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender documents	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor	AA order No	T.S. Order No. dated
1.	Development of Green space and Upgradation of Inner Links at JLN Hospital Rainawari	138.00	276000	2610	12 Months	National clean Air program NCAIP	AYY	Order No. 1400 of 2023 dated: 30.10.2023	Technical Sanction No. 32 of 2023-24 Dated:- 08-12-2023

Position of AAA: Accorded, Technical Sanction: Accorded
The NIT consists of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the date schedule given below:-

S. No.	Particulars	Date from to
1.	Date of publication of e-portal	27.12.2023
2.	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said e-NIT	27.12.2023 from 06:00 PM
3.	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	27.12.2023 from 06:00 PM
4.	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	18.01.2024 at 06:00 PM
5.	Date of Bid opening	19.01.2024 at 11:00 AM
6.	Date of Submission of Uploaded documents (Hard Copies) by Successful Bidder including Bid Security (CDR/FDR), Tender document fee.	20.01.2024 up to 04:00 PM

Note: - (The Date of EMD/Challan must be from the date of start of bid upto Bid Submission End date,

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any scheduled Bank without which no tender will be entertained.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned and Division name Viz RRWD) and Earnest Money/ bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date). The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F./A./ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Details as given below:-

Name of the Bank: - Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: - Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account No: - 0216010200000007
IFSC CODE: - JAKA00GARDEN
MICR CODE: - 190051008

Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT NO, SNO and RRWD viz. NIT 03, SNO. 10, RRWD)

For one particular work, only one bank Receipt / challan (not more than one) of the exact amount of tender fees (neither lesser nor greater) as shown against that particular work must be paid and uploaded with the tenders. The same tender fees paid and uploaded for a particular work should not be again used/ uploaded for any other work in the NIT (i.e. one Bank Receipt / Bank Challan for one work only)

Tender Fee and other relevant documents including Bid security (CDR/FDR) duly filled up, if found uploaded, with any ambiguity or un-attested correction/over writing for any work such tender /bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action under rules shall be initiated.

Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided. The participating agencies/ contractors are advised in their own interest not to resort to any cheating while submitting and uploading the tender document Fees or any other document.

- The bidders are requested to upload following documents:
- o Tender fees.
 - o EMD in the shape of CDR and FDR.
 - o Registration card and its latest renewal.
 - o Verification of Registration Card from competent Authority
 - o Latest GST clearance.
 - o PAN Card.
 - o Correspondence Address of the Agency with active Mobile No.
 - o Bank Account details (16-digit Bank Account No, Branch office, IFSC code)
 - o Any other document required to be uploaded as per the NIT.

3. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an E-mail message on their email address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer, Right River Works Division, SMC (Regal Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar) or in the office of the Informatics officer, SMC (Karan Nagar Srinagar). In case of holidays/ offices happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, or there is any Net problem the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

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

5. The lowest successful bidder has to furnish 5% of the contract value/ allotted cost cost as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR immediately after opening of tenders. The performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after DLP is successfully over. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR shall be released after performance security is received. The earnest money in favour of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Bank Receipts/challans.

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
- a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications to the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
Right River Works Division
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

No: SMC/EERRWD/ 2093-96
DIPK-NB-5021/23
Dated: - 28-12-2023

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
**Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)
Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora**
E-Mail : xephemechsouthawp@gmail.com

**Short Term e-NIT
e-NIT No: 44 of 2023-24**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, expression of interest in single cover system is invited for allotment of contract for hiring of 01 No. Vehicle for a period of one year w.e.f. January 2024:-

S. No	Item Description	Cost of tender Document	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contract	Major Head	Tender Receiving Authority
1	Providing 01 No. Staff vehicle (Scorpio; Innova or equivalent 4x4) fully loaded along with Driver for official purpose in the office of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora.	200/=	1,000/=	Travel	2215-110-Transportation and handling charges	Executive Engineer PHE Mech. Division Awantipora

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general & commercial terms & conditions of contract & other details can be seen/ downloaded from the web site jktenders.gov.in as per the following details:-

i.	Document Download/sale start Date	28/12/2023 (09:00 AM)
ii.	Bid submission start date	28/12/2023 (09:00 AM)
iii.	Document Download/sale end Date	28/12/2023 (09:00 AM)
iv.	Bid submission end date	02/01/2024 (01:00 PM)
v.	Date and time of Bid opening	02/01/2024 (03:00 PM)

Bids shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora. In case office happens to remain closed due to holiday or any other reason on the scheduled date of opening, the bids shall be opened on next working day.

No.: MDSA/5913-22
DIPK-14376/23 Dated: 28/12/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PHE Mechanical Division (South)
Awantipora

Govt. of J&K (UT)
**Office Of The Superintendent
Industrial Training Institute, Shopian**
PIN Code 192303

Offline Admission Notice for session 2023-24 (Batch II) for 6 Month course

Offline applications are invited from the desirous candidates for seeking admission in Govt. ITI Shopian for the Session 2023-24 in 6 month duration course Session-II Under Crafts training scheme (SCVT Scheme) and commencing from 1st January 2024, for which forms can be taken from Training Section of ITI Shopian @100/= (Rupees one hundred only) W-e-f 01-01-2024 upto 31-01-2024.

Candidates having minimum age of 14 years as on 1st January 2024, with no upper age bar can apply. The desirous candidates have to fill up the admission forms through offline mode available at ITI Shopian's Training Section.

The last date of applying offline is up to 31st of January 2024. The details of trade is given below. The candidates have to fill up the offline form and have to submit the hard copy along with the following documents online only.

1. Marks certificate of Qualifying examination
2. Date of Birth (D.O.B) certificate
3. Category certificate (SC/ST/Ex-Serviceman/Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any. 4. Aadhar Card

(Domicile certificate should be produced at the time of admission in the respective ITI).

The details of Course is as under:-

S. No	Name of Trade	Duration Period	Scheme	Min. Qual.	Intake Capacity
1	DATA ENTRY OPERATOR (SCVT)	06 MONTH	PPP	10th	24

If any query feel free to contact 8082008101, 7006209771.

Important Note:

1. Selection will be made purely based on academic merit obtained by the applicants in their qualifying examination (both for free and self-financing seats separately)
2. Candidates who have already undergone training in any of the trade in any ITI can apply for admission in another after two years after completion of previous training course. However, for ensuing academic session, their admission can be considered in any trade having poor response.

If any query feel free to contact 8082008101,7006209771.

No: ITI/Spn/Trgs/2023/936-40
DIPK-14367/23
dated: 28-12-2023

Superintendent
Industrial Training Institute,
Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Government Order No. FD-Code/154/2022-03-Dated-10-05-2023 Mr.Ghulam Ahmad Hajam has officially applied for a change of surname from Hajam to Sheikh. The notice is hereby given to the public, including colleagues, residents and the educational community. Any objections to this change must be submitted in writing to the relevant authorities within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. The objections should be addressed to the Zonal Education Officer khanshab, Budgam and include valid reasons for opposition. Mr.Ghulam Ahmad Hajam is currently employed as a teacher at Govt. Middle School Tangnar,Zone Khanshab with dedication and commitment to the education sector. The change of surname does not alter the professional standing or qualifications of the individual, and all records will be duly updated. This notice is issued to ensure transparency and public awareness in the matter of surname change, as mandated by the government. All concerned parties are requested to comply with the specified procedures.

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject: Application of Mohd Shafi War S/o Wali Mohammad War R/o Palhallan Pattan for issuance of DOB Certificate of his son namely Mohammad Riyan War born on 19-02-2017

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB . If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko

**The Jammu and Kashmir
State Board Of School Education**
New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 2623463
Class 10th
Year & Session Annual Pvt Bi-Annual 2019-20
Registration: N16460220080
Name : Aadil Ahmad Lone
Father's Name: Ghulam Mohd Lone
Mother's Name: -Tasleema Begum
Date of Birth:- 16-03-1999
Residence:- Gundpora Pampore
According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 20 APBI-6015398 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/BK/D/23
Dated 25-12-2023



Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

**The Jammu And Kashmir
Board Of School Education**
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 12606467 Session: Annual Pvt Bi-Annual Year 2020-21 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/Board against my name and cast as Shabaz Ahmad Khan Instead of Shahbaz Ahmad Gojar Quenshi



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Shahbaz Ahmad Gojar Quenshi
F/N: Ghulam Nabi Gojar Quenshi
M/N Gulshana Begum
DOB 20-12-2005
Residence: Sumlar Shokbaba

bb



Sales Tax Dept Conducts Special Inspection Drives In Parts Of Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Acting on the directions of Commissioner State Taxes Department, the flying squad constituted for district Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal led by Tabasum Kamili, Deputy Commissioner Appeals-I, Kashmir visited various business hubs in Srinagar.

The flying squads have been constituted across all districts to conduct surprise checks on businesses to ensure compliance of provisions of the Goods and Services Tax.

During the visit, the squad conducted a detailed inspection of records at Industrial Estate Sanath Nagar, various businesses in and around Sanat Nagar, Batmaloo, Tengpora and Bemina areas. The inspections covered several establishments including departmental stores, shopping malls, salons, restaurants, bakery establishments, pharmacies etc.

The primary focus of the visits was to ensure compliance to the provisions of Goods and Services Tax as well as verify the income and expenditure vis a vis the claimed tax liabilities.

The squad was also seen educating the taxpaying business establishments regarding the significance of issuing proper invoices, filing timely returns and taking every measure to avoid unregistered purchases.

With a focus on increasing revenue collecting and ensuring regulatory compliance, penal action was also initiated against unregistered businesses. Bank account statements of such establishments were pursued for ascertaining further action under Section 63 of the Act. The squad initiated penal action against businesses for violation of Section 122, 130 of GST Act and Rule 10 A of JK GST rules.



