

HM To Chair High-Level Meet On J&K Today



Agencies

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to chair a high-level security review meeting on Tuesday which would discuss the law and order situation and issues like security grid and zero terror plan, sources said.

In the meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, the HM is to review the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security as well as development initiatives in the Union Territory.

It is learnt that the Shah would review the area domination plan, zero terror plan, law and order situation, cases related to UAPA and other security-related issues. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, and Director General of Police RR Swain would be present in the meeting, sources said.

The meeting will also be attended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Director Generals of Police of Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force besides concerned officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Centre had notified a New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 28, 400 crore to boost industrial development. The HM may review the development projects of the Union Territory.

During 2022-23, an investment of Rs 2153.45 crore was realized in the industrial sector. In 2023-24, an investment of Rs. 2326.65 crore has been realized up to November 2023.

The HM had chaired a similar high-level review meeting on the security situation | [More on P06](#)

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MANOJ SINHA, CHIEF SECRETARY ATAL DULLOO, and Director General of Police RR Swain would be present in the meeting, sources said.

Gulmarg Rings In New Year Without Snowfall, Tourists Upset

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: Even as the picturesque Gulmarg witnessed a grand New Year celebration, featuring a sequence of musical events, hundreds of tourists—both domestic and international—were dismayed by the absence of snowfall in the health resort.

The anticipated white blanket that tourists were eager to witness remained elusive, leaving them disappointed.



The department of tourism had invited a number of singers including Aabha | [More on P06](#)

Kashmir Hotels Thrive, Shimla Faces A Dip In Bookings

Syed Mohammad Burhan

In a remarkable twist to the usual New Year's travel patterns, Kashmir has taken the spotlight as the go-to destination, with its hotels fully booked. This surge in popularity stands in stark contrast to the iconic hill station of Shimla, known for its charm and allure, which has witnessed a decline in hotel | [More on P06](#)

Terrorism Down But Hasn't Been Wiped Out In J&K: DGP

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief R R Swain on Monday said there has been a decline in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir but it has not been completely wiped out, and asked his men to work towards peace so voters and candidates can take part in elections without fear.

In his New Year message to police officials, Swain said the challenge for 2024 is not to let the dismantled terror ecosystem "take roots or resurface even marginally in any form".

The Supreme Court recently directed the Centre to hold the long-awaited assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30 this year.



Urban local bodies and panchayats in the union territory have completed their five-year terms.

In his five-page message, the director general of police (DGP) said, "We need to be fully prepared to ensure

a peaceful environment... where ordinary young men and women without pedigree but committed to transparent governance and well-being of their electorate feel free to vote as voters and compete with each other to | [More on P06](#)

23 Terrorists Declared As Proclaimed Offenders

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar Shivers At Minus 5.2 Deg Celsius

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Kashmir ushered in the New Year on a dry note even as the cold wave intensified in the valley with the minimum temperature plunging two to three degrees further below the freezing point, officials said on Monday.

There has been no snowfall in most plain area of Kashmir while upper reaches of the valley have also received lesser than usual amount of snow by the end of December.

The open skies have resulted in the minimum temperature sliding further in most parts, including Srinagar, the officials said.

The minimum temperature dropped in the summer capital of | [More on P06](#)

A court in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday declared 23 terrorists from Kishtwar district, who are operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), proclaimed offenders, police said. The special Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) court in Doda gave them a month to appear before it in connection with cases registered against them, failing which their properties will be attached, officials said. With Monday's court order, the total number of proclaimed offenders in Kishtwar stands at 36, they said. "In a significant move to address security challenges within the district, 23 terrorists from Kishtwar operating from Pakistan and PoK | [More on P06](#)

ARTICLE- 370 JUDGEMENT

CJI Chandrachud Refuses To Respond To Criticism 'What We Have Said In My Judgement Is Reflected In The Reason Present In The Signed Judgement And I Must Leave It At That'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Monday refused to respond to criticism of the unanimous five-judge bench verdict of the Supreme Court upholding scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution, saying the judges decide a case "according to the Constitution and the law".

In an exclusive interview to PTI, the CJI said the judges speak their mind through their judgement which becomes public property after the pronouncement and people in a free society can always make their opinion about it.

"So far as we are concerned we decide according to the Constitution and the law. I



don't think it will be appropriate for me either to respond to the criticism or mount a defence to my judgement. What we have said in my judgement is reflected in the reason present in the signed judgement and I must leave it at that," Justice Chandrachud said. The response came to a

72 Terrorists Killed In J&K In 2023: CRPF

A total of 72 terrorists, 50 of them having a foreign origin, were killed by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir in 2023, officials said Monday. As many as 91 terrorists are still active in the Union Territory, according to figures made available by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Out of these 91, 66 are foreign terrorists and 25 locals, the data said. The CRPF is deployed extensively for rendering law | [More on P06](#)

India, Pak Exchange List Of Nuke Installations

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Continuing with an over three-decade practice, India and Pakistan on Monday exchanged a list of their nuclear installations under a bilateral pact that prohibits the two sides from attacking each other's atomic facilities.

