



Modi Sarkar Ki Guarantee, New Recognition to Traditional Skills



This scheme will not only enhance skills of artisans and craftspeople from all over the country but the products made by them will also get new recognition in the world.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

PM Vishwakarma

Benefits of Scheme

PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID Card

Training for Skill Upgradation and Stipend of Rs. 500 per day

Toolkit upto Rs. 15 thousand

Collateral free loan up to Rs. 3 lakh for Vishwakarma brothers and sisters

Incentive for Digital Transactions

Marketing Assistance like Quality Certification, Branding, and Advertisement for products

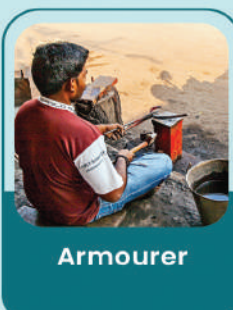
18 types of Traditional Artisans and Craftspeople will be benefitted



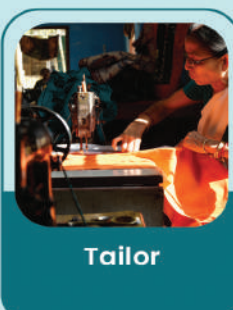
Carpenter



Boat Maker



Armourer



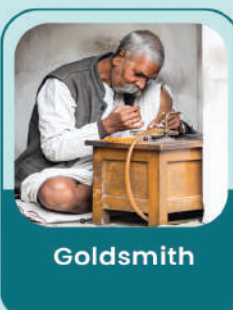
Tailor



Garland Maker



Mason



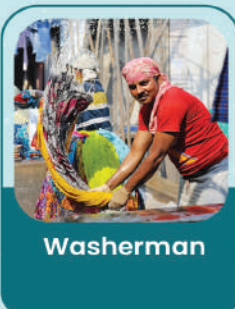
Goldsmith



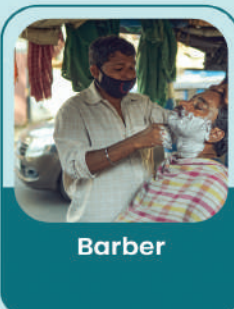
Potter



Cobbler/Shoemaker/
Footwear Artisan



Washerman



Barber



Locksmith



Hammer and
Tool Kit Maker



Sculptor (Stone
Carver), Stone
Breaker



Fishing Net
Maker



Blacksmith



Basket/Mat/Broom
Maker/Coir Weaver



Doll & Toy Maker
(Traditional)

For enrollment in the scheme, Vishwakarma brothers and sisters may visit their nearest **Common Service Centre**



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

IISc Scientists Uncover Key Mechanism That Allows TB To Persist In Humans For Decades

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have uncovered an important mechanism that allows the tuberculosis (TB) bacterium to persist in the human host for decades.

The team, including researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and Institute For Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem), Bengaluru, found that a single gene involved in the production of iron-sulphur clusters could be crucial for the persistence of the TB bacterium.

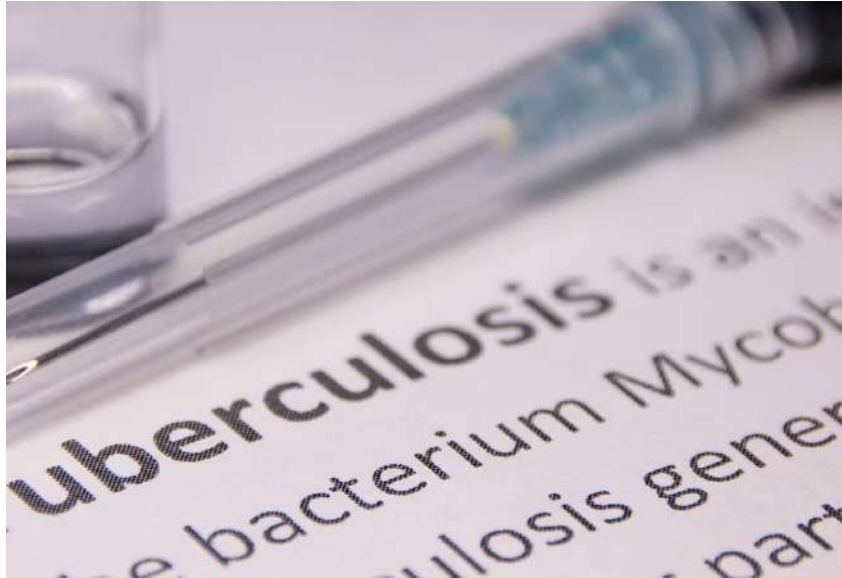
TB is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb), which can be present in the human body for decades without any symptoms.

"Mtb needs humans to survive. In many cases of Mtb infection, the immune system can detect the bug and clear it out," said Mayashree Das, a PhD student at IISc, and first author of the study published in the journal Science Advances.

However, in several asymptomatic individuals, Mtb hides within deep oxygen-limiting pockets of the lung and enters a state of dormancy in which it does not divide and is metabolically inactive, successfully evading the immune system and TB drugs.

"Due to persistence, there is a bacterial reservoir in a subset of the human population at any point which can reactivate and cause infection. Unless we understand persistence, we will not be able to eradicate TB," said Amit Singh, Associate Professor at IISc and corresponding author of the study.

Singh's team grew Mtb in liquid



cultures containing special supplements needed for its growth.

Several proteins in Mtb depend on iron-sulphur clusters for functioning. These clusters consist of iron and sulphur atoms organised in various configurations like chains or cuboids.

The iron atoms in the cluster can pass on electrons from one site of a protein complex to another in cellular reactions such as respiration and carbon metabolism.

"The iron-sulphur cluster-containing proteins are important for essential processes such as energy production by respiration, enabling the bacteria to survive harsh conditions of the lungs and causing

infection. So, we wanted to study the mechanisms that Mtb uses to build these iron-sulphur clusters," said Singh.

These clusters are mainly produced by Mtb's SUF operon, a set of genes that get switched on together, the researchers said.

However, there is another single gene called IscS that can also produce the clusters, they said.

To solve this mystery of why the bacterium needs both, the researchers generated a mutant version of Mtb that lacked the IscS gene.

They found that under normal and oxygen-limiting conditions, iron-sulphur clusters are produced mainly by the action

of the IscS gene.

However, when the bacterium faces a lot of oxidative stress, the iron atoms of the clusters become oxidised and released, damaging the clusters. Therefore, there is an increased demand for producing more clusters, which switches on the SUF operon.

The researchers then sought to find out how the IscS gene contributes to disease progression. They infected mice models with the mutant version of Mtb lacking the IscS gene.

The absence of the IscS gene led to severe disease in the infected mice rather than a persistent, chronic infection typically seen in TB patients.

This is because, in the absence of the IscS gene, the SUF operon is highly activated - but in an unregulated fashion - leading to hypervirulence, the researchers said.

Depleting both IscS and the SUF system dramatically reduced the persistence of Mtb in mice, they said.

The team found that the IscS gene keeps the activation of the SUF operon in check, causing persistence in TB.

The researchers also noted that bacteria lacking the IscS gene were more likely to be killed by certain antibiotics.

"It becomes sensitive to some antibiotics and resistant to some. We would also like to explore this further," said Das.

The team suggests that combining antibiotics with drugs targeting IscS and SUF might be more effective.

Singh is hopeful that a better understanding of the IscS and SUF systems in Mtb can eventually pave the way for eradicating persistence of TB.

Notice For General Public

This is information for the general public that in Adhar Card record my name is wrongly entered Anjeena Bano while my actual name is Fatima Bano. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact the concern department within a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Fatima Bano
 W/o Sajad Ahmad Mir
 R/o Kadipora Budgam
 Cell: 7889893219.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to information of the general public that an old connection of electricity stands registered on the name of my father Noor-ud-Din Zargar however, the said person has died in the year 29/10/2017. Now the connection bearing consumer ID as 020404001245 is to be registered on my name i.e Siraj-ud-Din Zargar s/o Late Noor-ud-Din Zargar, in this regard if any one has any sort of objection he/she may file the same in the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer PDD Baghi-Ali Mardan, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Siraj-ud-Din Zargar
 S/O Late Noor-ud-Din Zargar
 R/O Babapora, Zoonimar, Srinagar
 Mobile No. 8825036804

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Samin Asif Wani to Saalim Asif Wani in future I will be known as Saalim Asif Wani. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Saalim Asif Wani (New Name)
 R/o Devi Angan Nowhatta

abko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my documents including Diploma Certificate, Marks Card GNM, Registration Certificate, Experience Certificate 6 months SMHS, 10th, 12th Marks Cards DOB Certificate from Aripanthan to Magam. If anybody has found he is requested to contact on below given Phone Number. Otherwise I have to apply for the duplicate of the same. In that case if anybody having any objection he/she may contact Police Station Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shuguftra Akhtar
 D/o Mohd Jaffar Tanchrey
 R/o Iskanderpora Ichahmma
 Ph. No: 9682570220

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for issuance of "D Class" contractor card if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Superintending Engineer R&B Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Wahid Ahmad Beigh
 S/o Manzoor Ahmad Beigh
 R/o Kralweth Kunzer Baramulla

bmg

From the principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad

Haseena W/o Late Abdul Majeed Bhat
 R/o Rathpora Ganderpora Srinagar

- V/S
- Nazima Majeed Bhat
 - Sumaira Majeed
 - Shuguftra Majeed
 - Arfat Majeed Bhat
 - Aqib Majeed Bhat

All sons and daughters of late Abdul Majeed Bhat all residents of Rathpora Ganderpora Srinagar

Public at Large
 In the matter of Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)
 Notice to public at Large
 Where the petitioner(s) Filed Above Titled Petition Before This Court Of Issuance Of Succession certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 14,30,136 as debts and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Late Abdul Majeed Bhat S/o Late Gulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Rathpora Ganderpora Srinagar who died on . The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 28-01-2024

Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drom of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 28-01-2024. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same
 In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
 Given under my hand and seal of this court on

Jawad Ahmad
 Principal District Judge, Srinagar

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کبری اکتھر
 درخواست نمائند شہنشاہ شریف اختر شریف شاہ سالک شیخ پور تحصیل کبری
 برآمد حصول RBA سرٹیفیکیشن کن خودت SRO 294
 ایشیا برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سالک دفتر نمائند شہنشاہ شریف اختر شریف شاہ سالک شیخ پور تحصیل کبری
 حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات درکار طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سالک
 سالک موقع شیخ پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کنڈیک سالانہ آمدنی 240,000 روپے
 تک سے سالک کا تہذیبیہ ذمہ داروں پر مشتمل ہے
 سید غلام مصطفیٰ عمر 30 سال مزدوری سربرہ
 رقیہ بیگم 28 سال گھریلو کام زویہ
 نوزادہ دختر 04 سال نوزادہ دختر
 نعیم بیگم 60 سال گھریلو کام والدہ
 شہنشاہ شریف 20 سال زین تعلیم ہمشیرہ
 اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکیشن زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی
 شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔
 معاذرت سے کہ بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار kre_r

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Industrial Training Institute Tral
 Email id: jkititral@gmail.com Ph.: 019332293296 web : www.ititral.com

Sub: Admission Notice for 06-months trade (Data Entry Operator-SCVT) Jan-2024 to July-2024

ADMISSION NOTICE

Applications are invited from the desirous candidates of J & K U T seeking admission in 06-months Course in Govt ITI Tral during the period Feb-2024 to July-2024 as per the details mentioned below. The admission form can be downloaded from our website www.ititral.com and on our facebook page Govt ITI Tral.

The hardcopy of the same needs to be deposited in the office of the undersigned w.e.f. 01-01-2024 to 15-01-2024 during office hours and the receipt can be obtained against the cash payment. (Rs:100/- only) per form. The below mentioned Xerox copies of documents are required to be attached with the application form:

- Marks Certificate of Qualifying Examination.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Aadhar Card
- Domicile Certificate (to be produced at the time of admission)

Selection shall be made purely on the basis of academic merit obtained by the applicants in their qualifying examination.

S.No	Name of the course	Duration	Batch Size	Qualification
01	DATA ENTRY OPERATOR -SCVT	06-MONTHS	24-seats	10th

No: ITI/Tral/Estt/Trgs/411-14
 DIPK-14467/23
 Dated: 30/12/2023

Sd/
 Superintendent
 ITI Tral

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
Office Of Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
Srinagar, Kashmir.

CORRIGENDUM I

For E-NIT Nos. PHE/MRD/TS/ 129 of 12/2023 Dated: 23-12-2023 published vide Nos: 2023_PHE_241100_is hereby extended due to poor response. New closing and opening dates are under:

S.NO.	Description	Date	Time
1.	Closing date	03-01-2024	11:00 AM
2.	Bid opening date	03-01-2024	12:00 PM

No: PHE/MRD/4629-33
 DIPK-14474/23
 Dated: 30-12-2023

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
 Srinagar.

In The Court Of Special Mobile Magistrate P,T & E Srinagar

Present: Mudasar Farooq

In the Case of: Mohd Saleem
 S/o: Abdul Rahim Bhat
 R/O: Shalimar Merak Abad, Srinagar (Plaintiff)

V/S
 1) J&K (UT) through: Regional Transport Officer. Srinagar.
 2) Masooda Bono W/o: Gh Mohi ud Din Dar
 R/o: Andrabhi House no.11, Jeelanabad, Peer Bagh, Srinagar At present HC Harwan Srinagar.
 3) Neelofar W/o: Mukhtar Ahmad Baba
 D/o: Gh Mohi Ud Din Dar
 R/o: HC Harwan Srinagar.
 4) Public at Large. (Defendants)

In the Matter of: Suit for Declaration, Permanent and Mandatory Injunction.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE
 Whereas, the plaintiff has filed above titled Suit before I his Court with the prayer that a decree of declaration be passed in lds favour and against the defendants declaring the plaintiff as the exclusive and absolute owner of the vehicle (Car) bearing registration no. JK01K-8901, chassis no. MALA51HR6M907035, engine no. 884291, as such the title of the vehicle in question be transferred in the name of the plaintiff III from the name of deceased father (Syed Ashiq Hussain Andrabhi), a decree of Mandatory Injunction, commanding upon the defendant no. 1 to register the vehicle mentioned supra in the name of the plaintiff, in the relevant documents of the vehicle concerned. And a decree of Permanent Injunction in favour of the plaintiff against the private defendants no.2-3 restraining them from causing any sort of interference. Public notice is hereby issued informing all through the medium of this notice that if anyone has any objection for granting of relief in favour of the plaintiff, he/she shall appear before this Court either in person or through any authorized agent/Counsel and file objections if any, by or before 18-01-2024, failing which a decree under rules will be passed in the above titled suit.
 Issued today on 27-12-2023 under my signature and seal.