An elderly man clutching bags in his hand and puffing on a cigarette stood in the freezing cold on Thursday morning, waiting for clients at the crowded Batmaloo market. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Srinagar's Shergari Police Station Figures Among Top 3 In India

SHO Concerned To Receive Award On Jan 5

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has selected Shergari Police Station in Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K as one of the three 'best' police stations in the country.

The Joint Director & Conference Secretary Intelligence Bureau, MHA Gol, has intimated the Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, Srinagar that Shergari Police Station of District Srinagar has been selected as one of the best three Police Stations in the country for the year, 2023, through a communiqué by Administrative Officer to Director General of Police, J&K (Jammu).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hand over the Trophy to the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Police Station concerned on January 5, 2024, at an event at Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur. The Station House Officer (SHO) has been directed to attend the event to personally receive the award at the hands of Home Minister Amit Shah. (GNS)

To acknowledge the feat, The Yatra now encompasses Ikhraj Pora and Mehjoor Nagar vicinities, to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes.

VBSY Extended To 02 More Locations In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) continues to remain committed to fostering community development, as demonstrated by the successful extension of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) to two more locations within the Srinagar city.

The Yatra now encompasses Ikhraj Pora and Mehjoor Nagar vicinities, to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes.

The Yatra now encompasses Ikhraj Pora and Mehjoor Nagar vicinities, to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Open Tender through E-Procurement system. Assst. Material Manager, N. Railway, ETD/Store Depot/Ludhiana for and on behalf of President of India, Invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the given below item.

از عداالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر. J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Sgr. Azra Banoo. دعوی وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ = 97,573/-

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ درخواست از جانب ہیملہ بانو دختر غلام حسین ملک ساکنہ گوم احمد پورہ تحصیل چن بارہمولہ براد حصول D.O.B سرٹیفیکٹ بحق سائل خود۔

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ درخواست از جانب نذیر احمد بن عبدالحق ساکنہ مہاراجپورہ کنگدہ ارہ تحصیل چن بارہمولہ براد حصول D.O.B سرٹیفیکٹ بحق سائل خود۔

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ درخواست از جانب محمد ایشین وانی ولد عبد الرحیم وانی ساکنہ گوم احمد پورہ تحصیل چن بارہمولہ براد حصول D.O.B سرٹیفیکٹ بحق سائل خود۔

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag, H/Q Awantipora. Extension of dates. SUBJECT: Hiring of registered Commercial Vehicle 07-seater for official use along with driver on monthly basis w.e.f 01-01-2024 to 31-12-2024

Table with 4 columns: Bid submission end date, Bid opening date, and corresponding times (12:00 PM, 02:00 PM).

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in above referred E NIT No MIDA/ 3768-74. DIPK-14402/23 Date: 28.12.2023

Office of the Authorized Officer Divisional Forest Officer Jehlum Valley Forest Division Baramulla In the Forum of Authorized Officer J. V Forest Division Baramulla. Extract order passed by Authorized Officer cum Divisional Forest Officer J.V. Forest Division Baramulla vide No.DFO/JVA.O/2023-24/437-42 dated 15-12-2023 in connection with below mentioned cases of Uri Forest Range:-

Table with 8 columns: Sr. No, Case No, Ref Hon'ble Judicial Magistrate No & Date, Date of Seizure, Place of Seizure, Seizure Made, Form-25 No & Date, Custodian.

Therefore I am of the opinion that Justice will be done by confiscating the seized timber under sub section 3 of Sec.52 of I.F. Act. The seized timber D/K/S 59 Nos = 142.08 eft, Firewood 24 Qtls & MFP 61 Kgs as per seizure memo's submitted by Range Officer Uri (presently lying in Half Wrought Factory Baramulla) is confiscated in favour of the Forest Department.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686. AIRPORTS: SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311. RAILWAYS: SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259. HIGHWAY STATUS: Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open).

PRAYERS CALENDAR 15 Jumada al-Sani 1445. FAJR 6:07, ZUHR 12:32, ASR 3:51, Magrib 5:33, ISHA 6:58.

This Day In History. 1170 - Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury is assassinated inside Canterbury Cathedral by followers of King Henry II; subsequently martyred. 1503 - Battle of Garigliano: Spanish army under General Cordoba defeats French forces.

From KO Archives. NC Closes Ranks In Fear Of Gul Shah's Raid. Farooq, party brass hold lengthy meetings.

Observer News Service. Jammu- The recent convention by National Conference adversary, the Awami National Conference led by G. M. Shah in Srinagar has sent alarm bells ringing in the ruling party with the NC president, Farooq Abdullah other top functionaries in the party for a meeting to review the political situation in the state.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday | 29-12-2023

Towards justice

Defense minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Jammu in the wake of the killings of five soldiers in an ambush by the militants underlines the union government's seriousness to take on the escalating militancy in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri. The defense minister's presence in the region to review security measures is not merely a ceremonial gesture but an indication of acknowledging the severity of the situation. Since the summer of 2021 and especially throughout this year, Jammu has witnessed a conspicuous spike in violence, which now warrants an urgent attention by the union government. A few days ago, the Army chief also made a visit to the region. Besides the need to take stock of the evolving security situation in Poonch and Rajouri, both defense minister Singh and the Army chief reached out to the families of the three civilians allegedly killed in the custody of the army. They had been rounded up for questioning along with over a dozen others after the killings of five soldiers. The welcome outreach will go a long way to address the alienation among the Gujjar community, whose support is seen as critical to combat the rising insurgency in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

However, the government will have to go beyond meeting the families to win their hearts and minds. The demand for a fair and impartial investigation has reverberated not only among locals but also among political parties and humanitarian organizations. And to be fair to the Army, it has quickly moved to conduct its own inquiry, coupled with the police's registration of a murder case against unidentified individuals. It is a step in the direction of fixing accountability. Now, the army must ensure that the investigations are conducted meticulously, with full cooperation among all stakeholders. The families of the victims deserve not just words of solace but concrete steps towards ensuring justice, accountability, and preventing such tragic incidents in the future.

In 2020 also, the Army had moved with alacrity to hold its personnel accountable following the killing of three youth killed in an encounter at Amshpora in Shopian. However, the armed forces tribunal recently suspended the life sentence of the army Captain who was found guilty of killing these youth, something that has come as a setback to the families of the victims. But considering the seriousness with which the union government and the Army has taken up the killings of the three civilians in Poonch, the investigation will be taken to its logical conclusion and justice delivered to their families.

OTHER OPINION

Cricket and commerce

Last week's Indian Premier League's (IPL) auction in Dubai reiterated the sporting brand's enduring value and financial muscle. The T20 league, which many years ago Rahul Dravid famously referred to as 'a domestic tournament with an international flavour', has come a long way since its launch on a glitzy April night at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in 2008. The championship has survived a betting and fixing scandal, team suspensions and ownership issues, and become an irreplaceable element of the Indian summer and a much-watched fixture in the annual cricket calendar. The latest auction with its overseas tryst had an obvious recency bias as evident in the World Cup winning Australian squad's trio of skipper Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Travis Head eliciting competitive bids. The first two also scaled the 20 crore peak, which had remained unscathed so far in the IPL's history. Kolkata Knight Riders picked Starc at 24.75 crore and Sunrisers Hyderabad latched onto Cummins at 20.50 crore. In all the club against country debate that affects sports like football and cricket, what a player achieved for his nation adds immense value to his or her credentials, and that in turn means better money with clubs vying for the star athlete's presence. The Aussies reaped their rewards and many others too were recognised.

The build-up to the auction had its share of drama, as Mumbai Indians took Gujarat Titans skipper Hardik Pandya. He was subsequently appointed as the Mumbai Indians' captain and that meant Rohit Sharma's chequered history as an IPL captain had perhaps drawn to a close. There were cryptic social media posts from Jasprit Bumrah and Suryakumar Yadav, and that added to the speculation within the Mumbai Indians' ranks. And since the IPL is seen as a mirror to the Indian team's fortunes in T20, the presumption is that Pandya will continue to lead India in the shortest format. With the West Indies and the U.S. hosting next year's ICC T20 World Cup, the latest auction and the 2024 IPL edition will have a lot of layered meanings attached to them. Seen in that light, unsung Indian players, plying their wares in domestic cricket, being picked by various franchises, is also a reflection of a young crop that may don the Indian blue sometime in the future. Players such as Sameer Rizvi, Kumar Kushagra, Shubham Dube, Swastik Chhikara and Ramandeep Singh found eager buyers. But the way Pakistan cricketers have been kept away from the IPL is also a pointer that sport cannot stay immune to geopolitical tensions

The Hindu

Counter Opinions

Balancing the Unbalanced

The Unfair Burden Women Carry in Dual-Working-Parent Households

Jewel Khufia Noor

In examining the challenges faced by dual working parents and their impact on child mental health, the author of the article "Balancing Act: Dual Working Parents, Family Ties, and Children's Mental Well-being", clinical psychologist Wasim Kakroo, skillfully navigates the intricacies of the issue, maintaining a commendable balance on the gender front. However, the article appears to be built on assumptions, a trend prevalent in discussions of contemporary social issues, resulting in generalised solutions susceptible to selective application. My aim is to underscore the importance of inclusivity in addressing grassroots causes, directing our focus towards genuine solutions for a society that is both balanced and just.

Overlooked factors in dual working parents struggle

As we navigate the challenges of dual working parents, the focus turns to women. Society's weighty expectations often dissuade women from embracing the role of a working parent. This underexplored aspect lies at the core of this examination, revealing the delicate interplay between societal norms and women's gravitation towards the idea of being a working mother, rooted in ingrained expectations of their nurturing capabilities.