The exchange of the list took place under the provisions of an agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

It was done simultaneously through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad.

"India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the list of nuclear installations and facilities, covered under the agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities between India and Pakistan," the MEA said.

The agreement | [More on P06](#)

Lt Gen Sachdeva Is GoC 16 Corps

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva on Monday took charge as the new general officer commanding of the 16 Corps and exhorted troops to work towards maintaining operational preparedness and ensuring peace.

He took charge after Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain relinquished the command of the elite White Knight Corps (16 Corps) that oversees the operational area of the Jammu region in the south of the Pir Panjal region.

"Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva took over the command of the White Knight Corps from Lt Gen Sandeep Jain," the army announced on X.

Lt Gen Sachdeva exhorted all ranks to work relentlessly towards maintaining the operational preparedness of the highest order and ensuring peace and stability in the region, the army said.

Lt Gen Jain, who relinquished the command of the corps, paid tributes to the bravehearts by laying a wreath at the Ashwamedh Shaurya Sthal | [More on P06](#)

Kashmir's Umrah Service Providers Report 50% Drop In Bookings

Agencies

Srinagar: Umrah tour operators in Kashmir are grappling with subdued response this season with heavy slump in the bookings.

This, despite the fact that the rate of Umrah package this year is comparatively Rs 10,000 low compared to the previous year. Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca that can be undertaken any time of the year.

Typically, the Umrah season, i.e from December to March, in Kashmir sees a surge in bookings and enthusiasm as devout Muslims embark on a spiritual journey to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. However,



As per the Umrah tour operators of Kashmir, very few people have turned to book Umrah packages this season. "We would often get bookings for Umrah starting in October. It is December and we receive very few people who opt for Umrah. From Srinagar, we receive very few pilgrims compared to the rest of the valley," president Jammu and Kashmir Association of Hajj Umrah Companies, Sheikh Feroz said.

He said they witnessed a notable 50% decrease in the flow of pilgrims compared to the previous year. "We anticipate the overall flow of pilgrims this season will be almost 50 percent less compared to | [More on P06](#)

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JE Recruitment Exam Paper Leak

CBI Files Charge-Sheet Against 15 Accused

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The CBI on Monday said it has filed a charge-sheet against 15 accused in a case related to irregularities in a written examination for the recruitment of junior engineer (civil) in Jammu and Kashmir's Jal Shakti Department.

The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered the case on January 9 last year on a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir administration. The exam was conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

The 15 accused against

whom the charge-sheet was filed include former Jammu and Kashmir assistant sub-inspector Ashok Kumar, former CRPF head constable Pawan Kumar, former Army sepoy Aswani Kumar and a teacher, the CBI said.

During investigation, it was found that the accused conspired with a private person, it said.

"In pursuance of the conspiracy, an employee of the printing press allegedly stole the question paper of JE (Civil) examination and handed over the same to the said private person. The private person contacted other accused to zarrange/solicit | [More on P06](#)

Aes Kaeshir

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Low-Cost Plant Compound May Help People Quit Smoking: Study

Press Trust Of India

Cytisine, a plant-based compound, increases the chances of successful smoking cessation by over two-fold compared with placebo and may be more effective than nicotine replacement therapy, a study has found.

Cytisine, a low-cost, generic stop-smoking aid has been used in eastern Europe since the 1960s and has shown no serious safety concerns, the researchers said.

However, the compound is not licensed or marketed in most countries outside of central and eastern Europe, making it unavailable in most of the world, including many low- and middle-income (LAMI) countries where it could make a big difference to global health.

The study, published in the journal *Addiction*, pooled the results of eight trials comparing cytisine with placebo, with nearly 6,000 patients.

The combined results showed that cytisine increases the chances of successful smoking cessation by more than two-fold compared with placebo, the researchers said.



They also noted that cytisine may be more effective than nicotine replacement therapy, a medically approved way to treat people with tobacco use disorder by taking nicotine through means other than tobacco. "Our study adds to the evidence that cytisine is an effective and inexpensive stop-smoking aid.

It could be very useful in reducing smoking in LAMI countries where cost-effective smoking cessation drugs are urgently needed," said Omar De Santi from Centro Nacional de Intoxicaciones (CNI), Buenos Aires, Argentina. "World-wide, smoking is considered the main cause of prevent-

able death. Cytisine has the potential to be one of the big answers to that problem," said De Santi, lead author of the study.

The research also looked at two randomised controlled trials comparing cytisine with nicotine replacement therapy, with modest results in favor of cytisine, and three trials comparing cytisine with varenicline, without a clear benefit for cytisine.

Cytisine was first synthesised in Bulgaria in 1964 as Tabex and later spread to other countries in eastern Europe and Asia, where it is still marketed, according to the researchers.

In 2017, the Polish pharmaceutical company Aflofarm began selling it as Desmoxan, a prescription-only medicine, and Canada approved it as an over-the-counter natural health product, Cravv, they said.