Special Mobile
 Magistrate P,T & E Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th pass discharge certificate . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt High School Vehil Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rukhsana Jan
 D/o Gh Mohd Wagay
 R/o Amshipora Shopian fko

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir
 Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar – 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender
 E-NIT No. (94) of 2023-24 Dated:29.12.2023

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (in single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2024 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Establishment of Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) Facility for import of planting Material of Horticulture crops by way of "Earthwork in Cutting/Filling" at FVSc & AH Shuhama SKUAST-Kashmir	21.13	42,260	B & C Class	800/-	30 days

a) Position of AAA: Accorded
 b) Position of T.S : Sanctioned
 c) Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29.12.2023
2.	Date of start of downloading	29.12.2023
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	02.01.2024
5.	Bid submission end date	09.01.2024 (06.00 PM)
6.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)	10.01.2024 (12.00 PM)
7.	Date of opening of Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	11.01.2024

Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer SKUAST-Kashmir

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(94)/1148
 DIPK-NB-5041/23 Dated: 30.12.2023

AVIAN TAPESTRY EXPANDS

New Bird Species Grace Kashmir's Wetlands Each Year

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: In a heartening trend for Kashmir's biodiversity, the avian diversity of the region has been on a remarkable upswing in recent years.

The wetlands of Kashmir become a bustling hub as hundreds of thousands of migratory birds flock to the region every year. In the midst of this natural spectacle, a

community of bird photographers document not only the usual feathered guests but also the exciting new species that make these revitalized wetlands their seasonal abode.

This winter, Reyan Sofi, an avid bird photographer, spotted a Black-necked Grebe for the first time among the migratory flocks at Hokersar wetland. The discovery has been successfully added to eBird - an



online database of bird observations that provides real-time data about bird distribution

and abundance. The Black-necked Grebe, a small and sociable species

with a broad global distribution, typically winters in the south-western Palearctic, east Asia, and east Africa. Although it generally avoids flight, the black-necked grebe travels as far as 6,000 kilometers during migration. In addition, it becomes flightless for two months after completing a migration to reach an area where it can safely moult. While it has been identified breeding in

various locations worldwide, its recent sighting in Jammu and Kashmir marks an expansion of its known range.

"Our observation is believed to be the initial verified record from Kashmir. The bird was in basic plumage and identified based on a bright red iris, black top of the head and mantle, neck black on the back and grey on the front, white breast, rump, and belly," Sofi said. | More on P11

Dense Fog, Cold Wave Abates In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: There was some relief from dense fog and intense cold conditions for people in Kashmir on Saturday as the mercury and visibility improved due to the impact of a feeble western disturbance, officials said here.

The minimum temperature across Kashmir improved a bit but still settled below the freezing point, they said. In Srinagar, it was recorded at minus 2.8 degrees Celsius up from the previous night's minus 3.3 degrees Celsius, they added.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.1 degrees Celsius on Thursday night -- up from minus 5.4 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort in Baramulla, recorded a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius, an improvement of over two degrees, Kokernag town minus 1.3 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of the "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period, when temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake, as well as the water in supply lines.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall. "Chilla-i-Kalan" will end on January 31 and will be followed by a 20-day "Chilla-i-Khurud" and a 10-day "Chilla-i-Bachha". | More on P11

Only 31 Local Terrorists Left In J&K: DGP

Says 8,000 Fake Social Media Accounts, Mostly Working From Abroad Identified, Assures Action



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A total of 76 terrorists, including 55 foreigners, were neutralised, 291 terrorist associates arrested and 201 over-ground workers booked under the Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir this year, Director General of Police R R Swain said on Saturday.

Swain further said that only 31 local terrorists - an all time low - are left in the Union Territory,

while the recruitment of locals into militancy has witnessed a drop of 80 per cent this year.

"In 48 anti-terrorist operations, we have neutralised 76 terrorists, including 55 foreigners getting killed more starting in 2022 and continued this year, making it clear that our actual fight is against infiltrators," he said, asserting that the anti-terrorism operations will continue next year with more vigour. | More on P11

Vows To Wipe Out Terrorism From Rajouri-Poonch

Admitting to the presence of foreign terrorists in the woods of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri-Poonch belt, Director General of Police RR Swain on Saturday said security agencies are committed | More on P11

J&K Sees A Decline in Internet Shutdowns In 2023

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed 10 internet shutdowns in the year 2023, marking a substantial decrease compared to previous years.

According to data from the internet tracking website 'Internet Shutdowns', the region witnessed 43 incidents of internet blockades in 2022. However, in 2023, the number has significantly decreased to 10.

Most of these internet shutdowns were witnessed in



Rajouri, Poonch, and Kishtwar districts of the Jammu region, while the valley experienced internet blockades only on two occasions in parts of Pulwama district in November "to prevent deterioration in public order."

The region witnessed an increase in internet | More on P11

RS 1.70 CRORE FRAUD Crime Branch Chargesheets Nagpur-Based Man

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday filed a chargesheet against a resident of Maharashtra for allegedly cheating a businessman of Rs 1.70 crore on the pretext of supplying food grains in 2019, an official said.

The Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch, Jammu, presented a 504-page chargesheet in a court here against accused Parvin Kumar Ninawe, a resident of Nagpur in Maharashtra for allegedly defrauding Suresh Gupta, proprietor of the Shona Trust Corporation, a spokesman of the agency said.

Gupta is engaged in the business of sale-purchase and supply of food grains and other allied products to the government as well as to the public.

Gupta, in his complaint to Jammu Crime Branch, alleged that he made payment of Rs 3.11 crore to the accused from time to time but the accused supplied goods worth | More on P11

Doctors Alay Fears Of Covid-19 Resurgence In Kashmir 'Situation Under Control, Increase In Common Flu Cases Seasonal'

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As Jammu and Kashmir has recorded its first Covid-19 case since the outbreak of sub-variant JN.1, senior officials from major hospitals in Kashmir on Saturday allayed fears of coronavirus resurgence in the valley and emphasizing no need for alarm or panic.

Earlier, the Health Department had urged people to exercise caution and follow specific guidelines to stay safe, emphasizing Covid Appropriate Behavior or CAB.

Notably, India recorded 743 fresh cases of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, taking the total active caseload to 3,997, according to the Union Health Ministry. The World Health



Organisation (WHO) has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest" given its rapidly increasing spread but said it poses a "low" global public health risk. Kashmir Observer spoke to the health officials in various government hospitals in Srinagar to assess the ground reality and understand the level of preparedness | More on P11

PM Virtually Flags Off Second Vande Bharat Train In Katra

J&K Has Made Impressive Strides To Socio-Economic Dev In Last 4 Ys: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has made impressive strides to socio-economic development in the last four years, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that his administration has undertaken road and railway infrastructure projects of unprecedented magnitude and they are being implemented at an unprecedented speed.

Sinha made these remarks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the second Vande Bharat Train for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi route, on Saturday. The LG and Union Minister of



State, PMO Dr Jitendra Singh, joined the flag-off ceremony from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station. On the occasion, the LG

J&K. The second Vande Bharat Train for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra- New Delhi route will provide ease of travel to devotees and greater comfort for the citizens," he said.

"In the coming months, the Kashmir-Kanyakumari railway link will be dedicated to the people by the prime minister. Not only the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but the entire country is also waiting for the completion of this historic project," he added

The under-construction 111-km Katra-Banihal section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) is likely to be completed within | More on P11

LG Directs Speedy Action On Citizens' Complaints

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday reiterated his pledge to ensure sensitive and caring government machinery at all levels to enhance overall well-being of common man and ensure citizens are heard and the poorest of the poor enjoy the fruits of growth and get access to a life of dignity. Interacting with citizens through video conferencing during "LG's Mulaqaat" programme, the LG also said that the focus of his administration on timely delivery of services, transparent and accountable system to address complaints promptly will prepare today's governance for tomorrow's challenge. | More on P11

Lord Ram Belongs To Entire World: Dr Farooq



Agencies

Poonch, Jammu And Kashmir: National Conference Chief Farooq Abdullah today congratulated the people who have put efforts into making Ram Temple in Ayodhya, saying that brotherhood in India is diminishing and there is a need to revive it.

Speaking to news agency ANI, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said, "Ayodhya Ram Temple is about to be inaugurated. I would like to congratulate everyone who made the effort for the temple. It's ready now."

He further emphasised that Lord Ram doesn't only belong to Hindus; he belongs to everyone in the world. | More on P11

4 Kashmiris Detained Near Ayodhya

Four people from Kashmir, including a woman, were detained for questioning by police in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur district as "part of a vigil" in the wake | More on P11



CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

4-BAGH-I-ISLAM COLONY LAL NAGAR, CHANAPORA SRINAGAR 190 015 TELEFAX 0194-3500478-79 / 2441899
 Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com
 Ref. No. CSK/DCC-66/2023-24/2833 Dated:-25-Dec-2023

Subject: - Notice for inviting tenders for Anticancer Drugs and other related supportive drugs etc.

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed tenders in two cover bid system affixed with **Rs.10/-** Revenue Stamps are invited for and on behalf of **Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir** from Manufacturers/Firms/Companies/Stockists/Authorised distributors for one year W.e.f. date of approval of rate contract which must reach this office by or before **26-01-2024** for the following groups

2. Group-A Anticancer Drugs	Annexure A
3. Group-B Colostomy / Urostomy / ilosetomy Bags	Annexure B
4. Group-C Surgical Items / Supportive Drugs	Annexure C
2. The tenders should be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit for **Group "A"** of **Rs. 1.00 lac**, for **Group "B"** **Rs, 60,000/-** & for **Group "C"** **Rs, 10,000/-** in shape of CDR/FDR to be drawn on any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Cancer Society of Kashmir. Without which tenders shall not be entertained.
3. The tenders should be addressed to the Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir 4-Baghi Islam Colony Lalnagar Chanapora.
4. Tenders should invariably be submitted in two Bid System containing two parts as detailed below:-

Part I -----	Techno Commercial Bid in separate sealed cover
Part II -----	Price Bid/Financial Bid for all groups in another sealed cover.

Both sealed covers to be put in outer cover.
5. Detailed tender notice along with list of drugs can be had from **CSK office** against the cash payment of **Rs, 500/-** each on all working days from **10:00 Am to 04:00 Pm.**
6. Authorised distributor shall enclose copy of authorisation letter of the concerned company.
7. **CSK** reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/tenders without assigning any reason thereof. On acceptance of tender and its communication to the successful tenderer, the same shall be binding upon the successful tenderer with immediate effect.

**General Secretary
Cancer Society of Kashmir.**

Genuine Ads | 9419031137

Over 80 Flights, Several Trains Delayed As Fog Blankets Delhi



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Cold weather conditions along with moderate fog prevailed in many regions of the Delhi-NCR today.

The minimum temperature recorded in the national capital was 10.7 degrees Celsius.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for dense fog in North India.

"Dense Fog Advisory for Punjab, Haryana, Delhi Uttar Pradesh, north Rajasthan and north Madhya Pradesh: Be careful while driving or outing through any transport. Use fog lights while driving. Be in touch with airlines, railways, and state transport for your journey schedule," IMD said in a post on X.

The IMD warned of 'difficult driving conditions with slower journey times' and diversion in airports, highways and railway routes.

Meanwhile, passengers travelling to and from the national capital also faced difficulties due to the fog conditions. Flights and trains continued to be delayed and diverted due to low visibility.

As per news agency ANI, over 80 flights were reported delayed due to weather condi-

tions at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi this morning till 8.30 am.

"Our flight has been delayed by two hours due to the fog and weather conditions," said a passenger travelling from Delhi to Sikkim.

Auto and cab drivers said that the fog was slightly better today as compared to yesterday.

"The fog conditions today are a bit better as compared to yesterday. The other day it took me two hrs to cover a forty-minute route," said a cab driver.

As per a report of the IMD, the visibility recorded at 17:30 pm on Saturday was, "Pantnagar-200; Punjab: Ludhiana-200; Haryana: Bhivani-500; Delhi: Safdarjung-500; UP: Bareilly, Bahraich and Prayagraj-200 each, Aligarh, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Fursatganj, Babatpur & Sultanpur-500 each".

The visibility at Rajasthan's Ganganagar was 500, Bihar's Gaya was 200, Muzaffarpur and Patna 500 each, and Assam's Haflong was 200, the IMD added.

Meanwhile, amid harsh weather conditions across the Delhi-NCR, preparations for the Republic Day parade were in full swing at the Kartavya Path in the national capital.

There Was Time Lord Ram Was "Living Under Tent", But Now...: PM In Ayodhya

Press Trust of India

AYODHYA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in a festooned, festive Ayodhya on Saturday to unveil a 'new look old' city with an airport, a revamped train station and projects worth ₹15,700 crore ahead of the consecration of the Ram temple next month.

The flower-bedecked temple town, associated with the Ramayana for centuries and at the centre stage of modern day politics since the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, was the cynosure of attention as PM Modi said the strength of 'vikas' (development) and 'virasat' (heritage) would take India forward.

"The whole world is waiting for the historic moment of the 'pran pratishtha' ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22," PM Modi said at a rally here while appealing to people to not come on the day itself.

Stressing that the business of people from across the country and the world coming to Ayodhya had started and would go on till eternity, the prime minister also appealed for a resolve to make town the cleanest in the country.

Addressing the meeting after inaugurating the Maharshi Valmiki airport and the redeveloped station named Ayodhya Dham from where he flagged off two Amrit Bharat and six Vande Bharat trains, some virtually, he appealed to all citizens to light diyas in their houses on January 22 so the whole country basks in the glory of the temple.



Marking January 22 as a special day, he also asked people to launch cleanliness drives at pilgrimage sites and temples across the country from Makar Sankranti on January 14 till the temple consecration day.

There was a time Lord Ram was "living under a tent", but now he will get a concrete house like the four crore poor who got pucca houses, he said.

The Ujjwala scheme, he said, had transformed the lives of crores of mothers and sisters. Only 14 crore gas connections were given in five decades, but his government in a decade gave 18 crore, including 10 crore free of cost under the scheme, the prime minister pointed out.

Earlier in the day, he stopped by at the home of an Ujjwala beneficiary Meera Majhi. He met the family in her humble home and was also seen drinking a cup of tea.

PM Modi inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than ₹15,700 crore.

These comprise projects worth about ₹11,100 crore for the development of the city and its surrounding areas, and those worth about ₹4,600 crore related to other works in Uttar Pradesh.

The day in Ayodhya, which in 1992 catapulted to global headlines with the demolition of the Mughal-era Babri Masjid by a group of kar sevaks who believed it was built on the birthplace of Lord Ram, was one of dances, music and the many folk colours of Uttar Pradesh and other states. After he arrived in Ayodhya, PM Modi held a roadshow from the airport to the railway station and was greeted by hundreds of people lining alongside the route.

"Wait Of 500 Years Is About To End": Yogi Adityanath On Ram Temple Event

AGENCIES

AYODHYA: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inaugurating various projects in Ayodhya and said that the wait of 500 years is about to end.