Reconstructing Self-Worth: The Dilemma Faced by Women

Women often derive their self-worth from being labelled as "working" due to the shortcomings of our traditional values. Despite having the potential to offer women worth beyond their professional roles, our traditional values fall short. Western culture provides an alternative by emphasising the value of being a working woman. The absence of competitive equal options in our societal framework leaves women with no alternative. Society should counsel women to seek self-worth beyond their professional identity, but this necessitates providing alternative avenues, a realm where our societal support has faltered.

The Silent Struggles: Home makers and Forgotten Self-Worth

In examining the choices of mothers who opt not to work, it's crucial to acknowledge that the majority often find themselves engrossed in household responsibilities and child nurturing. This entanglement leads many women to forget their own worth and self-love. The prevalent narrative reveals that these women, dedicated to domestic roles, often lack the time for personal activities and contribute less to society through volunteering or other impactful endeavours.

Dependency Dilemma: Non-Working Mothers and the Impact on Child Mental Health

The choice of many women to prioritise motherhood over a career often leads to financial dependence on husbands and in-laws, making them vulnerable to abuse. The gradual societal sensitization required to address this issue may take centuries, leaving women in a precarious situation. Particularly in third-world countries, the adverse effects of domestic violence on a child's mental health become starkly apparent. Urgent attention to these challenges is essential to prevent lasting consequences on the well-being of the next generation.

Misused Insights: The Peril of Limiting Women's Educational Aspirations

A potential consequence of the selective application of insights from the article is the



fontina / Getty / Katie Martin / The Atlantic



By wrongly interpreting the emphasis on prioritising child care over a career, some may use it as a rationale to curtail women's pursuit of higher education. This regressive stance not only restricts individual potential but also curbs the broader impact women could make on society. It inadvertently reinforces the troubling pattern of limiting women's educational opportunities, echoing historical challenges that hinder progress

misuse by conservative families. By wrongly interpreting the emphasis on prioritising child care over a career, some may use it as a rationale to curtail women's pursuit of higher education. This regressive stance not only restricts individual potential but also curbs the broader impact women could make on society. It inadvertently reinforces the troubling pattern of limiting women's educational opportunities, echoing historical challenges that hinder progress.

Limitations of the proposed solutions and the proposal of realistic solutions

While suggesting flexibility in working arrangements and corresponding policies, it's crucial to consider the immediate impact. Waiting for policy changes may lead to prolonged challenges. Exploring proactive, individualised solutions is the key.

In tackling the dual challenges of childcare and contributing to society, a practical solution emerges—mandating entrepreneurial skills for women. With the growing momentum of women empowerment initiatives, making entrepreneurial skills compulsory provides a way for women to manage childcare responsibilities while actively contributing to societal progress. By becoming their own leaders, women can effectively balance nurturing a child for a better nation and simultaneously

impact society through their professional endeavours. This solution aligns with the current focus on women's empowerment and presents a realistic, easily achievable step toward fostering a more balanced and empowered future.

While therapy may be a viable suggestion, it's imperative to acknowledge the limitations, especially in third-world countries. Access to affordable and qualified therapists can be scarce.

Additionally, the cultural stigma associated with seeking therapy may further deter individuals, hindering the practicality of such a solution for many dual working parents.

Therapy Empowering Women in High-Profile Professions

In addressing the aspirations of women in high-profile professions, a realistic solution emerges—the role of therapy. For women pursuing such ambitions, therapy becomes a practical avenue, given the likelihood of having the courage and family support to defy associated stigmas. Through various psychological analyses, therapy can assess a woman's ability to handle the pressures of being a working mother effectively. It becomes a tool to facilitate communication with her partner and family, teaching her additional skills to enhance her effectiveness in both roles. This approach challenges the notion of limiting capable women, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to society while excelling in demanding professions.

Addressing the challenges faced by both men and women, the root issue lies in the traditional 9-5 work paradigm. The solution involves reconnecting with ethical and moral values, transcending gender boundaries. Encouraging both men and women to delve into the essence of being human, utilising their intellect to formulate realistic and innovative solutions, becomes paramount. This approach aims at reshaping our lives in alignment with the values we inherently aspire to, fostering a collective journey towards a more meaningful existence.

Conclusion

In navigating the evolving challenges, we must seek new and innovative solutions to shape a nation, echoing the wisdom of Iqbal:

"Jahan e taza ki afkar e taza se hai namood, Ki sungo kish se hotay nahi jaha paida"

"New worlds derive their pomp from thoughts quite fresh and new

From stones and bricks, a world was neither built nor created"

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



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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On Self Medication

MANY thanks to Kashmir Observer for publishing a very useful and informative article on the dangers of 'self-medication' online. ("The rise of 'Dr. Google'", Aug. 24). Living in the e-world, naturally the internet is an endless source for information. And for many of us, it is our 'first go-to' for just about everything we want

to know. It is also a tempting tool for medical self-diagnosis, but which one should be extremely careful of. For their illness, the temptation of people to treat themselves through online medication is totally wrong and highly dangerous.

When you self-diagnose, you are essentially assuming that you know the subtleties that diagnosis consti-

tutes. This can be fatal as people who assume that they can surmise what is going on with themselves may miss the nuances of diagnosis. Says eminent Radiation Oncologist Sean Vance: "The wealth of medical information we have at our fingertips can be empowering. But we need to be really choosy about the sources we are using, especially when searching

topics like cancer, stroke and heart attack." The problem with seeking medical advice through the internet is that you could end up being provided with completely incorrect information, which could become an added detriment to your health.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Cat in Distress

The Dramatic Unravelling of a Failed Rescue Operation

The absence of an animal rescue centre amplifies the challenges faced by injured animals in dire need of timely intervention and care.

Farooq Shah

A tiny one-week-old kitten, seeking warmth, inadvertently found itself in the bonnet of a neighbour's car. Unaware of the feline stowaway, a heart-racing 500-metre journey unfolded, concluding with a distressing scene in the rearview mirror—the kitten's accidental fall, resulting in an injured paw.

Promptly pulling over, the man retrieved the injured kitten, drove back home, and discovered the mother cat playing with her other offspring. Placing the wounded kitten among its siblings, the little one, despite its injury, managed to drag itself and nestled close to its mother for much-needed warmth.

Though the man could have taken the kitten to animal rescuers for her leg treatment, placing it with its family was the extent of what he could do.

Several months have elapsed, and the once-tiny kitten has blossomed into a fully grown, exquisite cat. It explores the neighbourhood in quest of sustenance and refuge, frequently seeking shelter in the subterranean section of our house. Her paw remains contorted, and the crimson hue of the blood indicates that her injury has not fully healed. Each time she ambulates on her paw, a section of it rubs against the wrong side, reopening the wound repeatedly, leaving a trail of blood.

The thought of capturing the kitten and getting her paw treated never crossed my mind. Instead of taking responsibility, I chose to share her plight through a social media post probably to score Brownie points that I was some kind of a wildlife buff who cared for the injured animals more than the rest. However, the reality is that I fell short.

Fortunately, my two sons, Mehran and Muntasir, exhibit a higher level of responsibility. Having extensively watched Animal Planet together, their commitment to safeguarding life surpasses that of their ageing father.

I've instilled in them the value of kindness toward all life forms. Their favourite activity is capturing spiders alive and setting them free in nature. They've consistently followed this practice, and each time they release an animal, I feel a sense of accomplishment, knowing that my dedication to imparting a deep

respect for life has not been futile.

A memorable incident occurred when we suddenly discovered that our attic had been raided by over half a dozen rodents. They had climbed the bathroom pipe and sought refuge on the second floor. They had already caused significant damage, gnawing into everything within their reach, including pillows, blankets, and quilts, before we detected their presence.

I promptly acquired a rodent trap from the nearby market. Using dried fish as bait, I successfully captured nearly nine rodents.

After each capture, I transported the trap about two kilometres away to release them into an open piece of land. Thankfully, there have been no further rodent visits.

Mehran, upon his return home after the third semester at IIT Kharagpur, expressed his strong disapproval for not having her paw treated. He contacted an NGO dedicated to rescuing injured animals and informed them about the cat.

The volunteers responded positively, asking if we could capture the cat before their arrival. Mehran, fortunately, lured the cat into the underground section of our house and locked it in. However, just before the rescue team could arrive, a friend of his called him, and Mehran delegated the remaining responsibility to his proud dad. The dad willingly took on the task.

Meanwhile, two young boys from the rescue team, guided by a shared location on WhatsApp, reached the spot. However, their appearance, attire, and behaviour didn't align with their professional role—they lacked uniforms, IDs, cat traps, gloves, or any visible indicators of commitment to the task.

Before attempting to capture the cat, they requested if I could provide them with a cardboard box and duct tape, which I promptly did. With a picking basket in hand, they proceeded to the underground dungeon where the cat was shut in. Despite their efforts, they struggled to secure the cat. The cat had most likely lost trust in humans, making it substantially hostile and challenging to catch.

After approximately fifteen minutes, they caught the cat, though the method of grabbing her neck caused significant discomfort to her. The poor creature displayed distress



with a gaping mouth and popped-out eyeballs, indicating the duo's suboptimal handling.

While assisting them in sealing the box with duct tape, the cat managed to find a weakness and wriggled out vigorously, prompting the duo to allow her to escape. I quickly grabbed her, preventing her escape, and urged the volunteers to cover her with a cloth. However, they remained motionless, allowing the cat to turn aggressive towards me. Despite tightening my grip, her feline instincts prevailed, and she scratched my right hand, leading to

the failure of the rescue. The rescue team blamed me for mishandling the operation, leading me to question their qualifications and why they allowed my involvement from the start.