Because cytisine is a low-cost drug, it could form part of a plan to increase accessibility to drug therapy for smokers, which tends to be limited in LAMI countries, the researchers added.

NOTICE
I have purchased a house bearing plot No. 207-2/A situated at Housing Colony Bemina (Alfarooq colony Bemina bearing consumer ID 0203010002402. Now I want to change the consumer name from Zahoor Ahmad S/o Muhammad Ibrahim Pohloo to Ruqaiya Akhtar w/o Abdul Hameed Lone R/o Arath Budgam. Anyone having any objection regarding the same may approach Assistant Executive Engineer PDD office Bemina within 07 days. After the stipulated time no objection will be entertained.
Ruqaiya Akhtar
W/o Abdul Hameed Lone
R/o Arath Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that the spelling of my name in my Electrical Engineering certificate has wrongly been mentioned as SHAMS SHABIR MALIK instead of SHAMAS SHABIR. My true and correct name as per my matriculation certificate is SHAMAS SHABIR. A correction to the same effect is needed if any one has any objection he or she may file the same with the office of KGP polytechnic /BOTE old Secretariat Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, and after that date, no objection whatsoever will be entertained
Shamas Shabir

PUBLIC NOTICE
My DOB in my aadhaar card has been wrongly written as 10/12/1968 while my correct DOB as per Medical Certificate is 17-10-1966 which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Gh. Hassan Mir
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir
R/o Magam

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that the spelling of my name in my Electronics Engineering certificate has wrongly been mentioned as Adnan Imtiyaz Ahmad Rangraz instead of Adnan Imtiyaz Ahmad rangraz. My true and correct name as per my matriculation certificate is Adnan Imtiyaz Ahmad rangraz. A correction to the same effect is needed if any one has any objection. He or she may file the same with the office of KGP polytechnic /BOTE old Secretariat Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, and after that date, no objection whatsoever will be entertained
Adnan Imtiyaz

Before The Hon'ble High Court Of Jammu & Kashmir And Ladakh At Srinagar
Caveat Application No. ___/2024

- IN THE MATTER OF:-
1. Rouf Shaban Lone/S/o Muhammad Shaban Lone
R/o Manglam, Lar, Ganderbal
2. Sajid Ahmad Wani/S/o Nazir Ahmad wani
R/o Shah Sultan Colony Kangan, Ganderbal
3. Shabir Ahmad Khan S/o AB. Hameed Khan
R/o Asham, Sumbal, Bandipora
4. Rizwan Ur Rehman S/o Ab. Rehman Nai
R/o Khaloora, Malwa, Kulgam
5. Sumaiya Sharif D/o Mohammad Sharif Rather
R/o Padshahi Bagh, Srinagar
6. Fazila Parwal, D/o Parwal Ahmad Shawl
R/o Natipora, Srinagar
7. Zeenab Bano W/o Shahzada Lijakat Khan R/o Srinagar
8. Aanesa Muzaffar D/o Syed Muzaffar Ahmad
R/o Lower Mundah, Verinag, Anantnag
9. Ruffy Ara D/o Ab Majid wani R/o Panzet Qazigund, Anantnag
10. Belal Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohd Abdullah Bhat
R/o Nala Sundrani, Anantnag
11. Mukhtar Ahmed Goger Bhat S/o Ab Gani Goger Bhat
R/o Nala Sundrani, Anantnag
12. Shrat Shafi D/o Mohammad Shafi Khandi
R/o Mohandpora, Shopian
13. Afaz Bashir Wani S/o Bashir Ahmad Wani
R/o Dadoora, Pulwama
14. Rafeeq Ahmad Ganie S/o Ab. Rahman Ganie
R/o Syedabad Tral, Pulwama
15. Mohd. Rafi Bhat S/o Ashiq Hussain Bhat
R/o Tawheedpor, Sopore, Baramulla
16. Shanaz Antoo S/o Fayaz Ahmad Antoo
R/o Badambagh, Baramulla
17. Majid Khan S/o Farid Khan
R/o Gingal, Uri, Baramulla
18. Feroz Ahmad Reshi S/o Gh. Hassan Reshi
R/o Watlab, Sopore, Baramulla
19. Sayed Sameer Ahmad S/o Syed Sarwar Ahmad
R/o Zamzama, Zandafaran, Baramulla
20. Sameera Yousuf S/o Mohd Yousuf Haji
R/o Ganibaba, Tangmarg, Baramulla
21. Majid Saleem Lone S/o Mohd Saleem Lone
R/o Sundoo Bul Bul Nowgam, Anantnag
22. Hilal Ahmad Kambay R/o Astan Mohalla Tailbal, Srinagar.
- ... CAVEATORS
VERSUS
Public at large
... NON-CAVEATOR