"Lord Ram is going to be seated in his grand temple on January 22. The wait of 500 years is about to end. Before the arrival of the Lord, there was a plan of PM that Ayodhya would be established as the most beautiful city in the world. The way the people have welcomed PM Modi today gives everyone a glimpse of the new Ayodhya of a new India," CM Yogi said.

He further said that Ayodhya is also connected with excellent 4 lanes, 6 lanes and 8 lanes of road connectivity, which is also going to be inaugurated under the guidance of PM Modi.

"Along with this, the new railway station, Vande Bharat Trains and 2 Amrit Bharat Trains have also been inaugurated. This is Ayodhya, where people hesitate to take its name. Another record has been added to the name of PM Modi. He has become the only



PM who has visited Ayodhya the most times. Naming the airport after Maharshi Valmiki is going to make India's tradition proud," he added.

PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth ₹15,700 crore in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya today.

Earlier in the day, he inaugurated the redeveloped Ayodhya Railway Station and flagged off new Amrit Bharat trains and Vande Bharat trains. He also dedicated several other railway projects to the nation.

The Prime Minister dedicated numerous development projects worth more than ₹15,700 crore to the state, aligning with his vision to

create modern, world-class infrastructure while preserving Ayodhya's rich history and heritage. These include projects worth about ₹11,100 crore for the development of Ayodhya and its surrounding areas and projects worth about ₹4600 crore related to other projects across Uttar Pradesh.

PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for infrastructure projects, including the Lucknow-Ayodhya section of NH-28 (new NH-27), modification of the existing Ayodhya bypass, the establishment of the CIPET centre, and the construction of offices for the Municipal Corporation of Ayodhya and Ayodhya Development Authority.

Police Register FIR Against 'Unidentified' People In Blast Near Israel Embassy Case



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Days after a low-intensity blast took place near the Israeli embassy here, Delhi Police have registered an FIR against "unidentified" people, officials said on Saturday.

The FIR has been registered under Section 3 (punishment for causing an explosion likely to endanger life or property) of the Explosive Substances Act at Tughlak Road police station based on a complaint lodged by a police officer, they said.

The blast occurred on Tues-

day evening in the area between the boundary walls of a house on plot number 4 -- Nanda's House -- and the Central Hindi Training Institute on plot number 2A on Prithviraj Road. The area has bushes, plants and trees and no CCTV camera.

It is behind the Israeli embassy on Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road, running parallel to Prithviraj Road.

No one was injured in the blast. Police had found an "abusive" letter addressed to the Israeli ambassador near the blast site.

"Don't Need Invitation To Visit Ayodhya": Uddhav Thackeray On Attending Ram Temple Event

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said he has not yet received the invitation for the consecration of Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22.

Thackeray also stressed he doesn't need a formal invite as Ram Lalla belongs to everyone and that he would visit the temple town in Uttar Pradesh whenever he felt like.

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has been inviting several prominent personalities and political leaders of the country for the grand event.

Talking to reporters, Thackeray said Shiv Sena had undertaken a long struggle for the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. He further said his father and Sena



founder Bal Thackeray's voting right was "snatched" for campaigning for the Ram Temple and Hindutva during a bypoll.

"I have not received any invitation yet and I don't need one to visit Ayodhya as Ram Lalla belongs to everyone. Whenever I feel like it, I will go. Shiv Sena had contributed a lot to the Ram temple movement," said Thackeray, a member of the opposition INDIA bloc.

Thackeray recalled that he had visited Ayodhya even when

he was chief minister of Maharashtra.

Taking a veiled swipe at BJP, he said, "I only expect that political event shouldn't be made out of it (the consecration ceremony). Lord Ram is not the property of any single party. This is the matter of faith for crores of people".

He also said it was the Supreme Court's decision that paved the way for the construction of Ram temple and the Centre had no role.

Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sanjay Raut said the "top ten" among those accused of demolishing the Babri mosque in 1992 are Shiv Sainiks including Bal Thackeray. "A total of 109 Shiv Sainiks from Maharashtra figure in the list of the accused persons in the demolition case," he claimed.

Woman Finds Worm In Sandwich On IndiGo Flight. Airline Responds

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: IndiGo Airlines on Saturday apologised to a woman who allegedly found a worm in her sandwich served to her on a Delhi-Mumbai bound flight.

In a post shared on Instagram, the passenger wrote, "I will lodge an official complaint via email soon. But as a Public Health professional I want to know despite of knowing the quality of the sandwich was not good and informing the flight attendant prior she still continued to serve sandwiches to other passengers. There were kids, elderly and other passengers ... What if anyone catches infection?"

She further added that she does not need any compensation or refund, adding "Just one assurance that passenger health and safety should be your top priority."

However, IndiGo in a statement, apologised to the woman and said that the matter is currently under investigation.

"We are aware of a concern raised by one of our customers regarding their experience



on flight 6E 6107 from Delhi to Mumbai. We want to emphasize our unwavering commitment to maintain the highest standards of food and beverage service on board. Upon investigation, our crew had immediately ceased the service of the specific sandwich in question," the statement read.

"The matter is currently under thorough examination, and we are working closely with our caterer to ensure appropriate corrective measures are taken. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused to the passenger," it added.



Airstrikes Hit Camps In Central Gaza As Joe Biden Administration Approves New Weapons Sales To Israel

AGENCIES

Israeli warplanes struck two urban refugee camps in central Gaza on Saturday, as the Biden administration approved a new emergency weapons sale to Israel despite persistent international cease-fire calls over mounting civilian deaths, hunger and mass displacement in the enclave.

Israel says it is determined to pursue its unprecedented air and ground offensive until it has dismantled Hamas, a goal viewed by some as unattainable because of the militant group's deep roots in Palestinian society. The United States has shielded Israel diplomatically and has continued to supply weapons.

Israel argues that ending the war now would mean victory for Hamas, a stance shared by the Biden administration which at the same time urged Israel to do more to avoid harm to Palestinian civilians.

The war, triggered by the deadly Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel, has displaced some 85% of the Gaza Strip's 2.3 million residents, send-

ing swells of people seeking shelter in Israeli-designated safe areas that the military has nevertheless also bombed. That has left Palestinians with a harrowing sense that nowhere is safe in the tiny enclave.

Residents in the urban refugee camps of Nuseirat and Bureij, two recent hot spots of combat, reported Israeli airstrikes overnight and into Saturday.

Nuseirat resident Mustafa Abu Wawee said a strike hit the home of one of his relatives, killing two people.

"The (Israeli) occupation is doing everything to force people to leave," he said over the phone while searching along with others for four people missing under the rubble. "They want to break our spirit and will but they will fail. We are here to stay."

A second strike late Friday in Nuseirat targeted the home of a journalist for Al-Quds TV, a channel linked to the group Islamic Jihad whose militants also participated in the Oct. 7 attack. The channel said the journalist, Jaber Abu Hadros and six members of his family were killed.

Indian-Origin Couple, Daughter Found Dead In Their \$5 Million US Mansion

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK: A wealthy Indian-origin couple and their teenage daughter were found dead in their \$5 million mansion in the US state of Massachusetts in an apparent domestic violence incident, according to media reports.

The bodies of Rakesh Kamal, 57, his wife, Teena, 54, and their 18-year-old daughter, Ariana, were found in their Dover mansion at about 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Norfolk District Attorney (DA) Michael Morrissey said.

Dover is about 32 kilometres southwest of downtown Boston, the capital of Massachusetts.

Teena and her husband, who also went by Rick, had previously run a now-defunct education systems company called EduNova. The district attorney, who described the "terrible tragedy" as a "domestic violence situation," said a gun was found near the husband's body.

He declined to say whether all three family members were shot dead — and by whom, the New York Post reported.

Morrissey said he was waiting for the medical examiner's ruling, which was expected soon, before deciding whether to refer to the incident as a murder-suicide. The district attorney refused to speculate on a motive for the slayings.

The couple appeared to have faced financial problems in recent years, online records show.

The grim discovery of their bodies was made after a relative had stopped by to check on the family members after not hearing from them in one or two days, the district attorney said.

Morrissey added that there had been no prior police reports or domestic incidents tied to the home.

"There's been no police reports, there's been no problems, no domestic issues, no nothing at that house or in the entire neighborhood that I'm aware of," Morrissey said.

"This is very unfortunate and our heart goes out to the entire Kamal family on this tragedy." "I hate to see it at any time," Morrissey added of domestic violence incidents. "I think some of the tensions that people feel in relationships often come out around the holidays." The district attorney said the investigation into the slayings was ongoing and that investigators had worked the crime scene through much of the night.

"Although the investigation is at a very preliminary stage, the evidence available at this time does not indicate the involvement of any outside party, but suggests that this is a deadly incident of domestic violence," his office said in a statement.

NEWS MAKERS

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Infant Branded With Hot Iron Rod To Cure Respiratory Illness, Dies In Madhya Pradesh

Press Trust of India

SHAHDOL: A one-and-a-half-month-old boy died after he was allegedly branded with a hot iron rod as part of a ritual to cure him of a respiratory ailment in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district, an official said on Saturday.

The infant died while undergoing treatment at the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) of the district hospital on Friday, civil surgeon GS Parihar said.

The baby boy had sustained severe injuries after he was branded with a hot iron rod as a cure for his respiratory problems at Bandhwa village, he said.

He was brought to the district hospital on December 21 when his condition deteriorated, the official said, adding that the baby succumbed to pneumonia.

1.7 Million Bulbs To Bloom At Asia's Largest Tulip Garden

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, the largest tulip garden in Asia, situated on the foothills of Zabarwan hills, is expected to see the first-ever flowering of 1.7 million tulip bulbs, with five new varieties on the way. Officials while divulging the details that compared to 68 varieties in previous year, they have decided to increase the number of varieties to 73 in this season.

Javaid Masood, In-Charge Tulip Garden said that nearly one lakh more bulbs than the previous year will bloom at the Tulip garden in the upcoming season for which the work ground has been already done.

"This year, the work period got extended till mid December unlike previous years as a consignment from Holland got delayed," he said, adding that in the upcoming season, the Tulip Garden that was recently included in World Book of Records will be in full bloom with 1.7 million

tulip bulbs.

He said nearly 100 employees including staff as well as the gardeners were employed for the beautification of the garden, adding that the work has been completed.

"As the increasing flow of tourists was recorded last year at the garden, we are expecting the number to go further up in the upcoming season," he said, adding that the opening of Tulip garden commences the new tourist season in Jammu & Kashmir. "The number of tourists visiting J&K in the spring season was low in the past, but since the Tulip garden has come up in Srinagar, the flow has been increasing with every passing year and this year too, we are expecting the footfall to increase further," he said.

Pertinently, the garden was opened in 2007 with the aim of boosting floriculture and tourism in the Kashmir Valley. It is built on sloping ground in a terraced fashion, consisting of seven terraces. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip garden is spread over 30 hectares.



People in Srinagar huddled around bonfires on Saturday as the cold wave worsened amid the ongoing Chillai Kalan, the 40-day period of the harsh winter weather in Kashmir. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Balidan Stambh At Lal Chowk To Be Completed By April-2024: CEO SSCL

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The construction work of Balidan Stambh (Martyrs Memorial) building at Pratap Park, Lal Chowk in Srinagar will be completed by April next year, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Srinagar Smart City Ltd, Athar Amir Khan said on Saturday.

The Martyr's Memorial at historic Pratap Park, according to Khan, who also holds the position of commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), would pay tribute to the brave soldiers who lost their lives while performing duty.

Martyrs Memorial's column construction, he said, stands completed, while work on the main structure has begun and is anticipated to be finished in March or April, depending on the weather.

Pertinent to mention

here that Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had on June 24 this year laid the foundation stone of 'Balidaan Stambh' (martyr's memorial) at Pratap Park in the heart of the city.

reviewing the progress of construction work on Balidhan Stambh.

Pertinent to mention here that Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had on June 24 this year laid the foundation stone of 'Balidaan Stambh' (martyr's memorial) at Pratap Park in the heart of the city. The memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City, is a tribute to the martyrs' who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

"We are hoping to finish the Balidhan Stambh within the next few months as we are working hard to finish the prestigious project as soon as possible. There will also be engravings of the names of our fallen warriors, with a designated spot for them well within the building," Athar Amir Khan added.

"The Balidan Stambh (Martyrs Memorial) at Pratap Park is being constructed to honor those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. This project was undertaken as part of Srinagar Smart City Project and is expected to be completed till March-April next year," CEO, SSCL told Media after

SMC Hosts Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra At Rawal Pora, Hyderpora

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) today organized the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) at Rawal Pora and Hyderpora in Srinagar, marking a significant milestone in bringing impactful events and essential services to the local communities.

The event featured a range of activities, including "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani," where beneficiaries of government welfare schemes shared their life-changing experiences. Additionally, free health

check-ups, Aadhar card registrations, Ayushman card generation, and sign-ups for various government schemes were made available, ensuring easy access to vital services for those in need.