I was the one who suffered the most, and I realized that I needed to go to the hospital to find out whether I required an anti-rabies vaccine. Stray cats can carry the virus easily transmittable through scratching or biting.

Surprisingly, the cat reappeared on the southern wall of our house, seemingly mocking us for the failed mission. However, the duo was un-

able to capture her, even though she presented several opportunities when I fed her again with some pieces of meat. The dejected team left, promising to return if we managed to trap her again.

After their departure, I hurried to the SMHS hospital, where the paramedics informed me that I needed a series of injections along with a tetanus toxoid.

Meanwhile, the cat continues to visit us, but displays considerable reluctance to freely enter our premises now. She has perhaps lost all her trust in humans, unaware that her

capture was for her own well-being.

During one of her visits, I observed blood dripping from her paw, tugging at the strings of my heart once more. Determined to catch her again, I made several unsuccessful attempts until I finally managed to trap her in the underground room again. When I called the rescue team, they were occupied with bandaging an injured dog and instructed me to contact their office instead.

I knew a volunteer, Miss Sanna, based in Lucknow, who worked with Ms. Maneka Gandhi on establishing a dog sterilization centre in Kashmir. However, the project reportedly faced indifference from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and was stalled.

Sanna provided me with a string of numbers to contact, although I had already spoken to Mr. Dawood Muhammad, whose number the rescuers had forwarded to me. Sanna informed me about Dawood's organisation, "Animal Rescue Kashmir," established with limited resources in 2015 after returning from London.

Surprisingly, Dawood also blamed me for the initial failure in capturing the cat when the rescuers first visited our house. He began arguing without addressing the urgency of the situation. Despite informing him about the cat's serious bleeding, his response was not professional.

Meanwhile, the trapped feline found a small gap in the room and escaped once again.

When I informed Dawood of the cat's escape, he sounded as disheartened as I was. The mission was called off.

The cat continues to appear intermittently, perching on her favourite spot on the wall but refusing to be lured into the underground space. Her ongoing ordeal continues with the untreated wound leaving a trail of blood wherever she goes.

One certainty is that Dawood stands as a lone warrior amid the prevailing situation where animals suffer daily without a proper animal rescue centre. Without sufficient funds, infrastructure and other allied items, his frustration is justified. No wonder, stray dogs or cats struck by vehicles face further torment as passing vehicles trample them until they meld with the road, leaving remnants of skin and a few hairs. The level of regard for life here in Kashmir is minimal.

Winter Depression or Seasonal Affective Disorder

Isha Malik

When the long dark days of winter approach, do you feel slowed down? Does it feel more difficult to wake up early in the morning? Do you face difficulty in concentrating on work; feel demotivated and sad for most part of the day?

You may be one of the many people who get psychologically affected by change in the season. This condition is known as SAD- seasonal affective disorder. Though most of the people with this condition never seek professional help but they complain about feeling less cheerful, creative, energetic and productive during the winter season compared to the rest of the year.

In Kashmir, the cold weather lasts for more than six months, which leads to most of the people having significantly low levels of vitamin D due to less exposure to sunlight. A number of studies have shown a relationship between Vit D levels and depression, which to some extent explains why people living in cold regions have a higher risk of developing seasonal affective disorder. You might have heard many people around you saying

"*ye wande shikas chu mae kharaan; wandas manz chu mae souri kharaan, beh chus/ches na hekaan kih thi karith; mae chu nebar wuchun tuth kharaan, souri chu manhoos baasaan*"

WHAT IS SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER?

As per APA- American Psychological Association Seasonal affective disorder is a form of depression also known as SAD, seasonal depression, or winter depression. In the Diagnostic Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), this disorder is identified as a type of depression - Major Depressive Disorder with Seasonal Pattern.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) was first described as a syndrome

of recurrent episodes of depression that occur annually (usually in the winter season at same time each year) by Rosenthal et al. in 1984.

People with SAD experience mood changes and symptoms similar to depression. The symptoms usually occur during the fall and winter months when there is less sunlight and usually improve with the arrival of spring. The most difficult months for people with SAD tend to be January and February. While it is much less common, some people experience SAD in the summer as well.

SAD is more than just "winter blues." The symptoms can be distressing and overwhelming and can interfere with daily functioning. However, it can be treated. It is more common among women than men. SAD may begin at any age, but it typically starts when a person is between ages 18 and 30.

SAD has been linked to a biochemical imbalance in the brain prompted by shorter daylight hours and less sunlight in winter. As seasons change, people experience a shift in their biological internal clock or circadian rhythm that can cause them to be out of step with their daily schedule. SAD is more common in people living far from the equator where there are fewer daylight hours in the winter.

SYMPTOMS AND DIAGNOSIS

Common symptoms of SAD include fatigue, even with too much sleep, and weight gain associated with overeating and carbohydrate cravings. SAD symptoms can vary from mild to severe and can include many symptoms similar to major depression, such as:

- ▶ Feeling sad or having a depressed mood
- ▶ Loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed.
- ▶ Changes in appetite; usually eating more, craving carbohydrates.
- ▶ Change in sleep; usually sleep-



ing too much.

- ▶ Loss of energy or increased fatigue despite increased sleep hours
- ▶ Social withdrawal (feeling like "hibernating")
- ▶ Increase in purposeless physical activity (e.g., inability to sit still, pacing, handwringing) or slowed movements or speech (these actions must be severe enough to be observable to others).
- ▶ Feeling worthless or guilty
- ▶ Difficulty thinking, concentrating, or making decisions.
- ▶ Thoughts of death or suicide (APA)

Remember that the symptoms associated with SAD could be a result of some other underlying medical causes. Physical examination and some blood tests can help to confirm the diagnosis and rule out the presence of any other causal factor. Some specific illnesses that need to be considered are:

Hypothyroidism, hypoglycaemia, chronic viral illnesses, chronic fatigue syndrome etc.

HOW IS SAD DIAGNOSED?

If you think you may be suffering from SAD, talk to your family doctor or a mental health professional. To be diagnosed with SAD, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- ▶ They must have symptoms of depression (as mentioned in list above)
- ▶ The depressive episodes must occur during specific seasons (i.e., only during the winter months or the summer months) for at least 2 consecutive years. This means there must be a temporal relationship between the onset of the symptoms and a particular time of the year.
- ▶ Full remissions also occur at a characteristic time of the year (e.g., depression disappears in spring).

CAUSES OF SAD:

The exact cause of SAD has not been fully understood yet, but it's often linked to reduced exposure to sunlight during short winter days.

Lack of sunlight might stop a part of the brain called the hypothalamus from working properly; this may in turn affect-

- ▶ Production of melatonin - melatonin is a hormone that makes you feel sleepy; in people with SAD, the body may produce it in higher than normal levels
- ▶ Production of serotonin - serotonin is a hormone that affects your mood, appetite and sleep; a lack of sunlight may lead to lower serotonin levels, which is linked to symptoms of depression.
- ▶ Body's internal clock (circadian rhythm) - your body uses sunlight to time various important functions, such as when you wake up, so lower light levels during the winter may disrupt your body clock and lead to symptoms of SAD

It's also possible that some people are more vulnerable to SAD as a result of their genetic predisposition, as mood disorders appear to run in families.

WHO IS AT MORE RISK?

- ▶ Females
- ▶ Young adults
- ▶ Individuals living in cold regions with long winter season.
- ▶ Individuals with personal or family history of depression.
- ▶ Individuals diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder.
- ▶ Females in post-partum phase

TREATMENT:

SAD can be effectively treated in several ways which includes- light therapy, antidepressant medications, talk therapy or some combination of these. Although symptoms generally improve with the change of season, symptoms can improve

more quickly with proper treatment.

The main treatments are:

- ▶ Making lifestyle changes -getting natural sunlight, eat a healthy and balanced diet, and paying extra attention to stress management. Keeping yourself engaged in pleasurable activities and doing physical exercise for at least 30minutes- 3-4 times a week can prove to be quite helpful. Regulation of your sleep cycle is also important. Taking vacations in sunnier regions can also help one cope with SAD.
- ▶ Light therapy - where a special lamp called a light box is used to simulate exposure to sunlight. It usually requires 20 minutes or more per day, typically first thing in the morning, during the winter months. Most people see some improvements from light therapy within one or two weeks of beginning treatment. To maintain the benefits and prevent relapse, treatment is usually continued through the winter. Because of the anticipated return of symptoms in late fall, some people may begin light therapy in early fall to prevent symptoms.
- ▶ Consulting a Clinical Psychologist (for CBT sessions) or a Psychiatrist, who will prescribe some antidepressant medicine- such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs).
- ▶ For more on various Addiction Treatment Programmes visit Rehab Recovery

Views expressed in the articles are the author's own responsibility. The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment and is strictly for educational/informative purposes only

The author is a Clinical Psychologist at G.B.Panth Hospital

PM Modi to inaugurate multiple development projects, flag off trains in Ayodhya on December 30

New Delhi: Ahead of the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a slew of development projects in the Uttar Pradesh city on December 30, including an airport and a redeveloped railway station, and flag off two new Amrit Bharat and six new Vande Bharat trains, his office said on Thursday.

Official sources said the airport will be named "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham", after the saint who wrote the epic "Ramayana". Valmiki also enjoys a large following, especially among Dalits. Modi will launch projects worth more than Rs 11,100 crore to revamp civic facilities and develop world-class infrastructure in Ayodhya and projects worth over Rs 4,600 crore for other parts of Uttar Pradesh.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said Modi's vision is to develop modern, world-class infrastructure in Ayodhya, improve connectivity and revamp its civic facilities, which also conform to the rich history and heritage of the city where devout believers Lord Ram was born.