CAVEAT APPLICATION MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:
1. That pursuant to the recommendations made by J&K Service Selection Board, vide Order No. 60-SSB/Secy/SeI/2020/1273-76, dated: 05.02.2020 and 61-SSB of 2020, dated: 05.02.2020, issued under SSB/Secy/SeI/2020/1277-81, dated: 05.02.2020, as conveyed by Administrative Department to School Education, vide communication No. Edu-NGK/436/2022-01, dated 21.12.2023, the Caveators came to be recommended for appointment as Teacher (Urdu, Science-Math and General line Teacher).
2. That the Directorate of School Education, vide Notification No. 01-DSEK of 2024, dated 01.01.2024, informed the candidates, whose names have been recommended for appointment as Teacher, in which list the Caveators also figure, to submit their Testimonials/Certificates, and Verification of Character & Antecedents.
3. That the Caveators apprehend that the one from the general public would approach this Hon'ble Court and by suppressing the material facts, and through misrepresentation, would obtain an ex-parte order against the candidates (Caveators herein) whose names have been recommended for appointment as Teacher (Urdu, Science-Math and General line Teacher), which would cause serious detriment to the interests of the Caveators. In case anyone from the general public challenges the recommendation issued in favour of the Caveators for appointment as Teacher or otherwise challenges the selection process, by way of a writ petition or otherwise, the Caveators being necessary parties deserve to be heard before any order is contemplated to be passed by this Hon'ble Court. Copy of the newspaper cutting, evidencing publication of general notice is appended herewith as Annexure-B.
PRAYER
In the premises, it is therefore, prayed that in case the non-Caveator files any writ petition or any other proceedings against the Caveators, the Caveators be afforded an opportunity of being heard, before any ex-parte order bearing upon the selection and the recommendation issued in favour of the Caveators is passed.
AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE APPLICANT AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.
Caveators through Counsel
ATTAR, BANDEY AND ASSOCIATES
DATE: 02.01.2024
PLACE: Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
Office Of The Block Development Officer Pahalgam

Subject: Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Solid Waste Management in Block Pahalgam District Anantnag.

On behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the eligible and interested agencies are hereby invited for the execution of a Solid Waste Management Plan in District Anantnag Block Pahalgam.

1. BACKGROUND:
The Solid Waste Management program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Pahalgam, in line with the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The program will cover the CD Block Pahalgam comprising of 19 Gram Panchayats mentioned below:

| S.No | Name of Panchayat | Approximate No of Households | Other Establishments |
|------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Ainoo Bari | 467 | 15 |
| 2 | Amad Wagad | 437 | 10 |
| 3 | Batkote | 733 | 24 |
| 4 | Delwatoo | 236 | 10 |
| 5 | Frislana | 195 | 10 |
| 6 | Ganishpora | 235 | 10 |
| 7 | Grendwon | 486 | 12 |
| 8 | Karshangam | 452 | 26 |
| 9 | Kullar Bala | 310 | 15 |
| 10 | Kullar Payen | 331 | 17 |
| 11 | Lidroo | 422 | 10 |
| 12 | Logripora | 410 | 10 |
| 13 | Mandlana | 734 | 26 |
| 14 | Awoora | 449 | 24 |
| 15 | Veeriran | 513 | 10 |
| 16 | Wajoora | 226 | 16 |
| 17 | Wahdan | 236 | 18 |
| 18 | Yanned A | 362 | 25 |
| 19 | Yanned B | 256 | 55 |
| | Total | 7490 | 313 |

2. SCOPE OF WORK:
The contracting agency will be responsible for the following processes:
Solid Waste Collection
a) Sanitation and door-to-door collection of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from all households of one of the three designated clusters covering all households, shops, factories, industrial establishments, etc. at least thrice a week.
b) A Panchayat-Halqa-wise schedule of waste collection shall further be notified in consultation with the concerned Block Development Officer and Gram Panchayat.
c) The intending agency shall collect all types of waste-door-to-door waste, waste from already installed dustbins, and legacy wastes that the objective of ODF plus is obtained and sustained.
d) Ensuring segregation of waste preferably at the household level and mandatorily at the already constructed segregation shed sites.
e) Effective and scientific management and disposal of collected waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. A weekly review/report shall be submitted by halqa panchayat to ascertain the effectiveness of weekly disposal.

Revenue realization
a) Conducting a fresh survey, in consultation with the field functionaries of the Rural Development Department, to update the household data and include commercial factories, business units, institutions, shops, etc. Collection of monthly Fees /Charges from the households preferably in digital mode in consultation with the officials of this department.
b) Revenue generation through sustainable waste management practices, such as selling segregated dry waste to authorized dealers.
c) User charges collected shall be deposited in Halqa Panchayat Fund of concerned Gram Panchayat on a monthly basis out of which 10 to 40% (to be decided later) of the Fee/user charges so collected shall form a revenue part and the remaining shall be utilized for incurring the expenditure on account of sanitation work done.