Moreover, the Government of India's IEC van was on-site to showcase informative short films, highlighting a diverse array of welfare schemes, including the PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, PM Svanidhi, and more, aimed at empowering communities and ensuring widespread access to essential government programs.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
17 Jumada al-Sani
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	6:07
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	3:52
Magrib	5:34
ISHA	6:59

This Day In History

- 535 - Byzantine General Belisarius completes the conquest of Sicily, defeating Ostrogothic garrison of Syracuse, and ending his consulship for the year 1600 - British East India Company chartered
- 1669 - France & Brandenburg sign secret treaty
- 1670 - France & England sign Boyne-treaty
- 1744 - English astronomer James Bradley announces discovery of Earth's nutation motion (wobble)
- 1756 - Russia joins the Alliance of Versailles
- 1758 - British expeditionary army occupies Goree (Dakar) Senegal
- 1775 - Battle of Quebec in American Revolutionary War; Americans defeated trying to take British stronghold
- 1783 - Import of African slaves banned by all of the Northern US states
- 1805 - End of French Republican calendar; France returns to Gregorianism
- 1861 - 22,990mm of rain falls in Cherrapunji Assam in India in 1861, a world record
- 1862 - Battle of Stone's River (Battle of Murfreesboro), Tennessee in American Civil War
- 1901 - In the first election under their new constitution, Cuba elects a Congress and their first president, Tomas Estrada Palma
- 1924 - Italian Fascist Mussolini orders the suppression of opposition newspapers
- 1942 - Battle of the Barents Sea between British Navy and German Kriegsmarine off North Cape, Norway
- 1944 - Japanese army evacuates harbor city Akyab
- 1944 - World War II: Hungary declares war on Germany.
- 1946 - US President Harry Truman officially proclaims end of WW II
- 1951 - 1st battery to convert radioactive energy to electricity announced
- 1952 - Danny Nardico stops former world middleweight champion Jake LaMotta in 7 rounds in a light heavyweight non-title bout in Coral Gables, Florida; LaMotta is knocked down for the only time in his career, his corner stopping fight after the round
- 1955 - The General Motors Corporation becomes the first U.S. corporation to make over \$1 billion USD in a year.
- 1961 - Failed coup by Syrian group in Lebanon
- 1961 - Marshall Plan expires after distributing more than \$12 billion
- 1964 - Donald Campbell (UK) sets world water speed record (276.33 mph)
- 1964 - Indonesia proclaims expelled from the UN
- 1974 - Popular Electronics displays Altair 8800 computer
- 1977 - Amir Sheikh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah becomes leader of Kuwait
- 1977 - Cambodia drops diplomatic relations with Vietnam
- 1978 - Iran shah names Chapour Bakhtiar premier
- 1978 - Taiwan's final day of diplomatic relations with US
- 1980 - After being struck by an orange thrown from the crowd West Indian fast bowler Sylvester Clarke knocks out a spectator with a brick during 4th Test against Pakistan in Multan
- 1983 - Brunei gains complete independence from Britain
- 1983 - Nigeria's National Assembly dissolves after military coup
- 1983 - President Shagari of Nigeria is overthrown in a military coup and Major General Muhammad Buhari is installed as Head of State
- 1986 - Russian TU-144 flies for 1st time faster than sound
- 1990 - Iraq begins a military draft of 17 year olds
- 1997 - Intel cuts price of Pentium II-233 MHz from \$401 to \$268
- 1997 - Microsoft buys Hotmail email service for \$400 million and re-launches it as MSN Hotmail
- 1998 - Exchange rates between the euro and legacy currencies in the Eurozone become fixed.
- 1999 - Boris Yeltsin resigns as President of Russia, leaving Prime Minister Vladimir Putin as acting President

فاتحہ خوانی
انا للہ وانا الیہ راجعون

انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ یہ خبر دی جاتی ہے کہ سجاد علی خان کی البیہ، اور مطلوب مہدی خان کی والدہ محترمہ مورخہ 29 دسمبر 2023 بروز جمعہ اس دارالفانی سے کوچ کر گئیں۔ اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ بظہیر ائمہ اطہار علیہم السلام مرحومہ کو جو ارائمہ میں جگہ عنایت فرمائے۔ موسمی حالات کو دیکھتے ہوئے تمام دوست و اجاب سے گزارش ہے کہ فاتحہ خوانی کی اجتماعی تقریب مورخہ یکم جنوری 2024 بروز سوموار صبح 9 بجے حیدریہ ہال ڈلگلیٹ میں منعقد ہوگی، مقبرہ پر قرآن خوانی یا اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی نہیں ہوگی مقبرہ کے بجائے قرآن و فاتحہ خوانی گھر واقع ڈلگلیٹ سر بیچور ہوگی۔ فیصلہ ناسازگار موسمی حالات اور شدید سردی کی وجہ سے بزرگان کے مشورے پر لیا گیا سوگواران

Imagitor

Office Of The Medical Superintendent Associated Hospital Govt Medical College Baramulla

associatedhospitalgmcbaramulla@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notice

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, as recommended by Procurement Officer GMC Baramulla and in view of urgency and for smooth functioning of the Bacteriology of the hospital, sealed tenders affixed by revenue stamps of Rs.2 are invited from the authorized dealer/distributor for supplying below mentioned items:

Items	Quantity
1. Antibiotic Discs	
Cefoxitin	5 in no.
Teicoplanin	02 in no.
Ticarcillin- Tazobactam	01 in no.
Ampicillin- Salbactam	01 in no.
1. Culture Media	
Nutrient Agar	01 in no.
Tryptophan Broth	01 n no.
2. Reagents	
Glycerol	01 lt.
Spirit	5 lt.

The estimates/tenders in sealed envelope addressed to Medical Superintendent Associated Hospital GMC Baramulla shall reach to this office within 05 days from the date of publication.

Quotations shall be opened on the 06-01-2024 at 02:00 p.m. in the office of the undersigned in presence of the quotatoners who may like to be present.

Other Terms and Conditions:

- 1) Price is F.O.R destination basis with no scope of escalation.
- 2) Rates are inclusive of all taxes.
- 3) The undersigned reserves the right to reject or accept any tender without assigning any reason

Medical superintendent
Associated Hospital
GMC Baramulla

No: AH-GM/BLA/2023/168-73
DIPK-14486/23
Dated: 30-12-2023

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kakapora

Public Notice

This is for the information of general public that the applicant namely Taja Banoo W/o Ghulam Mohd Mir R/o Prichoo has applied for issuance of DOB Certificate. As per Age certificate issued by Chief Medical Officer Pulwama the DOB of the applicant, Taja Banoo, is 23-12-1967, born at Gundipora Pulwama. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

rko

غلام احمد میر، حشر و، کا انتقال پر ملال

دیکھ کر کیا متھل گیا جاتا ہے کہ محترم غلام احمد میر ساکن حشر و، چاؤدرہ رحلت کر گئے ہیں انا للہ و انا الیہ راجعون

غلام احمد صاحب، ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ ڈیولپمنٹ کمشنر، سرینگر ظہور احمد میر کے والد محترم تھے۔ دوست، احباب اور رشید داروں کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ "رسم چہارم" کے سلسلے میں سوموار یکم جنوری 2024ء کو بانی مقبرہ حشر و، میں اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی انجام دی جائے گی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے، کہ مرحوم کی مغفرت کرے اور فردوس بریں میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ آمین

سوگواران

اطلاع عام

غلیبی سے میرے پاسپورٹ نمبر K5573922 میں برنامہ Shaheena Begum W/O Hilal Ahmad Hagroo R/O Gazali Abad Shala Tengh Ghat Srinagar

Shaheena Hilal درج ہوا تھا جو کہ درست نہیں ہے اب میں اس کی درستی کرانا چاہتی ہوں۔ اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھما کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراض یا اعتراضات پاسپورٹ آفس سرینگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میاں کڈرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

Shaheena Begum W/O Hilal Ahmad Hagroo R/O Gazali Abad Shala Tengh Ghat Srinagar

The Grotesque Price of Western Media's Distortions

Wajahat Qazi

Israel's war against Palestinians has exposed the innards of Western media: contra the principles of 'free speech' and 'speaking truth to power', Western media has supinely grovelled before power and interest. The suppression of narratives by Western media is not overt or 'in your face': it is subtle. Consider this. One, the narratives about Israel are peddled in a way to evoke and elicit sympathy and empathy. Two, this is buttressed by 'expert views' that offer academic justifications employing the nuances of international law. Three, narratives about Palestinians are just news with sanitized headlines. To maintain the semblance of 'balance,' an odd Palestinian voice is given space, but in a way that accords with the editorial guidelines of newspapers and TV channels.

All this would not have mattered if the Western media – one's who control knowledge in both Foucauldian and prosaic terms – would not have replaced the Christian priestocracy in the West. The new priest, to state a pedestrian cliché, in the West is not the psycho-analyst or the psychiatrist but the media. To make a wee digression here, while the 'casting couch' jostles with the 'glass ceiling', with perhaps the casting couch winning out, the 'psychiatrists couch' has been well and truly replaced by the media and its touts in the West. The name of the game then for media in the West is not to enlighten, or educate people but validate their prejudices, at times, and guide people's thoughts (and action) towards ends that are determined by the media. With respect to Islam and Muslims, this has been put forth eloquently by Edward Said in his book, 'Covering Islam'. Calling it an 'invisible screen', the late Said refers to it as the Western media's ability to filter out what it wants western publics to know or not to know. In the case of Islam and Muslims, Said postulates that Western media wants westerners to believe that, 'Muslims are primitive, regressive and violent'. It is, to state the obvious, this deep historical prejudice that is panning out in the Israeli Palestinian war.

How and why is this happening? Barring the political west's age old animus against Islam, and the missionary proselyting zeal of the West to propagate and thrust its ideologies on the non-west, where Islam is seen as an impediment, the other reason is the corporate control of Western media. The moment shareholders – majority ones – determine the financial side and control of the media organization's structure – a give media house forfeits its duty to tell the truth. It is no longer accountable to the public (as it should be) but to dominant or majority shareholders. It is then corporate governance of media organizations (like other corporations) that is majorly responsible for slanted, prejudiced coverage – both in print and visual media. The biases, ideologies and prejudices of corporate honchos percolate in news slants, coverage, editorials and op-eds. There then, no matter how much Western politicians, scream

their lungs out, is no such thing as free media in the West. Media capture by power and interest is real across the western world. Another lesser impactful reason could be that media organizations are mostly staffed by careerists and wan-

the prejudices of people toward the preferences of the media.

This proclivity of the Western media is obviously and naturally bad, especially for those at the receiving ends of Western politics. But its

special odiousness arises from the fact that it undercuts the principles of the real and existing West- the West that was crafted after painful, historical, political and philosophical struggles. Or the West that pioneered and defined the modern world and its outlook, the West where many people have a refined sensibility and are defined by a compassionate and sensitive outlook, the West where the state could not infringe on a person's personhood, rights and liberty with strong safeguards designed to prevent abuse. I can personally vouch for the 'bad' West and the 'good' West: I have been a victim of the former and the beneficiary of the West's largeness, capaciousness and graciousness – not the Western states but by and of some bold and beautiful people. The graciousness and grace of these people made me attempt to disabuse people of the flawed notions they held of the idea of the West. I fought and struggled to make myself heard and draw attention to some beautiful people that do dot the landscape of the West. And I did convince people. But now, all these efforts seem to be in vain – an exercise in psychological projection where a few great and fantastic experiences made me occlude the ugly and the bad. I, for one moment, do not regret having broached the bold and beautiful experiences I had in the West. These were real and have left a mark on me. But I cannot make these assertions now credibly. That there are many bold and beautiful people in the West, whose sensitivity and compassion is laudable and worthy of being told is undercut severely by the glib insincerity of the Western media. It was Voltaire the great philosopher – the progenitor of free speech – of the West who said that, 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend unto death your right to say it'. Contemporary Western media do not even come close to the principle underlying this quote. Instead of being Voltaire's worthy descendant(s), Western media have, by being 'the lap dogs of power' become 'Voltaire's Bastards'!

Post Script: Fortunately and even mercifully, Western media does not entirely retain its monopoly on information, knowledge and discourse. Besides alternative forms of media – social media and the democratization of information – rendered possible by the revolution in Information Technology and Communications (ICT's), there are news outlets like Al Jazeera that aim to present news and analysis in a reasonably objective manner. This is an unalloyed good for global publics with the caveat that anything dished out by anyone might not be the truth. The best hedge against this is education and critical thinking. May the light of education shine on the whole world!

Masters with Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland author has worked as Associate Editor of Kashmir Observer.

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



“All this would not have mattered if the Western media – one's who control knowledge in both Foucauldian and prosaic terms – would not have replaced the Christian priestocracy in the West. The new priest, to state a pedestrian cliché, in the West is not the psycho-analyst or the psychiatrist but the media

nabes; not idealists or romantics animated and motivated by principles of justice, fairness and a better world. A careerist will naturally want 'career progression' and a pay packet over anything else. This undercuts idealism and fairness and makes the careerist a 'biddable harlot' in the service of power and interest.

This rubric and framework exacts victims: one, those against which are sought to be seen as the 'other' of the West and two, the western publics. In economics, there is a phrase and idea called 'bounded rationality' – that is, roughly no person is supremely rational and that his or her rationality is bounded. Another concept is that of 'asymmetric information' – roughly where availability of information is skewed. It is in the interstices of 'bounded rationality' and 'asymmetric information' that Western media keeps western publics misinformed, poorly informed, plainly ignorant, or guides and directs



Embracing 2024

A Chapter of Hope and Renewal

Dr. Ashaq Hussain

“No doubt the grand life book of 2023 was a captivating chapter, adorned with moments that sparkled like stars but now as we bid farewell to the chapters of 2023, it is time to cherish the pages filled with laughter, growth, and resilience, and turn the page to the unwritten story of Happy New Year 2024

In the symphony of life, each passing year crafts its unique melody, weaving tales of triumphs, challenges, and cherished memories. As we stand at the threshold of a new chapter, bidding adieu to the bygone year and embracing the dawn of 2024, we are presented with a canvas brimming with possibilities—a chapter of hope and renewal waiting to unfold.

No doubt the grand life book of 2023 was a captivating chapter, adorned with moments that sparkled like stars but now as we bid farewell to the chapters of 2023, it is time to cherish the pages filled with laughter, growth, and resilience, and turn the page to the unwritten story of Happy New Year 2024. The turning of the calendar symbolizes not just the passage of time but an opportunity for fresh beginnings, renewed hopes, and a chance to script a story yet untold.

Before diving into the aspirations for the coming year, it's essential to reflect on the chapter we leave behind. 2023 was a mosaic of experiences, a canvas painted with both vibrant hues and subtle shades. The memories of laughter, the lessons from challenges, and

the warmth of shared moments have become the building blocks of our collective history. Amidst the ebbs and flows, the trials, and triumphs, 2023 gifted us with invaluable treasures. It might have been a year of personal growth, academic milestones, career accomplishments, or cherished relationships. It's in the reflection on these moments that we find the stepping stones paving the path to the forthcoming year.

As we stand on the cusp of 2024, hope emerges as the guiding light illuminating our path forward. Hope is not just a wishful sentiment; it is a force that propels us to dream, to strive, and to believe in the possibility of positive change. In the face of uncertainties, hope becomes the anchor that steadies our ship, reminding us that even in the darkest nights, a new dawn is inevitable. So, 2024 calls upon us to nurture this hope, to plant seeds of resilience, determination, and unwavering faith in our ability to surmount any challenges that may arise.

The advent of a new year is an invitation to embrace renewal and growth. Just as nature sheds its old leaves in preparation for spring, we too can let

go of the burdens and limitations that may have held us back. It is an opportune moment to reflect on personal and collective goals, to recalibrate ambitions, and to nurture the seeds of change. Whether it's in our professional pursuits, personal relationships, or individual well-being, 2024 beckons us to evolve, learn, and blossom.

Today in an interconnected world facing shared challenges, the dawn of a new year also calls for a renewed commitment to global solidarity. The lessons learned from the trials of the past can inspire nations to come together, transcending borders, to address common issues such as climate change, public health, and social justice. As we navigate the complexities of our modern existence, the unity of purpose becomes a powerful catalyst for positive transformation.

To conclude with, embracing 2024 is not merely turning a page in the calendar; it is a celebration of possibilities, a testament to our collective resilience, and an affirmation of hope. As the clock strikes midnight, marking the inception of a new year, let us bid farewell to the past with gratitude for the lessons

it imparted. Let's step into 2024 with open hearts, brimming with hope, and a steadfast resolve to make this chapter one filled with compassion, resilience, and boundless possibilities. Embracing 2024 should be embarking on an odyssey, a journey of self-discovery, growth, and boundless potential. May this chapter in the book of our lives be adorned with triumphs, resilience in adversity, and an unwavering spirit that navigates the tides of change with grace. To end with wishing you all twelve months of success, fifty-two weeks of laughter, and three hundred sixty-Six days of love in 2024. Happy New Year.