"In realisation of this vision, a



new airport, a new redeveloped railway station, newly redeveloped, widened and beautified roads and other civic infrastructure are being inaugurated in the city. Further, foundation stones for many new projects will be laid that will contribute to the beautification and revamp of civic facilities in and around Ayodhya," the statement said.

The first phase of the state-of-the-art airport has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 1,450 crore. Its terminal building will have an area of 6,500 square metres, equipped to serve about 10 lakh passengers annually.

The building's facade depicts the architecture of the Ram temple while its interiors are decorated with local art, paintings and murals depicting Lord

Ram's life.

It is also equipped with various sustainability features, such as an insulated roofing system, LED lighting, rain-water harvesting, landscaping with fountains, a water treatment plant, a sewage treatment plant, a solar power plant and many other facilities, to meet the five-star GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) ratings, the statement said.

The airport will improve connectivity in the region, leading to a boost in tourism, business activities and employment opportunities.

The first phase of the redeveloped Ayodhya railway station -- named Ayodhya Dham Junction -- has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 240

crore. The three-storey modern station building is equipped with all modern features, such as elevators, escalators, food plazas, shops for puja needs, cloak rooms, child-care rooms and waiting halls, the statement added.

Referring to the Amrit Bharat trains, he said these new super-fast passenger trains have locomotives at both ends for better acceleration. The trains will provide improved facilities for the passengers, such as beautiful and attractively-designed seats, better luggage racks, mobile phone charging points with suitable phone holders, LED lights, CCTV cameras and a public information system.

Modi will also dedicate to the nation three railway projects worth Rs 2,300 crore to strengthen the rail infrastructure in the region.

To enhance accessibility to the upcoming Ram temple, the prime minister will inaugurate four newly-redeveloped, widened and beautified roads in Ayodhya -- Rampath, Bhaktipath, Dharampath and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Path.

Lord Ram's idol will be consecrated at the under-construction temple in Ayodhya on January 22.

India planning to launch 50 satellites for intelligence gathering in five years: ISRO chief

Mumbai: India is aiming to launch 50 satellites in the next five years for geo-intelligence gathering which will include the creation of a layer of satellites in different orbits with a capacity to track the movement of troops and image thousands of kilometers of area, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Somanath said here on Thursday.

Speaking at 'Techfest', an annual science and technology event organised by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, he said it is important to improve the ability of satellites to detect changes, to bring in more of AI-related and data-driven approach to analyse data, reduce data downloads and get only the necessary information.

Spacecrafts are capable of observing a country's borders and neighbouring regions, he noted.

"All of it can be seen from satellites. This capability gives us enormous potential. We have been launching satellites to handle this, but there is a different way of thinking now and we need to look at it in a much more critical manner because the power of (any) nation is the ability to understand what is happening



around it," Somanath said.

"We have already configured 50 satellites to be realised in the next five years and this is going to be launched for India for supporting this particular geo-intelligence over the next five years plus (period)," the ISRO chief added.

If India can launch satellites at this scale, threats to the country can be better mitigated, Somanath said.

"We have found out a way by which a layer of satellites can be launched starting from GEO (geostationary equatorial orbit) to LEO (lower earth orbit) and also very low earth orbit where we need very critical assessment of some situation," he said.

This is a new domain which is coming up not only in optical, but also in SAR (synthetic

aperture radar), thermal and various other technologies, Somanath pointed out.

"We will have communication between satellites, so that if some satellite detects something, which is at GEO at 36,000 kms, it can have a large view. If you find some activity happening, you can task another satellite in the lower orbit (to check) much more carefully and then give more information," he said.

"We are also looking at imaging, not a very small area (but) thousands of kilometers of area and we would like to cover entire borders in everyday cycles. This is a tremendous capability that we are building if we are able to launch these satellites in the next five years," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt's Crackdown Leads

cases seeking treatment in 2023, a decrease from 1555 in 2022.

Notably, the government has launched a massive awareness campaign throughout the union territory to curb the drug menace.

The efforts of the UT administration was even lauded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July this year for tackling the menace of drugs including organizing musical nights and bike rallies in high altitudes in the Union Territory.

The UT administration has implemented a strict zero-tolerance policy and has initiated a campaign known as "Nasha Mukh Abhiyaan" to combat the issue of drug abuse. Under this initiative, the government of J&K has launched a campaign aimed at creating drug-free communities, including cities and villages.

"The main objective is to increase awareness among the youth and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) within the Union Territory, encouraging them to detach themselves from this detrimental issue," said an official from the divisional commissioner office.

He further said that by employing a united and preemptive strategy, members from every sector of society will work closely with the administration to guarantee that villages and communities stay clear of the menace of drugs.

Dr. Yasir Rather, overseeing the drug de-addiction center at GMC, Srinagar, informed Kashmir Observer that the combined efforts of the government, medical practitioners, members of civil society, and journalists are yielding results, which is evident in the significant decrease in the number of patients seeking drug de-addiction treatment at IMHANS.

"I must say since the authorities have launched a massive crackdown on supply of heroin and are trying to break its chain, the number of heroin abusers have reduced significantly due to its non-availability," Dr. Rather said.

He, however, added that the drug addicts are shifting to other drugs that need to be looked-into.

"There is a huge reduction in supply of drugs, and the aggressive awareness campaign by the government is yielding positive results," he added.

"Decline in addiction magnitude seems to be good news for now, the news would be better if we are able to sustain our collaborative efforts and continue with this reduction in the number of cases for the next few months to years to achieve the goal of drug free society," Dr. Rather added.

In order to keep a tab on substance abuse, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir conduct District Level meetings on Prevention of Drug Abuse & Narcotics Trade (NCORD) in every district of the union territory. During these meetings, deputy commissioners review the measures taken and the progress achieved in combating drug abuse within their respective districts.

The J&K police have also launched a massive crackdown on drug peddlers and their handlers, resulting in the booking of hundreds of peddlers under PITS-PSA and other Acts. The

police have also started to attach the properties of drug peddlers across the UT.

Additionally, the police also launch special drives in every district to destroy wild bang (poppy straw) grown illegally by the smugglers.

Dr Abdul Majid, HOD psychiatry SKIMS Medical College Bimina told Kashmir Observer that even the statistics are a positive sign but it will be too early to celebrate and a lot of work is yet to be done.

He argued that a considerable number of drug addicts are from the transport and student community, who travel to other states in winter and don't seek treatment here.

"Obviously, we need to applaud the government agencies for doing a wonderful job but there are many observations that we need to keep in mind. There is a lot of work yet to be done," he told Kashmir Observer.

He said the government's initiative of starting the Addiction Treatment Facility Centres (ATFCs) in every district in the UT is proving to be a game changer.

Notably, the government has set-up ATFCs in all districts of J&K to fight against drug addiction and mitigate the sufferings of the drug affected persons.

"Most of the drug abusers from the rural areas find it easy to visit their respective ATF centers. Thus the figures of hospitals in Srinagar are less but yes ATFCs are helping a lot to curb the menace," he added.

He said that the SKIMS Bimina has been running Addiction Treatment Services for the last two years and has treated more than 2000 patients till date.

He added that the department has been running services in Central Jail Srinagar, the first of its kind in the country, for the past year.

6 Chargesheeted

15 days and additional bonus income on creating a network of depositors.

Others chargesheeted in the case are Sushil Kumar, Sandeep Kumar, Deepak Singh all residents of Haryana, Saphali Singh of New Delhi and Manveer Singh of Punjab, the spokesperson said.

A written complaint lodged in Crime Branch, Jammu by Mohd Younis of Pulwama, Asrar Ahmed of Srinagar, Ayaz Ahmed of Poonch and Mushtaq Dar of Rajouri has alleged that the accused came to J&K in October 2017 and conducted seminars at different hotels to get people to invest money in the company, the official said.

People were assured that the company is genuine and registered with the Reserve Bank of India, the spokesperson said, adding the company collected huge amounts from local residents within three months.

After police received the complaint, a preliminary verification was conducted and allegations of cheating and fraud were prima facie substantiated, leading to the registration of a formal case under relevant sections of law for in-depth probe, the official said.

Man Trapped In

been hospitalized for necessary treatment", the official added.

Meanwhile, the family and locals have extended their gratitude to the

F&ES and Police and also to locals for their efforts to bring the man out of the well safely. (GNS)

Posts Under PSC

proved that they have no less capability than anyone else but they have special abilities to contribute in nation building.

"Around 5000 people are participating in this unique event which is of, by, and for Divyangjan. A fully accessible event, it is an effort to showcase the minds full of courage, strength and determination of persons with special abilities," Sinha said.

"This Festival of Inclusion will be a milestone in the journey of empowerment of Divyangjan in J&K UT. It will inspire every citizen to work untedly for empowerment and rehabilitation of Divyangjan and to build an inclusive society," he added.

The LG also asserted that his administration is committed to create an environment that provides equal opportunities and protects the rights of Divyangjan.

"We have achieved saturation in distribution of motorized scooters. The administration has taken over Abhinandan Home for specially-abled students," he said.

Sinha further said that there was a need for all the stakeholders, society, NGOs to adopt a multi-dimensional approach and collaborative efforts to enable persons with disabilities to realize their full individual potential.

"Private companies and individual innovators have made impressive strides in new technology in the last few years. I urge them to develop user friendly instruments for Divyangjan which will help in their rehabilitation process and empowerment," he said.

The LG felicitated the Divyangjan Ambassadors including Para Athletes and Sportspersons for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields. He also handed over wheelchairs and assistive devices to the beneficiaries.