Maintenance
a) Maintenance and upkeep of departmental garbage collection vehicles, and other amenities used for waste collection and ensuring their dedicated use only for solid waste management purposes.
b) The Vehicles used for waste collection shall be departmental and the agency has to use these Vehicles/e-rickshaws etc. by engaging its own staff and ensuring the vehicle's maintenance in all respects.
c) The intending agency shall be responsible for the smooth handing over of all assets (Vehicles/machinery/Civil Structures and possession of the sites in good condition to the concerned department after completing the allotment of one year (without any damage)

Manpower & Machinery
a) The contracting agency has to engage sweepers/ waste collectors, Drivers, and Management staff with a unique uniform having a unique logo, the design and details of which shall be conveyed to the contracting agency later.
b) The contracting agency has to operate and maintain all the e-carts, garbage collection vans, and machinery at its own level and has to bear the electricity, POL, and maintenance/repair charges of the machinery. The contracting agency will be required to obtain necessary permissions/approvals from the BDO concerned for repair, and maintenance of the existing machinery, if required, at any time.

Dispute Resolution and Penal provision
a) In case of any dispute, the Block Development Officer concerned shall be the first appellate authority, the 2nd appellate authority shall be the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Anantnag and the third appellate & final authority shall be the District Level Sanitation Committee for implementation of SBM-G.

b) The contracting agency shall have to report to the Block Development Officer concerned in case of any violation by any Household/establishment for imposing a fine. Further, the agency may be required to paste color-coded notices across the panchayat
c) In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the District level Sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.

IEC endeavors and inciting behavioral change
a) The contracting agency shall chalkout a plan for a sustained IEC campaign for inciting behavioral change among the people through various means. The means could be composing appealing and effective sanitation jingles played through h over head speakers of waste collection vehicles on a regular basis, organizing special sanitation drives by involving local youth clubs, students, and Self Help Groups, organizing monthly felicitation ceremonies for best cooperative and complying Panchayats in consultation with the BDO concerned and the District administration, etc... Monthly IEC plans, 10 days in advance, to be submitted to the concerned BDO for review and approval.
b) The contracting agency shall influence the general public through its best possible sanitation services and shall motivate and convince them to segregate the waste at the source besides reducing the use of Single Use Plastics.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
The contracting agency must meet the following criteria:
a) The agency can be a sole proprietor, registered contractor, registered partnership firm, limited liability partnership, public limited company, private limited company, society or NGO, etc.
b) The agency must have an average annual turnover of more than Rs. 20,00,000 (Rupees twenty Lakh) for the last three years.
c) Previous experience in managing public utilities as a PPP/outsourcing and knowledge of waste management, including running decentralized solid waste management processes, will be advantageous.
d) Additional experience in community mobilization and IEC activities will be preferred.
e) The agency must deposit a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs. 30,000 (thirty thousand rupees) pledged to the Block Development Officer Pahalgam.

4. CONTRACTING PROCESS:
a) Interested agencies must submit their EOI in sealed envelopes addressed to the Block Development Officer Pahalgam, by 10-01-2024 up to 2:00PM.
b) The envelopes will be opened on the next day 10.01.2024 at 3:00PM in the presence of the bidders so their authorized representatives.
c) The EOI will be followed by Technical Evaluation and Financial Evaluation.

5. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:
a) The selected agency will be awarded a one-year contract, which may be extendable based on its performance and the necessity of the Department.
b) The agency shall adhere to all the terms and conditions specified in the EOI document.
c) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI without assigning any reason there of, in the interest of the government, department, and public funds.

6. SUBMISSION OF EOI AND CONTACT INFORMATION:
a) Interested agencies must submit their sealed envelopes containing the EOI to the following address:
Block Development Office Pahalgam Batkote, Pahalgam
Email:bdopahalgam01@gmail.com
b) For any inquiries or clarifications regarding the EOI, interested agencies may contact Block Development Officer Pahalgam, at the above-mentioned address

7. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS:
The results of the EOI evaluation will be communicated to the eligible agencies through official communication channels.

8. LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:
a) The selected agency must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards during the execution of the Solid Waste Management project in Pahalgam
b) The contracting agency has to adhere to a) the Environment protection act 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and the bylaws drafted and passed by the Gram Panchayats in letter and spirit.
c) Sub-contracting shall not be allowed and shall be considered illegal.
d) The contracting agency has to submit an affidavit duly attested by a Judicial Magistrate affirming therein the commitment to bear all costs related to damage, i.e, the ft, or loss incurred to the vehicles /machinery of the department during the execution of the SWM project.
e) In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the District level Sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.
The process of technical Evaluation will be done by a designated committee based on the score for the solutions & procedures provided by the agencies to transform the entire solid waste management into an efficient, effective, and sustainable one in the Block.

Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Pahalgam
No.-BP/SBM-G-ii/2023-24/4531-33
DIPK-14526/23
Dated:01.01.2024

ازیابت تلگام
درخواست منجانب: ذابا احمد بٹ ولد سناو لڈ بٹ ساکنہ برمنڈ پورہ
بزنس وصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ بن خود
اشہار مراد گاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں مسائل نے ایک درخواست بزنس وصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بنڈا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاردانی ہے۔ پڑاری طلبہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس میں بیان ہے کہ مسائل دھڑا میں پختہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور مسائل کے آبا و اجداد کسی دھڑا میں رہائش پذیر تھے مسائل کی سالانہ آمدنی 72000 روپے سے مسائل کا کہنے میں افراد ہیں۔
نمبر شمار نام و ولدیت عمر پیشہ امدانی
۱- سناو لڈ بٹ ولد سناو لڈ بٹ 46 زمینداری
۲- شہزادہ بیگم زویہ سناو لڈ 49 گھریلو کام
۳- ذابا احمد بٹ ولد سناو لڈ 19 زمینداری
۴- ذابا احمد بٹ ولد سناو لڈ 18 زمینداری
۵- عابا احمد بٹ ولد سناو لڈ 16 سال زمینداری
اس طور مسائل کا کہنے 105 افراد مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ذکر سے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار
fko

2nd Tankipora Bridge To Be Made Motorable By Jan 10: DC Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: 95 percent of work on the Tankipora Bridge, adjacent to DC office complex here has been completed so far and work is going on in full swing and shall be completed in stipulated time, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad was apprised by the officials on Monday.

On the occasion, the DC asked the concerned department to expedite the remaining construction work on development of approach sides and ensure that Bridge being executed on Rs 7.42 crore is completed by January 10, 2024 to ensure smooth movement of traffic.

The directions come following the DC's whirlwind tour of the City to inspect and oversee the progress of works being carried out on various developmental projects in different areas of the City.

Accompanied by the Officers of the line Departments, The DC inspected progress of ongoing works on construction of Tankipora Bridge, Darish Kadal Bridge, Development of Footpath near Aiwa Bridge and Skill Development & Rehabilitation Centre for Youth affected from Substance Abuse at IM-HAANS Kathi Darwaza.

The DC also took

onsite appraisal of ongoing works College being executed under National Clean Air Program (NCAP) on Green spacing of premises in SKIMS Soura, Installation of Fountain at Hazratbal and Landscaping and installation of Fountain at Amar Singh with an aim to improve air quality index in the District.

At Darish Kadal, the DC inspected the progress of work on construction of additional Darish Kadal Bridge being constructed at a cost of Rs 6.80 crore.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to accelerate the pace of work and complete the project in the set timeline of June 2024.

Similarly, the DC also inspected the progress of works undertaken for construction of a footpath at Aiwa Bridge on Ali Jan Road Road Axis being executed by R&B Department for the convenience of the pedestrians as the road has heavy traffic rush.

At Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Government Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Kathi Darwaza, the DC inspected the recently completed infrastructure development and upgradation works on Skill Development & Rehabilitation Centre for Youth affected j society.



A guy protecting himself from a pack of stray canines, greeting him in the freezing cold on Monday, the first day of the new year, at the renovated Lal Chowk Square. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Multi-Crore Investment Scam One Accused Arrested, Six Others Identified: Police

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: In a significant development, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police's cyber wing has arrested one non-local individual from Tamil Nadu in connection with its ongoing investigation into an alleged multi-crore investment scam.

A police spokesperson, in a statement said the arrest was carried out based on the victims' testimony and a range of digital and technical evidence. The individual apprehended from Tamil Nadu has been placed under police remand.

The team investigating the scam, spokesperson said, has also identified six more accused all non-residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Different police teams were constituted to arrest the accused. Based on the statement of victims, technical and digital evidence, the SIT identified six accused persons, all outside residents of the J&K UT. One accused person has been arrested by the SIT from Tamil Nadu and is taken on police remand. Efforts are afoot to arrest the remaining accused persons

also," the spokesperson said.

"The fraudulent investment agency had deceived the subscribers after persuading them to invest their hard-earned money with fake promises of returns. After misrepresenting and cheating, the company became unresponsive, leaving subscribers in the dark and leading to chaos, anguish, and protests," he said.

A formal case FIR No. 39/2023 under Section 66D of the IT Act and IPC Section 420 was registered at Cyber Police Station in Kashmir Zone-Srinagar, as soon as the police learnt that a bogus company operating under the name of 'Curative Survey Private Limited' scammed and cheated the unsuspecting individuals through a fraudulent website by falsely promising them significant returns on their investments.

"During the course of investigation, it was discovered that the company had opened six offices in the Kashmir Valley and one regional office in Jammu in the month of January-February 2023. All seven offices were subsequently searched, sealed and the

incriminating evidence found in these offices was seized and sent to the FSL for analysis and expert opinion," the police said.

According to the statement, several employees of the company from across Jammu and Kashmir were identified, examined and their statements recorded. Additionally, a number of victims also approached SIT and their statements were recorded.

"The efforts are on to arrest the remaining accused," the police said, adding that the extent of financial loss to victims is being assessed by collection of related evidence and the statement of witnesses.