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

Dr. Ashaq Hussain is Associate Professor Chemistry at Govt Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu and can be reached at joinchemistry@gmail.com

Obituary

A LIFE WELL-LIVED

Syeda Hameeda's Journey of Nobility and Sacrifice

Farooq Shah

In the picturesque landscapes of Jalali Gund, a village in Sumbal Sonawari tehsil of district Bandipora, a poignant tale unfolded that symbolized both the struggle for ancestral land and the innate nobility of a woman whose life resonated with sacrifice and grace.

The narrative revolves around a patch of some 25 kanals of an apple orchard, a fragment of her father's legacy, threatened by the encroachment of villagers. The attempts of the family, despite fervent efforts to reclaim it, proved futile.

Then, one fine morning, an unexpected visitor arrived. A man, dressed in humble rags and carrying a bag filled with Rajma, knocked at the door. Initially dismissed as a beggar, he revealed himself to be from Gadkhod village, seeking an audience with the lady of the house.

With earnestness in his eyes, he presented the bag, explaining that it held the fruits of the "barren" land—six kanals from her own orchard. He implored for forgiveness and *Bakhshish* to embark on a pilgrimage to Karbala.

Syeda Hameeda, the lady in question, was moved by the villagers' humility.

In a moment that reflected both compassion and an understanding of conscience, she granted him the land.

"This person, at the very least, showed some conscience to request my permission, and I, in turn, conceded my claim to the land," she declared with a smile.

This anecdote reflects the essence of a woman who valued compassion over possession, setting the tone for a life marked by nobility and selflessness.

Tragically, Syeda Hameeda is no more. She breathed her last on Sunday, December 17, after a brief illness.

Her lineage was graced by the distinguished titles of *Nawab-e-Kashmir* and *Rayees-e-Kashmir*, bestowed upon her grandfather Agha Syed Hussain Shah Jalali and maternal grandfather Haji

Jaffar Khan respectively.

Her father Syed Muhammad Shah Jalali had the distinction of being the first Muslim from Kashmir nominated to India's first Rajya Sabha in 1952. Notably, one of Kashmir's premier healthcare facilities, SKIMS Soura, continues to pay homage to her grandfather through a dedicated ward in the name of Agha Syed Hussain Jalali.

The elder Jalali, instrumental in establishing a major educational institution 'Imamia High School' in the early thirties in Zadibal area, also contributed significantly to the intellectual growth of the region.

Haji Jaffar was a prominent landlord with roots in Kabul, who also established trade links with Kashmir. He is believed to be among the pioneers who established the Pashmina trade in Kashmir.

Upon settling in Kashmir, he married and had many sons and a lone daughter, who inherited a substantial estate.

Despite these lofty lineages, Syeda Hameeda embraced a life of simplicity in her modest home after her marriage to Molvi Mustafa Hussain Ansari, an alumnus of Najaf Seminary and scion of Ansari family who was widely known for shunning the material life for scholarly pursuits, thus demonstrating a steadfast commitment to relationships over material wealth.

If she hadn't nurtured the ideal environment at home, it would have been impossible for him to write more than forty highly acclaimed books, including a treatise on the Quran, within his relatively short life of 65 years.

As the sun set on the concluding chapter of her life, a luminous presence transcended beyond mortal confines, bequeathing a legacy delicately woven with the golden threads of self-sacrifice and unspoken nobility. What a coincidence, Syeda Hameeda passed away on the day her community was observing the anniversary of the demise of Lady Fatima (R), the beloved daughter of holy Prophet (Pbuh).



Dar-ul-Ansar—became a sanctuary of warmth and simplicity, a testament to her choice to relinquish majestic inheritances in favour of a life steeped in modesty.

Within the premises of her husband's modest home, she led a life of selflessness, transforming limited means into a flourishing haven for her beloved brood. She chose to forgo the rich inheritance that awaited her, opting instead for the lasting richness of familial bonds. She was determined never to let riches become a bone of contention in her relationships.

A quintessence of grace, she held court over the hearts of families and acquaintances alike. Adored with an affection that outdid mere kinship, she embodied the essence of a gracious host, extending her benevolent embrace to all who crossed the threshold of her house.

My own memories of her are a blend of warmth and maternal affection. Each visit to her house was a pilgrimage of sorts, where her radiant countenance enveloped me in a comforting embrace, and the aroma of shared meals lingered in the air as a proof to the hospitality that flowed effortlessly from her hands.

In her departure, several tales and virtues remain—a legacy etched in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to traverse the corridors of her benevolence. Her life, an ode to sacrifice and quiet grandeur, stands as a beacon, shining the path of those who follow in the footsteps of a lady who, in choosing the simplicity of love over the opulence of titles, became a regent of hearts.

Strong-willed and thoroughly selfless, she navigated life with a quiet strength that never wavered. Her demeanour remained firmly calm; she never raised her voice, never made demands, and even in times of illness, she quietly endured.

In her later years, when Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) confined her to a bed, she continued to exhibit resilience, uttering words of gratitude to the Almighty.

As we bid farewell to Syeda Hameeda, we remember her as a woman of resilience, a custodian of rich culture and a symbol of compassion. Her life exemplified the values of nobility, sacrifice, and grace, leaving an enduring legacy in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know her, including this author.

With her late husband, Maulana Mustafa Hussain Ansari by her side, she rests now at Baba Mazar, Zadibal, surrounded by the echoes of her ancestors' graves, a testament to a life well-lived.

This noble lady, whose name adorned the pages of familial history, navigated the intricate mosaic of life with an elegance that bespoke her royal lineage.

Unbeknownst to her three cherished offspring—Sajjad Haider Ansari, Shahid Haider Ansari, and Hamid Haider Ansari—she concealed her opulent past, choosing instead to clothe her progeny in the humble attire of contentment.

Her abode, nestled in the heart of Narwara within the old city—

In her departure, several tales and virtues remain—a legacy etched in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to traverse the corridors of her benevolence. Her life, an ode to sacrifice and quiet grandeur, stands as a beacon, shining the path of those who follow in the footsteps of a lady who, in choosing the simplicity of love over the opulence of titles, became a regent of hearts

Usher in 2024 with These Steps

The winter gloominess may not offer the most enthusiastic start to the new year, it's all the more reason to tread into it with celebration as well as caution



KO Web Desk

As the snow blankets the picturesque landscapes of Kashmir, the winter gloominess may not offer the most enthusiastic start to the new year. However, amidst the chilly air, there lies an opportunity to cultivate warmth and optimism within ourselves.

As we usher in the promising year of 2024, it's the perfect time to set the stage for a year filled with growth, positivity, and balance. Here's a comprehensive guide to kickstarting your 2024 with a focus on the power of Dua/Prayer, cultivating an abundance mindset, visualization, maintaining good physical and mental health, and achieving a harmonious work-life balance.

The Power of Dua/Prayer

Embrace the spiritual aspect of your journey by incorporating prayers and dua into your daily routine. Take moments of reflection and gratitude to set positive intentions for the year ahead. Aligning your goals with your beliefs can provide a sense of purpose and guidance.

Cultivating an Abundance Mindset

Shift your mindset from scarcity to abundance. Focus on what you have and what you can achieve, rather than dwelling on limitations. Practice gratitude daily, acknowledging the abundance in your life. This mindset not only attracts positivity but also opens doors to new opportunities.

Visualization for Success

Create a vivid mental image of your goals and aspirations. Visualization helps in programming your mind for success. Regularly take time to picture yourself achieving your dreams, allowing your subconscious to work towards turning those visions into reality.

Prioritize Physical and Mental Health

Invest time and effort in maintaining your physical and mental well-being. Incorporate regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and sufficient sleep into your routine. A healthy body provides the foundation for a productive and fulfilling life. Similarly, prioritize mental health through mindfulness practices and stress-management techniques.

Work-Life Balance

Strive for a harmonious balance between your professional and personal life. Set clear boundaries, prioritize tasks, and make time for activities that bring you joy and relaxation. Achieving a balance will not only enhance your overall well-being but also contribute to increased productivity when you're working.

By integrating the power of Dua/Prayer, fostering an abundance mindset, practicing visualization, prioritizing physical and mental health, and maintaining a healthy work-life balance, you're setting the stage for a successful and fulfilling 2024. Embrace each aspect consciously, and watch as these holistic practices positively influence every facet of your life. Cheers to a year of growth, abundance, and well-being!

Hydrogen-Powered Homes: The Future Of Sustainable Living

360info.org

Among a cluster of new homes on the northern outskirts of Melbourne, there is one house that stands apart. Not that you'd know it by looking from the outside.

HyHome, unveiled this year by the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group, is Australia's first hydrogen-powered home.

The demonstration house in Wollert is equipped with hydrogen-powered hot water systems, heating, cooktop and barbecue; some of the first 100 per cent hydrogen compatible appliances to be developed for the domestic market.

The partners which built HyHome recognise what others, including billionaire mining magnate Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest, have: hydrogen has the potential to revolutionise the way we power our economy.

While the hydrogen for HyHome is supplied by on-site gas tanks, the pipe fittings match those that would connect to the gas network. The project therefore serves as an accurate proof of concept for how future homes could run on a 100 per cent hydrogen gas network.

Hydrogen is a cleaner fuel than natural gas because the combustion of hydrogen in air produces heat and water vapour, a carbon-neutral process, as opposed to the combustion of natural gas, which produces carbon dioxide.

Blending hydrogen into the existing natural gas mix, or the use of pure hydrogen in the gas network, reduces the amount of natural gas needed which can help cut carbon dioxide emissions in tricky to decarbonise sectors such as heating or industrial

manufacturing processes.

The Australian Government's National Hydrogen Strategy has identified the use of hydrogen in gas networks as a priority area for research, trials and demonstration projects.

The testing of hydrogen blending projects taking place across Australia includes energy company ATCO supplying a 2-10 per cent (by volume) hydrogen gas blend to 2,700 gas network connections in Western Australia and the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group supplying 4,000 properties in Adelaide with a 5 per cent hydrogen gas blend. Currently, 41 countries have hydrogen strategies to help reach net zero targets by 2050.

Globally, governments and industry are pursuing hydrogen blending with serious intent. In the UK, the HyDeploy partnership at Keele University successfully supplied 668 houses, a school, several small businesses, and a church in a town in northern England with just a 20 per cent hydrogen blend for a year.

The project has further successfully trialled using a 20 per cent hydrogen blend at an industrial scale, supplying an energy-intensive glass factory and Unilever's manufacturing plant in the north-west of England.

There are, however, several challenges in blending hydrogen into the gas network.

Allocating an in-demand resource

Hydrogen is in hot demand. For hydrogen blending to have a positive effect on reducing emissions, green hydrogen, produced via the electrolysis of water, should be used as opposed to grey or brown hydrogen, produced from fossil fuels.

Green hydrogen is currently expensive



to produce. It requires renewable electricity and lots of clean water, both resources in high demand.

Low-emissions hydrogen currently accounts for less than 1 per cent of all hydrogen production and use, according to the International Energy Agency.

There is an argument that blending hydrogen with natural gas is an inefficient use of an expensive resource, potentially greenwashing the continued use of natural gas when the focus could be on transitioning to electric technology such as heat pumps. Getting it into the home

Hydrogen has a lower volumetric energy density than natural gas. This means a larger

volume of hydrogen is required compared to natural gas for the same energy output.

The Australian Hydrogen Centre reports that a 100 per cent hydrogen network would reduce network capacity by 13 per cent, though it adds this wouldn't impact supply.

Hydrogen is also incompatible with certain metals, with potential embrittlement leading to fractures in pipes and storage tanks which can lead to gas leaks.

The government-owned Evoenergy and the Canberra Institute of Technology have shown at their testing facility in Canberra that 100 per cent green hydrogen is compatible with current Australian Capital Territory gas network pipes and fittings.

The facility also measured the performance of everyday household gas appliances when run on hydrogen gas, showing that modern cooktops can safely use a 20 per cent hydrogen blend.

Hydrogen blends much higher than this would require the replacement of existing gas appliances. One approach is to phase in hydrogen ready appliances, allowing consumers the continued use of natural gas until the gas network switches to hydrogen.

Safety

Like natural gas, hydrogen is a clear, colourless and odourless. Odorants are added to natural gas so leaks can be easily detected by its distinctive smell. Odourising hydrogen with this same smell or a new smell will be important for hydrogens use in the home.

Hydrogen is easier to ignite than natural gas owing to its much larger range of flammable concentrations in the air and a lower ignition energy.

This sounds concerning but with appropriate engineering controls to prevent leaks and mandatory safety measures, such as ventilation and gas detectors, hydrogen in these applications is no more dangerous than natural gas.

In fact, some of hydrogen's properties make it a safer alternative. It is non-toxic and 14 times lighter than air, so in the event of an open air leak, it would rise and dissipate very quickly.

A less known fact about hydrogen is that it is considered an indirect greenhouse gas. Hydrogen reacts with molecules in the atmosphere which leads to the prolonged lifetime of certain greenhouse gases, such as methane.

'AI-System Learnt, Recreated Award-Winning Chemical Reactions In Lab On Its Own'

Press Trust Of India

An artificial intelligence (AI)-driven system was autonomously able to learn about some Nobel Prize-winning chemical reactions and design a successful laboratory procedure to make them, new research published in the journal Nature describes.

One of the most complex reactions that their creation, named 'Coscientist' by the researchers, was able to pull off pertains to organic chemistry and is known as palladium-catalysed cross couplings, which in 2010 earned its human inventors the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in recognition of the role of these reactions in pharma-

ceutical development process.

"This is the first time that a non-organic intelligence planned, designed and executed this complex reaction that was invented by humans," said Gabe Gomes, a Carnegie Mellon University (US) chemist and chemical engineer, who led the research team that assembled and tested Coscientist.

The researchers said that the demonstrated abilities of Coscientist show the potential for humans to productively use AI to increase the pace and number of scientific discoveries, as well as improve the replicability and reliability of experimental results.

The software and silicon-based parts, or the 'brains', of Coscientist primarily comprise large language

models, which are known to power the functioning of chatbots like GPT-4, the team said in their study.

Large language models are trained on huge amounts of textual data, as a result of which, these AI models are capable of processing, manipulating and generating in the natural language, or the language that humans use to communicate with each other.

The researchers also equipped Coscientist with several different software modules, which together allowed it to do things that all research chemists do: search public information about chemical compounds, find and read technical manuals on how to control robotic lab equipment, write computer code to carry out experiments, and analyse the resulting data to deter-

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: TSDPL Silver Jubilee Scholarship Program 2023

server/TSDPL2

Description: Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited (TSDPL) invites applications from students who are domiciles of Jamshedpur, Kalinganagar, Pantnagar, Faridabad, Pune, Chennai, Tada, and Kolkata. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious students from low income families to continue their education.