The two-day event will witness distribution of assistive devices, sports competitions in various disciplines, cultural events, fashion show, talent hunt and exhibition.

'Committed To Empowerment

cater to rehabilitation services for different categories of Divyangjan besides skill development training for their empowerment.

"Jammu Kashmir Administration is committed to the empowerment of Divyangjan. Several steps have been taken in J&K post August 2019 to ensure empowerment and comprehensive rights of Divyangjan. District Level Committee has been formed, grievance redressal officer and nodal education officer has been appointed in all 20 districts," he added.

Crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for brining significant change in attitude of society towards Divyangjan and paving the way for their empowerment for quality and independent living, Sinha said that PM has changed the thinking of the society towards the Divyangjan who were earlier used to be considered as dependent but now they are full of self-confidence, empowered and scripting new success in their life's journey.

He observed that after the abrogation of Article 370, the administration has streamlined facilitation of disability certificate issuance for accessing benefits and services. The LG also noted that so far, 176,355 UDID certificates have been issued and 182,338 UDID cards have been generated. As per CCPD data J&K is ranked 6th in the country.

"Efforts are being made through self-employment schemes to provide Divyangjan with facilities, options and opportunities to live their lives with dignity," the LG said.

He said that special electronic equipment is being provided to Divyangjan to ensure ease of communication and accessibility for persons with visual and hearing disabilities.

Later, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar laid the foundation stone of Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Samba through virtual mode. Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament and Sh Keshav Dutt Sharma, Chairman, District Development Council Samba were also present.

The CRC at Samba will be constructed by NBCC in 38 kanals 18 marlas of land. The estimated cost of construction is Rs 29 crores and the MoU has been signed with NBCC to initiate the construction work and finish the work within a span of one year.

J&K Panchayati Raj

definition of the OBC for providing reservation to them, explaining the method of disqualification from the membership of a Halqa Panchayat and suspension and removal of a sarpanch, naib-sarpanch and panch by the government, the spokesperson said.

He added that the bill also defines the process for removal and conditions of service of the state election commissioner (SEC) here.

Court Sentences Man

case and fined Rs.22,50,000, one and half of the cheque amount.

Similarly, the court also sentenced the accused to 2 years in jail and imposed Rs 22,50,000 (one and half of the cheque amount) in the third case.

"In case the accused fails to pay the fine so imposed the complainant would be free to choose any remedy available under law to recover the same, including issuance of levy warrant against the accused person," the court added. Similar order was passed in two other cases.

Kashmir Engulfed

especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall. "Chilla-i-Kalan" will end on January 31 and will be followed by the 20-day "Chilla-i-Khurud" and the 10-day "Chilla-i-Bachha".

The minimum temperature dropped to minus 3.3 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night in Srinagar from Tuesday night's minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, officials said.

The visibility in Srinagar city and its adjoining areas was below 50 metres for the second day due to dense fog. The transport department has issued an advisory for motorists in the city and termed foggy conditions the worst in recent memory.

are delayed due to bad weather conditions there, according to the Airports Authority of India.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, down from the previous night's minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Gulmarg, a famous ski resort in Baramulla, recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 4.3 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

J&K Parties

Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories. The apex court upheld the decision earlier this month.

Shah, however, asserted that the issue is not dead yet.

"I want to tell those celebrating the verdict and using it to score political points that the issue is not dead yet. The people of Jammu and Kashmir will give a befitting reply to you that they have not accepted the August 5, 2019 decision and the December 11, 2023 verdict of the Supreme Court," he said.

On three civilians allegedly killed in the Army's custody in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch last week, Shah said the "armymen involved in the torture and killings should be court-martialled".

Meanwhile, CPI (M) leader M Y Tarigami also said various stakeholders are contemplating moving the Supreme Court with a review petition over its December 11 judgment.

A review petition must be filed within 30 days from the judgment or order of which a review is being sought and placed before the same bench that had delivered the decision.

"The Supreme Court has the authority but as a citizen, I have my views too, according to the Constitution and guidelines of the apex court. Our opinion is that the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh have not received justice and all the stakeholders, including the petitioners (in the matter), are exploring options so that we can get justice," Tarigami told reporters here.

He said consultations are going on among the petitioners who had moved the top court challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and "we are contemplating filing a review petition within the time-frame".

Asked if they are planning to move the court under the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration's (PAGD) banner, the Left leader said different parties and individuals moved the court separately in the past and the same route could be taken again.

"The window is open and why should we believe that this window will not open with good news for us? When we first moved the court, some people expressed hopelessness. But as a student of politics, a human being and a citizen, we have to move forward in the direction where we can see a ray of hope and justice. The opportunity is there and we have to

avail it, as suggested by several former Supreme Court judges," he said.

In an apparent reference to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre, Tarigami said misleading narratives are being built to justify the abrogation of Article 370, which was a "bridge between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country".

He alleged that the abrogation of Article 370 was not just an "ordinary mistake", but an "assault on the basic constitutional rights of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh".

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader also referred to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's statement at a function in Jammu on Tuesday that had Article 370 remained in Jammu and Kashmir, the Anand Marriage Act would not have become a reality and said misleading narratives are persistently being propagated in order to convince people about the benefits of abrogating the special constitutional position of the erstwhile state.

"There has been a long list of amendments made to Article 370, allowing the application of central laws to Jammu and Kashmir. The passage of the GST Act in 2017 by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was one of such instances in recent times," he said.

The former MLA said there were 42 Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) orders, extending the scope of central intervention, which were not envisaged at the time of the adoption of Article 370.

"Additionally, the extent of the misuse of Article 370 to encroach on the State's powers can be seen from one of the measures taken in July 1986, when the president issued an order under Article 370, extending Article 249 of the Constitution to the state. This empowered Parliament to legislate on matters on the State List on the basis of a resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha.

"Pertinently, it received the approval from the centrally-appointed governor, Jagmohan. Such overriding of the State List is unique to Jammu and Kashmir and not applicable to other states," he said.

Tarigami said a narrative is being built in the country that Jammu and Kashmir had to deal with terrorism due to the presence of Article 370 and that tourism has flourished in the region after its abrogation.

"Article 370 was a bridge between the Muslim-majority region and a secular India. I want to tell those who want to distort history and make false claims that terrorism raised its ugly head in the most peaceful region after governments were formed from Delhi and the trust of the people here was shattered. Tourism is nothing new for a region that received visitors from abroad in the past as well," he said.

The Left leader said a recent terror attack on the Army in Poonch and the subsequent alleged custodial killing of three civilians were "unfortunate" and asserted that terrorism cannot be defeated by creating lawlessness.

"Do not push people to the brink. Uphold their trust in the system. Create jobs for the unemployed youngsters," he said, questioning the claims of Jammu and Kashmir attracting massive investment after the abrogation of Article 370.

GENERATING FRIVOLOUS ELECTRICITY BILL

PDD In Baramulla Slapped With Rs 30K Penalty

Observer News Service
BARAMULLA: The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDR) Baramulla/ Bandipora on Thursday imposed a penalty of Rs. 30,000 on the Power Development Department (PDD) Baramulla for an administrative oversight regarding an inflated electricity bill of a consumer.

A complaint was filed by a consumer at the court who had been charged a huge amount for their electricity bill due to an administrative oversight whereby the department had generated two consumer IDs for a single connection, resulting in the inflated billing. Despite the complainant's prior attempts to

rectify the error through official channels, the authorities failed to provide a resolution. Upon receiving the complaint, the DCDRC swiftly initiated cognizance under the leadership of Peerzada Qousar Hussain, serving as the President of the Commission. A thorough proceeding found the concerned authorities culpable for the oversight. As a consequence, the Commission held the officials negligent, accountable and levied a penalty of Rs. 30,000. This amount, signifying compensation for the distress and mental anguish caused to the complainant, is to be deducted from the officials' salaries and are directed to make the payment.

2- Day Purple Fest For Specially-abled People Begins At Shopian

Observer News Service
SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Fazlul Hasbeeb on Thursday kick-started two days purple fest, VYOM-2023 for specially-abled person at Palaash Pinjora, Shopian in order to honour the talent and felicitate them for their achievements.

The two-day festival was organised by the Department of Social Welfare, Shopian at Child-care Institute Palaash, Pinjora. Specially-abled people from across the district took part in various activities like exhibition, cultural programmes, disability dialogues, movie screening and talent show.

Various artisans from different corners of the district exhib-

ited their self made products and showcased them on the occasion. The fest included Disability Dialogues wherein various issues of empowering specially-abled people were highlighted. The participants resolved to work towards the goal of inclusive development. Suggestions from them for making a disability friendly society were also discussed. The participants also took part in cultural programmes and Talent Show wherein their inherent capabilities were appreciated by one and all. The DC on the occasion visited various stalls and interacted with them and expressed his gratitude to participants for taking part in the fest.

LG Calls Upon Youth To Build 'Viksit Bharat'

Addresses 9th Convocation Of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University In Katra

Observer News Service
KATRA: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today called upon the graduating students to set clear goals in professional career, identify problems and face them courageously to build Viksit Bharat@2047.