"All the company's account numbers have been debit-frozen and further investigation is on. Involvement of employees and local contacts of the main accused persons is being investigated. The social media influencers who promoted the company through various social media platforms were also examined and their involvement in the crime is being investigated. So far, Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone Srinagar has received 27 complaints," the statement reads.

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

- AIRPORTS**
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈
- RAILWAYS**
- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
 - ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
 - BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
 - BIBHERA: 01932-228243
 - PAMPORE: 01933-294132
 - PATTAN: 01954-293507
 - QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
- HIGHWAY STATUS**
- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
 - Mughal Road - (Open)
 - Srinagar-Leh - (Open)

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
19 Jumada al-Sani
1445

FAJR 6:08
ZUHR 12:34
ASR 3:53
Magrib 5:35
ISHA 7:00

This Day In History

- 69 - Roman Lower Rhine army proclaims its commander, Vitellius, Emperor
- 533 - John II begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1235 - Emperor Joseph II orders Jews of Galicia Austria to adopt family names
- Spain
- 1492 - Muhammad XII, the last Emir of Granada, surrenders his city to Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabel I of Castile, ending both the Reconquista and centuries of Muslim rule in the Iberian peninsula
- 1570 Tsar Ivan the Terrible's march to Novgorod begins
- 1585 - Spain & Catholic France sign Saint League of Joinville
- 1602 - Spanish force in Ireland surrender to the English army at Kinsdale
- 1757 - British troops occupy Calcutta India
- 1776 - Austria ends interregation torture
- 1818 - The British Institution of Civil Engineers is founded.
- 1839 - First photo of the Moon, taken by French photographer Louis Daguerre
- 1863 - Battle of Murrefreesboro (Stone's River) ends
- 1879 - Australian fast bowler Fred Spofforth dismisses 3 English batsmen with consecutive deliveries during the 3rd Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground for Test cricket's first "hat-trick"
- 1879 - British battleship Thunder explodes in Gulf of Ismid, 9 die
- 1882 - Because of anti-monopoly laws, Standard Oil is organized as a trust
- 1883 - Battle of Boschberg takes place in South Africa as part of the Mapoch War
- 1905 - Elara, a satellite of Jupiter, discovered by Charles Dillon Perrine in San Jose, California
- 1905 - Japanese troops capture Port Arthur from Russia, a blow to national morale and causing further discontent within Russia
- 1905 - American anarcho-syndicalist union known as the Industrial Workers of the World forms
- Invention
- 1913 - Mahatma Gandhi leaves the Tolstoy Farm in Transvaal, South Africa
- 1919 - Lithuania gains independence
- 1941 - World War II: German bombing severely damages the Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff, Wales
- 1942 - World War II: the 28 nations at war with Axis powers pledge to make no separate peace deals
- 1960 - John Reynolds sets age of solar system at 4,950,000,000 years
- 1979 - Gavaskar gets twin tons for India for the third time (v WI)
- 1984 - Riot in Tunis kills over 100
- 1984 - Major-General Muhammadu Buhari is declared Head of State in Nigeria, following a military coup
- 1985 - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reappoints Coptic pope Shenuda III
- 1992 - Test debut of Shane Warne, v India at Sydney
- 1994 - Battles between army & rebellious indians in South Mexico, kill 57
- 1995 - Most distant galaxy yet discovered found by scientists using Keck telescope in Hawaii (est 15 billion light years away)
- 1999 - A brutal snowstorm smashes into the Midwestern United States, causing 14 inches (359 mm) of snow in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and 19 inches (487 mm) in Chicago, where temperatures plunge to -13°F (-25°C); 68 deaths are reported.
- 2004 - Stardust successfully flies past Comet Wild 2, collecting samples that it will return to Earth two years later
- 2014 - 30 people are killed after a bus plunges off a cliff and falls 400 ft in Malshej Ghat, India
- 2014 - Raul Castro gives a speech commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and warns of "neo-liberal and neo-colonial thinking" entering the country
- 2015 - The Economist lists Daniel Kahneman as the 7th most influential economist in the world
- 2016 - Saudi Arabia executes 47 persons, including Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr
- 2017 - US House Republicans vote to gut the independent Office of Congressional Ethics, a public uproar forces them to back down the next day

Bashir Ahmad Misri Passes Away

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father Bashir Ahmad Misri son of Late Haji Ali Mohammad Misri of M/S First Photostat, Zero Bridge Rajbagh, Srinagar who passed away on 29th December, 2023 after a brief illness.