Eligibility: Open for students who are domiciles of locations such as Jamshedpur, Kalinganagar, Pantnagar, Faridabad, Pune, Chennai, Tada, and Kolkata are eligible to apply. Applicants must be pursuing any year of ITI/diploma, graduation or postgraduation in fields such as Nursing, UG medical courses such as MBBS, BDS, PG medical courses (any specialization), paramedical courses, ITI/diploma subjects such as fitter, electrical, welders, safety, etc. from government-recognized institutes. Must have scored at least 60% marks in their Class 10 and 12 examination. Annual family income of the applicants must not be more than INR 5,00,000 from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 1,00,000 for 1 year
Last Date to Apply: 21-01-2024
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-

Scholarship Name 2: NGSF Internship Program 2024

Description: NGSF Internship Program 2024 is an internship opportunity offered by the Next Gen Scientists Foundation (NGO registered under the Trust Act of India 1882), for undergraduate and postgraduate students who wish to gain research experience in life

sciences.
Eligibility: Open to Indian undergraduate students studying in their 2nd/3rd year (depending on program duration) and master's students in the 2nd/4th year of the integrated program. Applicants must be willing to work for 2 to 3 months in the lab of a principal investigator at another Indian institute.

Prizes & Rewards: A month-

ly stipend of up to 6,000
Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2024
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/NGF1

Scholarship Name 3: L'Oréal India for Young Women in Science Scholarship 2023

Description: L'Oréal India provides educational scholarships to young women who wish to pursue their graduation in any field of science, from a recognized institute in India. The aim of this scholarship is to encourage young women to pursue their education & careers in science and empower them with financial aid.

Eligibility: Female candidates who have passed Class 12 with 85% in PCB/PCM/PCMB in the academic year (2022-23) are eligible to apply. Annual family income of the applicant should be less than INR 6 Lakhs.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected women scholars will be provided up to INR 2,50,000 in instalments, towards their tuition fees and academic expenses for pursuing graduation in science

Last Date to Apply: 07-01-2024
Application mode: Applications are accepted online only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/LIS4



Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

2nd Fresh NIT No. 103-Kupwara/9759-67 of 2023-24 e-tendering DATED: - 29-12-2023

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S.No/Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1. Strengthening and Up gradation of Fruit and Vegetable Market Kupwara (Construction of Bore well)	5.70	300/-	11400/-	15 days	04-01-2024	"C&D"	Horticulture

Position of funds : Approved
Position of AAA : Accorded

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	29-12-2023
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30-12-2023 to 04-01-2024 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	30-12-2023 from (10.00A.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	04-01-2024 upto (04.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	04-01-2024 at (6:00P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Kupwara

Terms and Conditions :-

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

a. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Work, Name of Contractor alongwith Cell No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara.

b. The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after successful completion of the defect liability Period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.

c. The contractors are directed to upload the additional performance security deposit in advance, during downloading bid process as admissible under rules.

d. Additional performance security for unbalanced bids is to be submitted by the lowest bidder before issuance of Allotment as per procedure in vogue.

S.No	%age of unbalanced Bid viz a viz advertised cost on account of Law Rate	Additional performance security to be deposited
1	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% upto and including 20% below	5% of advertised cost
3	Greater than 20% upto and including 25% below	10% of advertised cost
4	Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below	15% of advertised cost
5	Greater than 30% below	20% of advertised cost

Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir's Circular No. CE/RBK/HD/3271-73

a. The bidders shall ensure that their bids shall be accepted only if their registrations cards are uploaded on https://jkpwdoms.jk.gov.in portal in active Tab. as per circular instructions issued by Development Commissioner works vide No.PW/DCW/DB/668-72 DT.10-06-2022.

e. It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in etendering website and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, lowest bidder will be called for submission of CDR/FDR as well as Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR of the other participating tenderers/ bidders will be released only after surrender of Treasury Challan.

f. Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

g. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

h. The bidders are advised to get the genuineness of their enlistment cards from the issuing authorities. This is mandatory and bids are liable to be rejected in absence of the genuineness of enlistment card

i. The contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer in-charge

1. The steel/Key construction material shall be allowed only of approved brand by the government.

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

3. The tenderers are directed to submit their tender online; in case the last date of opening of tenders happens to be a holiday/hartal the same shall be opened on the next working day.

Note :-

72. Before processing the bill, the genuineness / specifications of electric items of the project should be certified by the concerned Officer/Officials of Electric wing of R&B Department

73. The key construction material shall have to be arranged by the contractor of his own as per the quality/specifications.

1. Cement = JKOPC Brand

2. Steel of all sorts = SAIL certified (The sail certificate shall have been produced /deposited in the division by the AEE concerned at the time submission of the work done bills). No extension in quantities/Cost is allowed in any case.

No. 9768-70
DIPK-14473/23 DT: 30-12-2023

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kupwara.

LG Gives Job Letter To Slain Policeman's Wife



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday handed over appointment letter to Sagera Bi, wife of Havaladar Abdul Majid, who was killed during an anti-terror operation in Rajouri.

The LG handed over the appointment letter to Majid's widow at Raj Bhawan here on Saturday in presence of the

family members of the martyr, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, paid homage to Majid who made supreme sacrifice for the nation during an anti-terror operation in Rajouri. He assured every possible assistance and support to the family of the braveheart.

Earlier this month, the LG had visited the family members of the martyr Havaladar in Ajote, Poonch.

BJP's J-K Unit Passes Resolution Opposing Dialogue With Pak

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit on Saturday held a one-day convention of office-bearers, during which it resolved that there should be no talks with Pakistan and demanded that those responsible for the exodus of minorities from Kashmir be identified and prosecuted.

The party also welcomed the Supreme Court's December 11 judgment upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and said the verdict put a stamp of finality, paving the way for strengthening the nation.

The convention was chaired by Ravinder Raina, the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit chief, at its headquarters in Jammu.

It was attended by BJP National General Secretary (Jammu and Kashmir In-charge) Tarun Chugh, National Secretary Narinder Singh and former ministers and legislators, a party spokesperson said.

He said a political resolution adopted at the meeting demanded that there should be no talks with Pakistan or its agents, including persons

or organisations that are "pre-pendons or supporters" of separatism in Jammu and Kashmir, as "terror and talks cannot go together".

The BJP resolved that the party will strive for absolute majority in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and that there will be a chief minister from the party, the spokesperson said.

"It is also resolved that the government of the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir will work to instil the feeling of confidence and peace in the masses and to promote nationalistic spirit to fight with terrorism and pre-pendons of terrorism and separatism," he said quoting the resolution.

The BJP also resolved that those responsible for the exodus of minorities from Kashmir in 1989-90 should be identified and prosecuted.

"Though normality is fast returning to Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan is still trying to destabilise the Union Territory by subversive activities and unleashing a reign of terror," according to the resolution.

"The recent spurt in terror

Vehicle Fitness Imperative For Passenger Safety: Transport Secy

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Transport, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, on Saturday conducted a comprehensive inspection at the fitness site in Khanpur, Nagrota.

The visit aimed to assess the process of granting fitness certificates to vehicles and ensure adherence to safety standards.

The Secretary was accompanied by his team, including Additional Secretary, Raj Mohammad Malik and Under Secretary, Manik Singh Rathore.

During the inspection, Transport Secretary observed certain irregularities in conduct of vehicle fitness checks. He noticed that most of the parameters that should be checked to ascertain the fitness of a vehicle require the inspector to get the vehicle driven for at least 6-7 minutes. He emphasized the need for a thorough and yet practical SOP to ensure the safety of vehicles on the road.

Secretary exhorted upon the

concerned authorities to ensure thorough inspection of mechanical issues, emission and technical faults besides overall working conditions of the vehicle. This will ensure there are no harmful byproducts released into the air to pollute the environment along with avoiding road accidents due to mechanical breakdown as fitness certificates to vehicles are being issued to guarantee on-road safety and environmental protection, he added.

Secretary directed the concerned authorities to initiate immediate corrective measures, emphasizing the importance of a rigorous and thorough evaluation of vehicles during fitness inspections. He underscored that the safety of commuters depends on the effectiveness of such examinations.

RTO Jammu, ARTO Headquarters, and both the ARTOs of Board of Inspection were also present there along with the team of MVIs.



A MAN CARRIES SACKS FULL OF COALS on his shoulders on a cold Saturday morning in Srinagar.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

'A Boon For Economy, Employment'

Fish Production Surges In J&K, Reaches 1990 Tons

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The fish production in Jammu and Kashmir has increased massively during the last four years and has reached 1990 tons during the financial year 2022-23.

Figures from the fisheries department, Kashmir reveals that the fish production in the valley has increased 5840 tons in the last four years and over 366.12 lakhs of revenue have been realised.

Director Fisheries, Mohammed Farooq Dar told Kashmir Observer that the government has launched several initiatives to boost the industry and help the farmers in the production.

He said 1144 Trout Rearing Units have been established under the Private sector, and out of them 611 units (56%) have been established during the last four years to provide gainful employment to the youth.

"The land and water efficient fish culture technologies viz. RAS, Biofloc etc have been introduced for the first time in 2020-21, and during the last 03 years 27 biofloc and RAS units have been established successfully in the private sector," he added.

The trout production has increased 1392 from the last four years, he said.

An official of the fisheries department said during the last four years the sector has corented as major food resource and an employment generation activity.



He said the UT has already achieved major breakthroughs in the introduction of Trout culture, Carp culture, modern aquaculture technologies (RAS, Biofloc etc) in the private sector.

"Although Fisheries and Aquaculture have grown in absolute terms, the development in terms of its potential and adoption of fisheries as an economic enterprise is being realized after 2019," he said.

He further said as the fisheries sector is extremely diverse and dynamic, the department introduced new schemes, infused public and private investments, and took innovative steps for the benefit of farmers and fishers towards optimal resource utilization and development of the sector as an instrument of growth.

He said considering such aspects, the department has launched comprehensive fisheries development initiative under both the UT CAPEX and under Centrally Sponsored

scheme PMMSY) which is being implemented in the UT since 2020.

"During the last four years the department modernized and strengthened the Govt infrastructure on one hand and also increased the rearing space by establishment of hatcheries and raceway/ponds," he said adding "The department introduced land and water efficient technologies viz. RAS, Biofloc etc. Department is expecting an increase in the growth rate from existing 3.28% to 40% over the next 05 years"

"The implementation of such a plan shall pave the way to make the UT self-sufficient in fish production," he added.

Dar told Kashmir Observer that, to increase capital and credit flow to the aquaculture sector, the department for the first time introduced extension of KCC to the fishers in 2020.

"Up to September 2023, 1171 cases have been sponsored out of which 758 have been sanctioned. An amount of 7819.23 lac has been disbursed for meeting the working capital requirement of the fish farmers," he noted.

He said, the Fish Feed Mills and Trout seed hatcheries have been established for the first time during the last 04 years as an economic enterprise.

The fund flow to the fisheries under the UT CAPEX (Plan) Budget has been increased by 34%, he added.

UPCOMING LOK SABHA POLLS

Sajad Lone, Bukhari Hold Secret Meeting In Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a big political development, PC President Sajad Lone and Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari met at an undisclosed location in Srinagar without aides and any security cover.

The one on one meeting assumes importance as it comes in the backdrop of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

According to sources, previously estranged leaders Sajad Lone and Altaf Bukhari met face to face after a very long time. They seem have expressed a

desire to temporarily set aside differences and prioritize a collective fight against a common adversary detrimental to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources close to them emphasized that despite not being on talking terms for the longest time now, the leaders strongly believe that the common adversary, involved in actions like killings, unjust imprisonments, and imposing draconian laws on innocent Kashmiris, must be overcome. They've agreed that they owe it to the people of J&K that common enemy of people of J&K should not win by virtue

of division of votes. Additionally, the source revealed that they also discussed the critical necessity of cleansing Kashmiri politics. "They intend to take other leaders on board and expose politicians who exhibit inconsistent behaviors. They especially felt that leaders who swear by sentiment by the day and enjoy the hospitality of agencies by the night need to be publicly exposed", he added.

This unexpected turn in political dynamics bears the potential to significantly impact electoral outcomes.(KNS)

Special Plantation Drive In Doda To Increase Green Cover

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A special plantation drive Green Earth, Happy Earth' to increase the green cover was launched at famous high-altitude tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, an official said on Saturday.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Chander Shekhar along with officials of Chirala and Neeru range of the Bhadarwah forest division launched the drive to plant 500 cedar saplings and four chinar trees at high-altitude meadow Jaie Valley located at a height of 7,800 ft above the sea level, the official said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Dilmir Choudhary and Superintendent of Police Vinod Sharma also joined the special drive.

"The drive is primarily to increase the green cover of the high altitude meadows which are becoming immensely popu-

lar and attracting tourists in large numbers," Shekhar told PTI.

He said eco-tourism is the new mantra of the tourism industry and more and more tourists prefer to visit alpine meadows to spend some time in the lap of mother nature.

"By planting majestic cedar and chinar trees, we want to make their experience even better," he said.

Welcoming the drive, Choudhary said it would surely encourage institutional plantation in a big way and also contribute in restoring the ecology and environment of the area.

"I think there is no better way to say goodbye to 2023 and welcome the new year by planting trees in your vicinity. I hope all the offices and educational institutions will plant saplings and ensure that at least one tree is adopted and taken care of by the individuals concerned. This should be our resolution for 2024," the ADC said.

Khyber Cement Launches Its Calendar For 2024



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Khyber Cement, one of the leading cement conglomerates from Jammu and Kashmir Saturday launched its Calendar for the year 2024, featuring the bridges of Kashmir valley.

General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar Hamida Akhter unveiled the calendar in Srinagar in presence of senior officials of the company.

Khyber Cement's Calendar for 2024 celebrates the bridges of J&K that serve as the lifeline connecting communities and preserving the rich cultural and historical heritage of the valley, a spokesperson of the firm said.

"Kashmir is an inseparable part of Khyber Cement's DNA. Khyber Cement takes utmost pride in belonging to the region and reflecting its shades in all manners of our work. The specially designed calendar for 2024 portrays different 'Bridges of Kashmir' that stand as an unwavering testament to-

wards its beauty and fortitude. One of the most integral parts of Kashmir's landscape, the bridges play a key role in offering access to all corners of the region fostering all round development," Akhter said.

The calendar, the spokesperson said, signifies the towering values of integrity and progress of Jammu & Kashmir, as reflected in the bridges that dot its picturesque landscapes.

"Khyber Cement, is proud to be an integral part of this journey, supporting strength and transition of the state of J&K and being an important contributor towards it" he said

"Khyber Cement continues its stride towards enhancing the well-being of Jammu and Kashmir, persistently striving to rehabilitate the environment. While following ethical and visionary practices, helping the company successfully expand into several businesses they also provided sponsorships to numerous organisations and an assortment of noteworthy causes". He added

Poonch Civilian 'Killings'

Mehbooba Barred From Meeting Families, Holds Protest

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Police on Saturday stopped PDP president Mehbooba Mufti from meeting the families of three people found dead a day after being picked up for questioning by the Army following a terror attack in Poonch last week, her colleagues said.