The Lieutenant Governor was addressing the 9th convocation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, in Katra today. Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan was the chief guest on the occasion. Pradhan, Union Education Minister congratulated the students for starting their new journey. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized on giving priority to competency over degree. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University is a research and design-centric uni-

versity. I have full confidence that the students of the prestigious institution will lead this technology-based era, and become a major contributor to the progress of the society, nation and the world in the times to come," the Union Minister said. In his address, the Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha asked the students to be patient, pursue their dreams with passion and capitalize

the opportunity to learn new skills. "In the journey of Amrit Kaal, the country needs young consciousness and youthful thinking. Youth will shape the future. The world is changing faster than ever before and youth need patience to capitalize the opportunity to learn new skills. Never stop chasing your dreams and keep walking until you achieve your mission in life," the Lt Governor said. He said learning how to learn in real world is one of the greatest skills and not to be afraid of failures in the journey of life. "My advice to graduates entering professional career is never stop learning. If you want to start a business then go ahead & do it, those interested in start-ups with new ideas must pursue it with passion. Don't be afraid of failures. A person learns best from failures in his life," the Lt Governor observed.

3 Men Get Life Sentence In Handwara Murder Case

Agencies
SRINAGAR: A local court in north Kashmir's Handwara on Thursday pronounced life sentences to three accused in a 14-year-old murder case. The Additional & Sessions Court Handwara pronounced the conviction of these accused in case FIR No. 128/2009, under sections 148, 149, and 302 RPC, Police Station Handwara. "After thorough hearings

from both sides, the court also deliberated on the quantum of punishment," he said. He said that the trio convicted accused, identified Bashir Ahmad Mir, Habibullah Mir, and Manzoor Ahmad Beigh, have been sentenced to life imprisonment and life 3-year rigorous imprisonment under section 302 RPC. "Also, they face a 3-year imprisonment term under sections 148 and 149 RPC, coupled with a fine of Rs. 10,000

each," the official said. "Other accused involved in the case have been handed down varying sentences," he said, adding that the remaining accused parties are subjected to 2 years of imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 1000 under sections 147 and 149 RPC, while accused 8 and 9 received a punishment of 1 year for the offense under section 323 RPC. "All sentences are set to run concurrently," he added.

J&K Bank Conducts DLRC Meet In Bandipora

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: To review the performance of banks and line departments under various schemes, J&K Bank conducted the District Level Review cum Consultative Committee (DLRCC) meeting of District Bandipora under Annual Credit Plan for the September quarter of FY 2023-24. Deputy Commissioner (Bandipora) Dr Owais chaired the meeting that was attended by Chairman DDC Abdul Gani, ARC Shabir Ahmad, AGM RBI, DDM NABARD and representatives from all banks and departments. At the outset, Chairman

ter growth to ensure that targets are achieved in the next quarter. The Chair also impressed upon the departments of Agriculture and Horticulture to ensure saturation of KCC Schemes by swiftly identifying and sponsoring the cases to banks. He also directed all banks to improve and enhance lending in social sector, renewable energy sector and education sector through better liaising with the people involved for investment in these sectors. Notably, the district has achieved 101% CD ratio for the first time and it's because of great efforts from all stake holders particularly banks



DLRC appreciated the efforts of the banks for enrolments under Social Security Schemes particularly J&K bank where in fewer branches had performed better. The Chairman DLRC expressed displeasure over ACP achievements under agriculture sector and directed few public and private sector banks to put in further efforts for bet-

who have put up lot of efforts in reaching the unemployed youth and needy people. The district has achieved 144% growth in MSME sector and 50% in housing sector under ACP 2023-24. The (PLP) potential linked plan for the Year 2024-25 was also launched in the meeting. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks from the LDM.

Accommodation Management System Launched At Vaishno Devi Shrine

Press Trust Of India
JAMMU: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has launched an accommodation management system for devotees visiting the holy shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, an official said on Thursday.

The new system at the enquiry and reservation counter at Katra -- the base camp for the pilgrims -- was inaugurated by Anshul Garg, SMVDSB's Chief Executive Officer, the official said. He said the technology-driven initiative was meant to provide an optimal pilgrimage experience to the devotees. With the robust accommodation management system in place, the check-in and check-out of the pilgrims would become easier and less time-consuming,

and the financial transactions pertaining to payments on account of reservations would be secured, the official said. In addition, he said that it would also increase the room allotment efficiency of SMVDSB, thus benefiting more pilgrims. Earlier, the SMVDSB inaugurated an online booking facility for the passenger ropeway from Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan to the Bhairon Temple for the convenience of the pilgrims. The facility has been widely appreciated by the pilgrims and based on the warm response, the online quota has been increased to 3,000 tickets per day from January 2024 onwards, the official said. The shrine board has made concerted efforts for the adoption of a number of emerging technologies and response mechanisms for state-of-the-art facilities.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZ-MA23-16	08.01.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No. Group rake link 12422, 12492, 12414, 12408, 14612, 14610, 14646, 14634, 14624 & DMU Trains in Kashmir Valley.
FZR PARCEL75	08.01.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment: 19226-F1, 14601-F1, 19226-R1, 12460-F1, 12014-F1, 14601-F2, 14614-R1, 15212-R1, 14662-F2, 22480-F1, 14610-F1, 15212-F1, 14632-F1, 14632-R1, 14034-F1, 12426-F1, 12030-F1, 12498-F1 & 13308-F1
FZR PARCEL76	09.01.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment: 14036-F1, 14633-F2, 14601-R1, 19612-F1, 22430-F1, 12412-F1, 14036-F1, 14633-F1, 14036-F2, 14614-F1, 14654-R1, 14654-F1, 14646-F1, 14646-F2, 19326-F1 & 12414-12413VP.
FZR PARCEL77	10.01.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment: 12266-F1, 12588-F1, 15098-F1, 14662-R1, 12478-F1, 12422-F1, 22446-F1, 15532-F1, 22552-F1, 19804-F1, 19416-F1, 14662-F1, 11450-F1, 12920-F1 & 12472-12471VP
EAFZ-OH23-26	10.01.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	1) Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights on exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Pathankot, Jalandhar City, Jammu Tawi, Bari Brahmna, Sujanpur, Sahnewal & Amritsar Railway Station. 2) Allotment of contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media at Railway Station Amritsar & Batala and Level crossings adjoining to Nawansheer, Banga, Chhina, Verka, Jaintipura, Batala, Bhagatwala & Patli Railway Station. 3) Allotment of contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media & overhead of water tank at Makhu & Nakodar Railway Station.
FZR PARCEL78	11.01.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment: 12470-F1, 12414-F1, 19108-F1, 14508-R1, 12752-F1, 12032-F1, 14508-F2, 14612-F1, 14634-R1, 20986-F1, 22402-F1, 22486-F1, 14633-R1, 14634-F2, 14508-F1, 22942-F1, 12492-F1, 22706-F1, 14634-F1, 19028-F1, 12474-F1, 16318-F1, 16788-F1 & 18102-F1.

For other details and registration please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 4065/23

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

No.- 356-2023-24-Track-DRM-FZR Dated: 28.12.2023

DEN/Track/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System

Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
28.12.2023	11.01.2024	25.01.2024/15:00 Hrs

S.No.: 1 Tender No. 356-2023-24-Track-DRM-FZR

Details of Tender: Manufacturing and Provision of Rails I.C.W Check Rail for level crossing Guard Rail on bridges approaches and other associated items over Firozpur Division.

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1,31,49,276.50/-	2,15,800.00/-	60 Days	12 Months

Similar nature of work :- "Any structural steel fabrication work or Any P-Work works on running lines involving manufacturing of check rails/guard rails".

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 4080/2023

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

GIST OF SHORT TERM E-NIT

NO. 90/e-TENDERING/2023-24 DATED: 27/12/2023

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders in two bid cover system are invited for Annual Rate Contract for the Supply of Batteries for Corporation Vehicles and Machines:

Sl. No.	Estimated Cost	Rs.
1.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 16.56 Lacs approximately
2.	Cost of Tender document To be deposited in the J&K Bank Branch Balgarden under Account No: CD-021601020000007 through pay in slip receipt, in favour of FA/Chief Account Officer, SMC	Rs. 500/-
3.	Earnest Money in case of successful bidder	2% of total value
4.	Online Submission of Bid	27/12/2023 5.00 pm to 17/01/2024 12.00pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bid	18/01/2024 at 2.00pm

Detailed e-NIT with terms and conditions can be downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in

No: SMC/EEM/689-694 Dated: 27-12-2023

DIPK-NB-5007-23 DT: 28/12/2023

Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN, BIJBEHARA.

Tentative Merit list of the applicants who have applied for the post of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) in response to Advertisement Notice No: 02 of 2023 Dated: 17.10.2023 and Notice No: 03 of 2023 Dated: 17.11.2023 issued by the Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Bijbehara for Anganwadi Centres Panch Ward/ Municipal ward as shown below for wide publicity for objection for General public, if any then objection should be submitted to the Office of Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project, Bijbehara on working hours within (10) days from the date of publishing of the below mentioned tentative meritorious list.