On December 21, four soldiers were killed and three others injured in an ambush on two Army vehicles by terrorists in Poonch's Saerankote area. Three civilians Safer Husain (43), Mohd Showket (27) and Shabir Ahmad (32) were picked up

by the Army for questioning later. They were found dead the next day. Mufti, accompanied by other party colleagues, was stopped by police at Dera Ki Gali near Buffiaz and was not allowed to proceed towards Topa Peer village to meet with the families of the victims, PDP leaders said.

The PDP chief staged a sit-in, demanding that she be allowed to visit the village and questioned the decision of the administration to place restrictions on her while allowing BJP president Ravinder Raina to meet the victims' families recently, they added.

Not "Big Electorate"

Very Little Said About 4.5 Lakh Displaced KPs: Ex-SC Judge Kaul

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Very little was said about the 4.5 lakh Kashmiri Pandits who got displaced from the Valley with the advent of separatist militancy, possibly because they were not "such a big electorate" as to invite "political intervention", former Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul has said.

Justice Kaul, who was part of the bench which upheld the abrogation of Article 370 in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and recommended setting up an "impartial truth and reconciliation commission" to probe

and report on human rights violations by both state and non-state actors since the 1980s, said people of different communities lived in unity before insurgency shattered the peace and he was at a loss to comprehend how the situation "slowly degenerated".

A Kashmiri Pandit himself, Kaul feels, it is time now for the people to move forward, after more than 30 years of unbridled violence.

In an interview with PTI on Friday, Justice Kaul spoke about the unanimous verdict of the five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud which upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate

Article 370 of the Constitution that bestowed special status on Jammu and Kashmir.

"It was a unanimous verdict which means all of us must have thought that this is the correct path to follow. Of course, every judgement, especially every important judgement, will generate debates. There will be people who will have a counter view to it. That does not affect me really because a judgment is an opinion of a situation and we should not be over-sensitive about it," he said.

He lamented the silence around the displacement of the minority Kashmiri Pandit com-

munity in the Muslim majority state.

"Earlier, security concerns were not really a problem. But then the degeneration reached a stage where more than four-and-half lakh people of one community from their own country were displaced from their place. I thought very little was said about that.

"Maybe they were not such a big electorate to invite that kind of political intervention and then the scenario deteriorated to such an extent that the Army had to be called in because the very territorial integrity of the country was being endangered..." he said.

About his recommendation for setting up a truth and reconciliation commission, Justice Kaul said it was a "good method" to acknowledge that some wrong had happened, adding that there was a whole generation of people in the region that did not see a "better time".

"The question is do we keep not tackling that issue? Do we let that thing still hurt people where it hurts? I thought it was a good method of acknowledging that something wrong has happened and what is that wrong that has happened. If you do that, you should move forward. 30 years is a long time. You have to move

forward," he said.

"It is not easy for people who left 30 years ago to come back. The security environment should be such that those people can get back to the places where they lived, not permanently, which is unlikely to happen now after so much time, but to have a place as people travel for occupation elsewhere, and maintain their ancestral homes. My personal belief is that merely ghettoization of communities in some areas may not be able to help. Not many people will come out like that," he added.

He was referring to the government's move to settle Kash-

miri Pandits in highly-protected zones together away from places where they once lived.

The commission, Justice Kaul said, will endeavour to heal those who have gone through troubled times.

"What has persuaded me to write that part (on the commission) begins with the beginning where I have set out the history of Kashmir, the assimilation, and how it evolved and how people were living there post partition, which is a traumatic period, and even Gandhiji thought that Kashmir was a place where semblance of unity prevailed," he said.

Rohit's SA Record In Focus Ahead Of 2nd Test

Agencies

Rohit Sharma's dismal record in South Africa has raised concerns among sections of the cricketing fraternity ahead of India's second Test against the Proteas in Cape Town. Before the beginning of the series, the Indian skipper averaged 15.37 in four Test appearances in South Africa. In the first Test, when South Africa humbled India, Rohit scored 5 (14) and 0 (8) in the two innings.

After the first Test, his average has hit an all-time low of 12.80 in 10 innings with 128 runs to his name. The experienced right-handed batter's best score on South African soil remains 47. His explosive start at the top was vital in India's 10-game unbeaten run in last month's World Cup.

Former India cricketer Subramaniam Badrinath questioned Rohit's place in the squad and even claimed that he has not proven himself as an opener outside India.

"Why is he (Virat) not



the captain of the Test team? I want to raise this valid question. He is a better test batter. There is no comparison between Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. He is a big player in terms of Test cricket. He has scored runs everywhere. Why is he not leading and a weaker player? As far as I am concerned, a weaker player who is not yet proven as an opener. He has been in and out. We can consider all of that. But I think Rohit Sharma

has not proven himself as an opener outside India. Why is he there?" Badrinath said on his YouTube channel.

Not only Rohit, youngster Yashasvi Jaiswal, who opened with Rohit in the first Test, has also struggled to muster up runs on the board. Yashasvi had emerged as a promising talent during the two-match Test series against West Indies. The left-handed batter had a dream Test debut as

he scored 171 and looked poised to get the doubleton. But the 22-year-old could only score 22 runs in the two innings of the first Test which India lost by an innings.

Both batters will be keen to provide India with the ideal start in the second Test which begins on December 3. The opening partnership will be crucial for India to have a chance of levelling the two-match series. (ANI)

Thakur Hit On Shoulder At Nets, Might Miss 2nd SA Test



Press Trust of India

CENTURION: The Indian team on Saturday received an injury scare after seam bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur suffered a blow on his shoulder at nets while batting.

There is a possibility of him missing the second Test in Cape Town beginning on January 3, but the extent of the hit could be ascertained through scanning, if required.

At this moment, it couldn't be confirmed if his injury warrants scans.

But Thakur was in considerable discomfort and couldn't bowl during

the net session.

Thakur, who was the first player to enter the throwdown nets, was hit on the left shoulder while facing throwdowns from fielding coach T Dilip.

It happened around 15 minutes into the net session when Rathour delivered a throwdown that kicked up from length.

It had Thakur in a tangle like it happened in the second innings of the first Test when pacer Kagiso Rabada generated an edge for David Bedingham to complete a catch.

Here too, Thakur couldn't fend

the short ball that hit his leading shoulder (left) and he immediately shrieked in pain.

But the Mumbai all-rounder continued batting in the nets.

Once he finished batting, the physio put an ice pack sling around his shoulder and he didn't take any further part in the nets.

This might be a simple bruise but it will be interesting to see how quickly the injury subsides.

Thakur was a big disappointment in the first Test having given away over 100 runs in just 19 overs and was below par with the bat as well.

Srinagar Athletic C'ship Concludes At Bakshi Stadium



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The two-day District Srinagar Athletic Championship 2023 concluded at Bakshi Stadium here. The championship began December 28 and ended on December 29, with over 150 athletes participating in eight Track and Field events.

The championship was organised by District Srinagar Athletic Association, under the aegis of J&K Amateur Athletics Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council and Amigos.

The prize distribution ceremony of

the championship was attended by Muzaffar Rahman Bhat, owner of Amigos Srinagar, Zahid Gul, Branch Manager Amul Kashmir, and Akbar Khan, Member J&K Sports Council.

Speaking on the occasion, Tufail Ramzan, Vice President J&K Amateur Athletics Association, said more such athletic events will be held in the future.

Medallists of the championship will now take part in the upcoming National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet, scheduled to be held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Kashmir Athletes Win Silver, 2 Bronze In Wushu Women's League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three athletes from Khelo India Centre for Wushu, Handwara Kupwara, have won three medals in the Wushu Women's League, making a mark in the tournament being held in Uttarakhand.

Khelo India Centre for Wushu trainee, Mehreen Bandy, bagged a silver medal after a tough competition from the opponents from fivediffer-

ent states. Other two Wushu athletes, Pakeeza Qureshi and Rasiba, also featured among the medallists, bagging a bronze medal each.

The J&K Sports Council said Saturday while the athletes have been working hard on their skills, the role of the council, led by its Secretary, Nuzhat Gull, and mentoring by national Wushu coach of the country, Kuldeep Handoo, has been of great significance in achieving the feat.

WFI Row: Vinesh Phogat Returns Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awards



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Multiple World Championship medallist Vinesh Phogat on Saturday returned her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award, keeping the two awards lying in the middle of National Capital's Kartavya Path after Delhi Police stopped her from reaching the Prime Minister's Office.

On Tuesday, the Asian Games gold medallist grappler had decided to return her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award to the government, saying such honours have become meaningless at a time when wrestlers are struggling to get justice.

Phogat had announced her decision in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On Saturday, she attempted to reach the Prime Minister's Office to return her awards but the police prevented her from reaching the PMO.

As a mark of protest, she left the awards on the Kartavya Path and they were later picked up by Delhi Police.

Phogat, along with Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, had protested against the election of Sanjay Singh, a close aide of former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who had been accused of sexual harassment by the three well-known grapplers.

Sakshi had also announced her retirement from wrestling soon after Sanjay Singh's appointment as WFI Chief.

However, the Sports Ministry had later suspended the newly-elected panel for not following the provisions of its own constitution while taking decisions while asking the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to constitute an ad-hoc panel to manage the affairs of the sports body.

Kashmiri Hockey Players To Compete In World Keshdhari Tournament

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri Sikh hockey players are set to participate in the upcoming World Keshdhari Hockey Tournament 2024, slated for November at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar,

Mohali.

Karnail Singh Peer Mohammad, Director of the International Sikh Sports Council, attended a meet at Pvt. Press Club in Rajbagh, with Chairman J&K Hockey Academy, Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani, em-

phasizing that only Sikh players maintaining their traditional appearance in Sikhi Saroop—uncut hair and beards—will be eligible to participate in the tournament. He underscored how such tournaments serve to connect

players with their heritage beyond the scope of sports.

Following Peer Mohammad's advocacy, Chairman Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani ensured the participation of Gursikh players from Kashmir in the upcoming tournament

at the International Hockey Stadium in Mohali. These players will depart from Srinagar to Mohali, under the guidance of Amarjeet Singh, ex-hockey player, veteran hockey club and his technical team.

Turkish Super Cup Final In Riyadh Postponed Amid Row

Agencies

RIYADH: The Turkish Super Cup final between Galatasaray and Fenerbahce scheduled to be played in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh on Friday was postponed over what the clubs described as "some problems" in the event's organisation.

At the heart of those issues, according to media reports, was the wish of the two Istanbul teams to wear t-shirts featuring the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, during the warm-up ahead of the evening kick-off. Turkish media said Saudi officials had rejected this demand, though it was not clear why, and that the clubs refused to play in the Super Cup final at the King Saud University venue, which is also known as Al-Awwal Park stadium, as a result.

Saudi state TV cited a statement by organisers the Riyadh Season saying the cancellation of the final was the result of the teams not adhering to match



regulations.

The scheduled final coincides with the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the secular Turkish Republic. There was no immediate comment from Saudi officials.

JOINT DECISION

"The 2023 Super Cup ... has been postponed to a later date as a result of a joint decision we made with our clubs, due to some problems in its organisation," the two teams and the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) said on X.

It was not clear where or when the final would be staged. The joint statement thanked Saudi Arabia's football federation and authorities for efforts they made to organise the event. There had also been media reports that Turkey's national anthem and flag would not be allowed at the final but the TFF earlier said they would feature.

Turkey's soccer teams received warm welcome on their return to Istanbul after the Super Cup final was postponed, Turkish media reported on Saturday.

The incident came amid a recent warming of relations between Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan visited Saudi Arabia in July amid efforts to repair ties that were ruptured after the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul in 2018.

Chelsea Survive Luton Fightback To Return To Winning Ways

Agencies

BEDFORDSHIRE: Chelsea survived a late Luton Town fightback to return to winning ways on the road on Saturday with a 3-2 win at Kenilworth Road, with Cole Palmer netting twice either side of a fine Noni Madueke strike.

The expensively assembled Blues had lost their previous four Premier League away games but looked certain to claim all three points when they were 3-0 up with little more than 10 minutes of normal time remaining.

Palmer put the Blues ahead in the 12th minute when he pounced on an error by Luton defender Issa Kabore to unleash a fierce angled shot that flew past Thomas Kaminski.

Luton were caught out in the 37th minute when Chelsea left-back Levi Colwill fed Palmer on the break and his pass found Madueke who created just enough space to



fire high into Kaminski's net. Nicolas Jackson split Luton's defence to find Palmer who kept his cool to round Kaminski and hold off a gaggle of defenders to slot home Chelsea's third in the 70th minute.

Former Chelsea midfielder Ross Barkley scored what looked like a consolation goal

for the hosts when he headed in from an Alfie Doughty corner in the 80th minute.

Seven minutes later Elijah Adebayo reduced the deficit to one goal, but Luton failed to get an equaliser.

The win left Chelsea in 10th place while Luton remain in the relegation zone in 18th spot.

New Bird Species

This discovery adds to Sofi's track record of documenting rare avian visitors to the region. In the last winter, he has recorded sightings of the Falcat Duck in Hokersar Wetland and the Black-bellied Plover in Wular Lake. Long-tailed ducks were spotted in Kashmir's Wular Lake after a gap of 84 years in January 2023.

"The valley witnessed eight new bird sightings this year which include Falcat Duck at Hokersar Wetland, Smew Duck at Wular Lake, Horned Grebe at Wular Lake, Northern Wheatear at Pahalgam, Western Reef-Heron at Wular Lake, Long-tailed Duck at Wular Lake, and the Broad-billed Sandpiper, also sighted at Wular Lake," Sofi said.

In 2022, birdwatchers observed new species, including waders (also known as shorebirds) and White-fronted Geese. Among other first sightings that have added to the region's ornithological allure are pied avocets, Whimbrel, Glossy Ibis, Little Tern, Greater Sand Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Sharp Tailed Sandpiper and many others.

According to Sofi, Hokersar Wetland, a crucial habitat for migratory birds, has welcomed over 200 new bird species so far.

As winter sets in, thousands of birds from various parts of the world migrate to Kashmir, seeking refuge from freezing temperatures in their summer habitats in Central Asia and Russia, where food becomes scarce. These birds can be seen in numerous wetlands across Kashmir, including Hygam, Pampore, Badi Nambal, Shalabugh, Anchar, Dal Lake, Wular Lake, Chatlum, Kranchoo, Manibugh, Freshkhooi, Hokersar, and Mirgund.

These rare finds that have thrilled conservationists and bird watchers alike, come amidst concerted efforts by authorities who pumped men and machinery to restore the pristine glory of the wetlands.

Wildlife warden, wetlands, Ifshan Dewan told Kashmir Observer that over 5-6 lakh migratory birds have visited Hokersar wetland so far. She said the conditions of the wetlands are in 'good position' and the migratory birds are arriving in large numbers.

"Whatever management interventions we had to do, we completed it. The condition of the wetlands is very good as of now," Dewan said. The department, she said, has plugged breaches and the water master is presently working in the wetland to create more channels.

Regarding freezing conditions, Dewan said if the water body freezes, artificial feed is provided. "But these birds primarily rely on natural food," she added.

The wetlands in the valley are under tremendous stress due to continuous human intervention including land grabbing, poaching, construction and pollution which have significantly altered the nature of these areas. Consequently, migratory birds face considerable challenges in locating suitable habitats within this Himalayan region.

According to a report from National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), the wetland has receded consistently and undergone tremendous land-use change owing to siltation coupled with floods and human interference.

"The Hokersar wetland has experienced fragmentation and changes in land use/land cover due to excessive siltation and biotic interference over the last four decades," the report said. The study noted that most of the developmental activities are usually undertaken with utter disregard to environmental, geological, geomorphological and ecological conditions of the region.

However, officials have asserted that they are actively pursuing multiple projects aimed at the restoration of the wetlands, and the work is currently in progress.

Notably, this year the Union territory administration undertook a mega project to rejuvenate Hokersar Wetlands, one of the eight Ramsar sites in the valley. With a focus on transforming the wetland into an ecotourism destination, authorities aim

to leverage its appeal to attract a multitude of migratory birds. The government is also working on restoration of Wular Lake in North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Dense Fog,

The meteorological department has said the weather would stay generally cloudy but dry over the next few days and the New Year is also likely to enter on a dry note.

There is no significant weather activity till January 5 next year, it said.

Only 31 Local

He said there are 31 identified local terrorists four in Jammu region's Kishtwar and 27 in the valley, who are active and the number is at an all-time low.

"There is an 80 per cent decline in terror recruitment this year. Year-on-year comparison shows that 130 locals joined terrorism in 2022 and this year, till date the number is 22. We will try to stop the recruitment completely which is essential to end the cycle of violence.

"When there is recruitment, action happens and the fallout follows, continuing the cycle. I am seeing the decline in recruitment as saving 113 people from getting killed this year," he said.

The DGP said that against 31 civilian killings by terrorists last year, the number dropped to 14 this year and the terror-related incidents declined from 125 in 2022 to 46 in 2023, recording a drop of 63 per cent.

"Four policemen including a DSP and an inspector were martyred this year, against 14 last year, thus recording a 71 per cent decline," he said.

He said 291 terror associates, who provide logistic support, work as guides and identify targets, were arrested this year compared to 373 last year.

"We have strengthened the record building and surveillance system by utilising technology and a repeat offender can now be easily identified and ensured a maximum sentence," he added.

The DGP said 201 overground workers (OGWs) 171 in Kashmir and the rest in Jammu zone - were detained under the PSA, while 89 terror modules, including 78 in Kashmir and 11 in Jammu, were busted this year.

Swain said 18 terrorist hideouts were unearthed with 12 in the valley and six in Jammu region.

He said 99 properties, linked to terrorism and separatism, worth more than Rs 170 crore, were attached including 57 by the State Investigation Agency. Besides, several bank accounts were frozen in addition to the recovery of cash, he added.

He said police identified 8,000 fake social media accounts, mostly working from outside the country and appropriate legal action against all those were ensured.

He said the strike calls and stone-pelting continue to show a downward trend and compared to 2021-22, this year it was the lowest. "There was zero response to organised strike calls from separatists and terrorists operating from across the border, giving a silent endorsement from a common man who wants peace and development."

The DGP said the society will not be allowed to remain hostage to a handful of sections and action against such elements is inevitable.

Swain said the overall security environment in Jammu and Kashmir has improved, paving way for successful conduct of a number of important events like three-day national conference on legal services and G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar, Amarnath yatra and Muharram procession after a gap of 34 years, besides Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress.

PM Virtually Flags Off

the next four months, connecting Kashmir with Kanyakumari by train, according to officials.

Under the leadership of PM Modi, Sinha said, J&K is witnessing fast-paced quality infrastructure development. He said last-mile connectivity for inclusive development

has also enhanced ease of living for citizens in far-flung areas, increased economic activities and livelihood opportunities.

"The UT of J&K has made impressive strides to socio-economic development in the last four years. We have undertaken road and railway infrastructure projects of unprecedented magnitude and they are being implemented at an unprecedented speed. It is also a symbol of our unshakable commitment to all-round progress of the Union Territory," the LG said.

Reiterating the commitment to reach out to the last person in the last row, Sinha said that under the guidance of PM, his administration is determined and working for four pillars, four castes- poor, youth, women and farmers, who will be the architects of the developed India.

He also highlighted the unprecedented growth registered in the tourism sector and shared the efforts of administration to strengthen the religious tourism circuit in the region.

"Several incredible tourist destinations of Jammu division are witnessing huge tourist influx and boost to local economy of far off-the-beaten-track. Shiv Khori Shrine Board is committed to the development of Shiv Khori Shrine. I hope Heli service from Katra to Shiv Khori will start in the coming days," the LG added.

After August 2019, the LG said, the connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country has witnessed an improvement.

"The first Vande Bharat train was flagged off between Katra and New Delhi in October 2019 and so far, 94 lakh pilgrims have visited the Vaishno Devi shrine and the pilgrim footfall is likely to cross 95 lakh by the end of this year which is the highest in the past 10 years..." he said.

The work on upgrading the Jammu, Budgam and Udhampur railway stations at Rs 6,003 crore under the Amrit Bharat Scheme is going on at a fast pace, while several other stations in the Jammu region are also being upgraded, Sinha added.

He said the state-of-the-art Vistadome coach was introduced in Kashmir in October and the final location survey is going on for four new railway lines between Awantipora and Shopian, Anantnag and Pahalgam, Sopore and Kupwara and Baramulla and Uri.

"Under the leadership of the prime minister, the development of basic infrastructure to provide ease of travel, better facilities, job opportunities and connectivity to the last village was ensured. The whole country is seeing a picture of Jammu and Kashmir which is moving up in overall development, peace and prosperity under the guidelines of Modi," Sinha said.

Union Minister of State, PMO Dr Jitendra Singh said that the way railway is laying its network in Jammu and Kashmir, experts will visit the place to know how the train reached Kashmir.

"The railway network is going to be a catalyst in changing the picture of J-K where one crore pilgrims visit Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and another two crore tourists reach the Valley," Singh, a Lok Sabha member from the Udhampur parliamentary constituency, said. (With PTI inputs)

Vows To Wipe

to wiping out terrorism from the south of the Pir Panjal region. The terrorists are operating from hideouts deep inside the forests, with the support of some locals whose numbers are "very very limited", he said. The twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region have witnessed a spurt in terror activities this year, leaving 19 Army personnel and seven civilians dead. As many as 25 terrorists have also been killed in encounters, mostly along the Line of Control (LoC), as the security forces foiled several infiltration attempts.

"There is a security situation in the Rajouri-Poonch belt but we will not like to discuss our strategy in public. However, as a matter of right for the public to know, there are mostly foreign terrorists operating with some amount of support from some selected persons within our territory and

there is no doubt about it," the police chief told reporters in Jammu.

However, Swain said the number of terror supporters is "very very limited" and added that it is a challenge to identify these "very very limited" people who are with the terrorists and not living in their homes, instead hiding in the forests.

When the terrorists operate from their hideouts deep inside the forests, the flow of information becomes scarce, the police chief said.

"Obviously, it is a challenge and we are using all of our fighting strength and resources to counter them," Swain said.

The forces are cognisant and committed in their resolve to effectively deal with and wipe out terrorism before it sprouts, he added.

The police chief said the region was cleared of terrorists and there was peace between 1997 and 2003-04.

"We are mindful of that situation and we are mindful of this situation as well. There is a gap and we will not allow this gap to be breached in their favour," Swain said.

LG Directs Speedy

"We are ensuring citizens are heard and poorest of the poor enjoy the fruits of growth and get access to a life of dignity," he said.

Taking appraisal of the grievances received on JKIGRAMS, the LG directed the officials for effective, efficient and speedy action on complaints and concerns of citizens.

"It is my solemn pledge to ensure sensitive and caring government machinery at all levels to enhance the overall well-being of the common man," Sinha said.

He also commended the exemplary participation of youth, women, farmers, PRLs and officials in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Responding to the complaint of Nazir Ahmad Dar from Wachi, Shopian pertaining to the completion of the work on Borewell in his locality, the LG directed the concerned officials to take a comprehensive review of optimal performance of borewells across the UT to ensure that people do not face any inconvenience in this regard.

On the grievance of Bashir Ahmed, a resident of Parnote B, Ramban, regarding the shortage of teaching staff in a primary school in his village, Sinha directed the School Education Department to take concrete measures for the rationalization of teachers in schools and submit a report within 15 days.

Rubaya Akhter from Kokernag, Anantnag expressed gratitude to the LG- led administration for speedy redressal of grievance for issuance of Other Backward Class certificate in her favour.

On the issue pertaining to mobile connectivity in Behota, Doda, Deputy Commissioner Doda briefed the chair that the land has been identified for installation of mobile tower in the area.

The LG directed all the District Administrations to identify the uncovered areas and ensure better communication services to the citizens.

H also further directed the Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners and senior officials to review and monitor development projects nearing completion and ensure sufficient stock of transformers in snowbound areas.

Lord Ram Belongs

"I also want to say to the whole nation that Lord Ram doesn't only belong to Hindus; he belongs to everyone in the world. He is the Lord for all the people across the world. It's written in the books," he added.

Abdullah further said that Lord Ram has given a message of brotherhood, love, unity and helping each other.

"He (Lord Rama) has given a message of brotherhood, love, unity and helping each other. He has always said to uplift the fallen, irrespective of their religion or ethnicity. He has given a universal message. Today, as this temple is about to be inaugurated, I want to tell the people of the country

to revive the brotherhood that is diminishing in our country. I want to tell everyone to maintain that brotherhood," he said.

The consecration ceremony scheduled for January 22 will witness the installation of the idol of Ram Lalla (Lord Ram in his childlike form) at the grand temple. It is expected to be attended by hundreds of officials, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The trust has also invited 4,000 saints of all sects for the ceremony.

Vedic rituals for the Pran-Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya will begin on January 16, next year, a week before the main ceremony.

A Vedic priest from Varanasi, Lakshmi Kant Dixit, will perform the main rituals of the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla on January 22. From January 14 to January 22, Ayodhya will mark the Amrit Mahautsav.

A 1008 Hundi Mahayagya will also be organised in which thousands of devotees will be fed. Several tent cities are being erected in Ayodhya to accommodate thousands of devotees, who are expected to arrive in the temple town of Uttar Pradesh for the grand consecration of the Ram Temple.

According to the Sri Ram Janambhoomi Trust, arrangements will be made for 10,000-15,000 people.

The trust has decided to enthrone the idol of Lord Ram at the sanctum sanctorum between noon and 12.45 pm on January 22. Lakshmi Kant Dixit, a Vedic priest, is scheduled to perform the main rituals of the consecration ceremony on the day.

4 Kashmiris Detained

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to adjoining Ayodhya, officials said on Saturday.

Station House Officer (SHO) of Kotwali police station Sri Ram Pandey they are from Poonch district and were detained from a hotel Friday night.

"The action was taken as part of a vigil being observed in the wake of PM Modi's visit to Ayodhya today (Saturday)," he said.

The SHO said all four were questioned and their identity cards and other documents are being checked.

"They have told us that they work at a madrasa and have come to Barbanki to collect donations. They have also claimed that they visit different parts of the country during winter for this," the SHO said, adding that they will be released after basic questioning, PTI

J&K Sees A Decline

outages after the revocation of the special status of the former state by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government. The erstwhile state underwent the world's longest internet shutdown from August 2019 to January 2020 when 2G internet was restored. It took 18 more months for the authorities to reinstate 4G services. The authorities maintained that the restriction on the internet was necessary to "maintain the law and order" in the UT.

According to a study by Surfshark, a virtual private network provider, J&K recorded the highest internet shutdowns in 2022 in a single region in the world. The figures reveal that there were 79 shutdowns in 2021, while 2020 recorded the highest in the last 10 years, with a total of 116 shutdowns in UT.

The internet shutdowns would impact a number of sectors, including trade, tourism, students, doctors, journalists, and other workers.

"It's really a positive sign. The internet is as important as oxygen. You can't imagine life without the internet," said Seerat Mir, a student from Srinagar.

She said that the less internet shutdowns are reflecting efforts towards ensuring uninterrupted connectivity and fostering a conducive environment for growth and communication in the region.

In August this year, mobile internet was suspended in Rajouri following reports of internet services being misused by "anti-national elements/"

miscreants," which may cause deterioration in public order.

On December 29, mobile internet services were restored in Poonch after seven days following the killing of three civilians allegedly by the Army in custody.

A top official from J&K administration told Kashmir Observer that mobile internet remained unaffected during Independence Day and Republic Day and the authorities will try their best that there will be least internet shutdowns.

"No one likes to shut the internet but it depends on the situation. The internet is being misused by terrorists and miscreants who try their best to spread fake narratives. That's why sometimes we have to restrict it in particular areas," he said.

Crime Branch

only Rs 1.41 crore to him and the remaining amount was neither returned nor any goods were supplied by the accused, the spokesman said.

He said the accused also issued a cheque of Rs 60 lakh to the complainant but it was dishonoured by the bank.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary verification was conducted and during the course of inquiry the allegations made were prima-facie substantiated leading to the registration of a formal case under the relevant sections, the spokesman said.

He said the offences under section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code are established against Ninawe, who is on bail.

Doctors Allay

to combat a potential resurgence of the coronavirus.

Medical Superintendent of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Dr. Farooq Jan, said that the Kashmir valley remains untouched by discussions about Covid-19 resurgence.

"From October to this day, a total of 16 patients have been admitted on the assumption of being positive, but most of them turned out to be negative. As of now, the situation is completely normal," Dr. Jan said.

"In this part of India, there is no need to worry, and there are no indicators that the cases are rising here. So, there is no justification for unnecessarily wasting our resources. While there has been a resurgence in Kerala and elsewhere, in Kashmir, everything is normal," Dr. Jan added.

Medical Superintendent of Chest Diseases (CD) Hospital, Srinagar, Dr. Saleem Tak, voiced similar views, saying that there is not a single covid-19 positive patient in the hospital. He, however, said that there is a substantial increase in common flu cases which is seasonal.

"Our hospital has been designated as a Coronavirus hospital for many years. At present, there is nothing to worry about, and there is no surge. If something of that sort happens, we are ready to deal with that scenario," Dr. Tak said.

"The flu is seasonal in Kashmir and it is due to exposure that people fall ill. Covid-19 is a different phenomenon. As of now, we have not noticed any unusual activity," Dr Muzaffar, Medical Superintendent Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital said.

The J&K administration on Wednesday had directed health department officials to activate Covid-19 testing facilities and conduct ample testing following the revised surveillance strategy.

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

He passed these directions while reviewing the Covid-19 situation and preparedness of the public health system across J&K particularly in light of the recent advisory issued by the Union Health Ministry concerning the emergence of a new variant, JN.1, an official spokesperson had said

Aes Kaeshir

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