No:- CDPO/Poshan/Bij/2023-24/ 1015-26 Dated:- 27-12-2023

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/Spouse Name	Residence	AWC for which selected Provisionally/ Tentatively	Ward No.	Qualification	Max Marks as per 12 th Class	Marks Obtained as per 12 th Class	% of Marks	Total merit including 0.2Points as per HR Policy
1	Sania Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Hatigam	Hatigam-D	04	10+2	500	423	84.6%	84.6%
2	Qurat-Ul-Ain	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	Hatigam	Hatigam-D	04	10+2	500	399	79.80%	79.80%
3	Iqra Gulam	Gulam Mohd Wani	Hatigam	Hatigam-D	04	10+2	500	311	62.20%	62.20%
4	Ruqaiya Akhter	Farooq Ahmad Lone W/O Muzamil Bashir	Hatigam	Hatigam-D	04	10+2	750	398	53.60%	53.60%
5	Mehvish Jan	Lt Nazir Ahmad Shah	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	10+2	500	416	83.2%	83.2%
6	Ishrat Gulzar	Gulzar Ahmad Wani	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	500	411	82.2%	82.2%
7	Shameera Jan	Irshad Hussain Shah	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	500	390	78%	78%
8	Subi Ahad	Abdul Ahad Ahanger	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	500	381	76.2%	76.2%
9	Rumaisa Ahad	Abdul Ahad Ahanger	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	500	361	72.2%	72.2%
10	Mimoona Jan	Abdul Rehman Hajam	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	10+2	500	319	63.8%	63.8%
11	Shazia Akhter	Gh. Hassan Wani W/O Aasif Ismail Naikoo	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	750	433	57.73%	57.73%
12	Safina Jan	Abdul Rehman Wani	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	10+2	500	273	54.6%	54.6%
13	Sheeraza Akhter	Shrief ud Din Shah W/O Mudassar Abdullah Shah	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	750	407	54.26%	54.26%
14	Zulali Nisar	Nisar Ahmad Shah	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	500	264	52.8%	52.8%
15	Subaya Abdulla	Mohd Abdullah Shah W/O Sheikh Ishiyag Razi	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	600	279	46.5%	46.5%
16	Tawheda Akhter	Mohd Abdullah Najar W/O Nisar Ahmad Naikoo	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	600	261	43.5%	43.5%
17	Ishrat Gulzar	Gulzar Ahmad Ahanger	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	10+2	500	207	41.4%	41.4%
18	Shaista Amin	Mohd Amin Bhat W/O Riyaz Ahmad Shah	Kanalwan	Kanalwan-A	05	Graduate	600	238	39.6%	39.6%
19	Sumira Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Tak W/O Arshid Hussain Bader	Bijbehara	New Colony-A	01	Graduate	500	296	59.20%	59.20%
20	Mehnazul Hassan	Gh Hassan Tak W/O Vaseem Ahmad Tak	Bijbehara	New Colony-A	01	10+2	750	426	56.80%	56.80%
21	Nuzhat Amin	Mohd Amin Khan W/O Mujeeb ur Rehman	Bijbehara	New Colony-A	01	10+2	500	273	54.60%	54.60%
22	Rumisa Tabasu	Ghulam Mustafa Gattoo W/O Irshad Ahmad	Bijbehara	New Colony-A	01	Graduate	750	372	49.60%	49.60%
23	Shayasta Parveen	Saif-ud-Din Darsaroo W/O Gowhar Ahmad Mantoo	Bijbehara	New Colony-A	01	10+2	600	287	47.83%	47.83%

No:- CDPO/Poshan/Bij/2023-24/ 959 - 69 Dated:- 14/12/2023

DIPK-14404-23 DT: 28/12/2023

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project, Bijbehara (Member Secretary DLSC)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION (KPDCL) GANDEBAL

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT no: 104of 2023-24 dated 26/12/2023

For and on Behalf of Managing Director KPDCL Kashmir, Tenders are hereby invited from resourceful/reputed Class A Electrical Contractors Registered with competent Authority / PDD/PDC /MES for following work for the following job:-

Name of the work	Est. cost (in Lacs)	CDR Amount (In Rupees)	Cost of tender document (Treasury Challan)	Completion Period	Position of funds
Augmentation of 25KVA to 63KVA Sub Station alongwith replacement of damaged Sub Station structure at MFSD City Left Snow Control Room Tulabagh Ganderbal under Deposit Contribution Head 2023-24.	4.0	2% of Advertised Cost	Rs500/-	Within 30Days from the date of issuance of LOA	Authorized

The tender document consisting of terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be seen/downloaded from official web site of JKPDCL or <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per following schedule:

S#	Description	Date	Time
1.	Publish/uploading of e NIT Date	27-12-23	17.00 hrs
2	Documents Download/Sale start date	27-12-23	17.00 hrs
3	Clarification Date Start	27-12-23	17.00 hrs
4	Clarifications Date End	08-01-24	16.00 hrs
5	Bid submission Start date	28-12-23	09.00 hrs
6	Bid submission end date	06-01-24	14.00 hrs
7	Opening date for E-tender	08-01-24	14:00 hrs
8	Venue of opening e bids	Office of the Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal	

No: EDG/V/5975-81/TS Date: 26-12-2023

DIPK-NB-5005-23 DT: 28/12/2023

Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal

YSS, SAI Hold Meet To Discuss Gulmarg Winter Games



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez on Thursday chaired the preliminary meeting of 4th Khelo India Winter Games, scheduled to be held in Gulmarg in the first week of February next year.

The meeting was held in Jammu and was attended by the officers from J&K and Sports Authority of India. While the J&K team was led by Sarmad Hafeez; Ekta Vishnoi, Deputy Director General Sports Authority of India led the SAI team.

Sarmad Hafeez highlighted the role of Khelo India Winter Games in recognizing Gulmarg as one of the main winter sports destinations globally.

Ekta Vishnoi, Deputy Director General SAI, while speaking on the occasion, said that it is an occasion to celebrate sporting excellence.

Secretary J&K Sports Coun-

cil, Nuzhat Gull, apprised the SAI team that J&K is ranked number one in the country for sports initiatives.

The meeting came as a prelude to the comprehensive strategy for traffic management, sanitation, water supply, accommodation, transportation, etc., of the participants during their stay in the Gulmarg where the event is being held.

Deputy Directors, Sibananda Mishra and Sachin from SAI informed that this edition of Khelo India Winter Games is expecting around 800 participations of players and officials, dignitaries, and media persons from across the country as the venue is being prepared to host the snow-related events only. The competitions in Nordic Ski, Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, Snow Boarding are being held, while the Ice related events like Ice Hockey, Ice Skating etc would be held in Ladakh.

South Africa Beat India In Opening Test



Press Trust of India

CENTURION: Virat Kohli scored a fifty but India failed to put up a fight with the bat to go down by an innings and 32 runs against South Africa in the opening Test here on Thursday.

India were bundled out for 131 in 34.1 overs in their second innings on the third day after they dismissed South Africa for 408 in 108.4 overs.

The visitors had scored 245

in the first innings.

On Thursday, South Africa added 152 runs to their overnight score of 256 for 5 to take their overall lead to 163 runs.

Proteas pace trio of Nandre Burger (4/33), Kagiso Rabada (2/32) and Marco Jansen (3/36) then smothered the visitors with a disciplined attack.

Earlier, Marco Jansen was unbeaten on 84, while opener Dean Elgar scored 185 to emerge as the top-scorer for the hosts.

BRIEF SCORES:

India first innings: 245 all out.

South Africa first innings: 408 all out in 108.4 overs (Dean Elgar 185, Marco Jansen 84 not out; David Bedingham 56; Jasprit Bumrah 4/69, Mohammed Siraj 2/91).

India second innings: 131 all out in 34.1 overs (Virat Kohli 76, Shubman Gill 26; Nandre Burger 4/33, Marco Jansen 3/36, Kagiso Rabada 2/32).

Rohit Promises Second Test Fight Back

Agencies

Captain Rohit Sharma, who was dismissed cheaply in both innings, said India would regroup and come back strongly despite having missed the chance to take the series.

The brief trip to South Africa had been dubbed the 'final frontier' as it is the last country where India have not won an away series, but they

cannot do that now.

"Honestly, look, we're not good enough to win this match," said Rohit, who side were dismissed for 131 in their second innings on the third day.

"I thought we got decent runs on the board on that track in the first innings, KL Rahul did brilliantly to get us that century. But then we failed to exploit the condi-

tions with the ball.

"Then again, we didn't show up with the bat today as well. Our batting was poor in the second innings. If you want to win test matches, you've got to beat together collectively. But we failed to do that."

"We will regroup, and we'll fight back," Rohit said. India have never won at test at Newlands, where the second tests starts next Wednesday."

Australia Lead Pakistan By 241 Runs In 2nd Test

Agencies

MELBOURNE: Australia lost its first four wickets for 16 runs in its second innings but a 153-run stand between Steve Smith and Mitchell Marsh had the hosts in a good position with two days to play in the second cricket test against Pakistan.

Marsh was out for 96 and Smith for 50 to leave Australia at 187-6 at stumps Thursday and with a 241-run lead going into the fourth day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

favor late on day two, grabbed two wickets on Thursday morning to finish with figures of 5-48. Pakistan's tail showed far more resistance than expected to push its overnight score from 194-6 to be dismissed for 264 in reply to Australia's 318.

Australia's 54-run lead after the first innings was helped by Pakistan's 52 extras.

Fast bowler Aamir Jamal frustrated Australia's bowling attack Thursday, hitting an unbeaten 33 in just his second



Marsh fell just short of his fourth test century after Salman Ali Agha hung onto a spectacular diving catch in the slips. Smith battled his way to his first test 50 since the Ashes from 176 balls, the second-slowest half-century of his career.

Captain Pat Cummins took his 10th five-wicket total in test matches earlier to help Australia earn a 54-run first-innings lead. But Pakistan came back from the innings break to take the wickets of Usman Khawaja for a duck and Marnus Labuschagne for five, leaving Australia two wickets down for only six runs and an overall lead of 60 at lunch.

Cummins, who swung the Boxing Day test in Australia's

test. Afridi, who averages 6.74 with the bat, also thrashed his way to his highest test score of 21.

Cummins had strong support from spinner Nathan Lyon (4-73). Pakistan is trying to avoid losing its 16th consecutive test in Australia.

Australia had resumed Wednesday on 187-3, following a rain-interrupted first day of play in which only 66 of the scheduled 90 overs were bowled.

Australia won the first test in Perth by 360 runs.

The third test in the three-match series is scheduled to begin Jan. 3 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, where Pakistan won its last test in Australia in 1995.

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