His congregational Fateha Khawani would be held on 2nd January, 2024 (Tuesday) at 10.30 AM of their ancestry graveyard near Gondala Malkha, Nowhatta, Srinagar. Thereafter a daylong condolence meeting will be held their residence at Zero bridge, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

BEREAVED
Tasaduq Bashir Misri (Son)
Murseleen Bashir Misri (Son)
Mobile No.7006116604

inf

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
**Office Of The Executive Engineer
R&B Division Vailoo**
Notice Inviting E-Tender
FOR NABARD WORKS
TWO COVER SYSTEM

FRESH NIT No. 70 of 2023-24/6705-14 DATED: 30/12/2023
Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Vailoo on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invites **percentage rate bids** in electronic tendering system for the following works **including their maintenance for five years** from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

- 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:-

| S. No | Name of Work | Tendered Cost including GST @18% | | | | Estimate No. (In Lacs) | Estimate Date (In Lacs) | Project Interlocking Department | Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) | Class of contractor |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| | | Construction Part | Maintenance Part | Total cost of work | Cost of document | | | | | |
| 1 | Construction / upgradation of Soaf Shali Ziyarat Shareef road including Gurvan Mohalla and Soaf Gratwalpora link road Kokernag | 477.57 | 47.75 | 525.32 | 8500/- | 10.50 | 03 Years | PWD R&B | 23.01.2024 11.00 am | AAV Class |

Position of AAA :- Accorded
Position of TS :- Accorded

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 30.12.2023 |
| 2. Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 30/12/2023 11.00 A.M to 22/01/2024, 4.00 P.M |
| 3. Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting | 01/01/2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Ang/Kul HQ Khanabal |
| 4. Bid submission Start Date | 02/01/2024 From 10.00 A.M |
| 5. Bid Submission End Date | 22/01/2024 upto 4.00 P.M |
| 6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online). | 23/01/2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Ang/Ku HQ Khanabal. |

DIPK-14504/23
DATED: 01-01-2024

SD/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Vailoo

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
Branch: Apex Branch
M.A Road, Srinagar-190001 Kashmir, India
T: +91 (0) 194 2502691 F: +91 (0) 194-2502691
E: apexbr@jkbmail.com W: www.jkbank.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the documents in original mentioned in the schedule below have been misplaced and not traceable yet. The report of the same has been lodged at Police Station Chadoora on 14-12-2023 vide report no.034.

If found kindly inform the undersigned. Moreover, all persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing documents. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out any such transaction kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present.

Further, the undersigned intends to apply for the certified copies of the said title documents. As such any person having objection in this regard may file the same with the undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of this notice.

SCHEDULE OF THE DOCUMENTS

- Original sale deed dated 27-01-2007 executed between Mst Raja and Mohammad Ashraf Ganie registered by Sub-Registrar Chadoora on 01-02-2007 for land measuring 17 marlas falling under Khasra No. 2345/2099/858, Khata No. 53 and Khewat No. 3 in Mouza Pahroo, tehsil Chadoora and district Budgam.
- Original sale deed dated 08-03-2006 executed between Mr Rehman Bhat and Mohammad Ashraf Ganie registered by Sub-Registrar Chadoora on 09-03-2006 for land measuring 1 kanal 2.5 marlas falling under Khasra No. 857 min, Khata No. 164 and Khewat No. 17 in Mouza Pahroo, tehsil Chadoora and district Budgam.
- Original sale deed dated 29-07-2008 executed between Mr Ismail Ganai and Mohammad Ashraf Ganie registered by Sub-Registrar Chadoora on 29-07-2008 for land measuring 2 kanal 9 marlas falling under Khasra No. 960/35, Khata No. 68 and Khewat No. 15 in Mouza Wagoora, tehsil Chadoora and district Budgam.

**Branch Head
J&K Bank Khanda**

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 02-01-2024

Welcome 2024

2023 was a mixed bag for Kashmir: While, on one hand, the year witnessed a sense of normalcy being strengthened in Kashmir, on the other, the militancy has reared its head again in the Jammu division. This makes the turn of the year a particularly fateful occasion: it evokes both hope and a deep sense of foreboding. The hope is for one more peaceful year. The foreboding is about a possible spike in violence as was the case recently in Poonch where first five army personnel lost their lives in an ambush by militants and later three civilians from the adjacent area were allegedly killed in Army custody soon after being picked up for questioning. That said, 2023 was a year when all predictions of a turn for worse in the situation proved wrong. There has no doubt been some conspicuous rise in violence. Around 121 persons including 21 local militants, 52 infiltrators, 29 soldiers, 4 policemen, 14 civilians, and a BSF personnel were killed in Jammu and Kashmir this year.

The J&K Director General of Police RR Swain highlighted an 80 percent decrease in the recruitment of local youth by terror ranks in 2023, attributing it to the collective efforts of the Police and other security agencies working together to break the cycle of violence in the union territory. According to police figures, only 22 local youth joined militancy in 2023 compared to around 100 last year. The DGP Swain said that 113 militants from different groups have been killed in anti-terror operations in 2023. Providing details the DGP said that there are 31 local identified militants active across Jammu and Kashmir. "27 local active terrorists belong to Kashmir zone while 4 from Jammu areas."

2023 saw a boom in tourism with again over one crore visitors making their way to the union territory. The Amarnath pilgrimage saw more people too. Last year, 3 lakh people visited the cave shrine. This year, it was 4.5 lakh. According to the tourist officials, this is the highest number of tourists Kashmir has received so far, beating by far even the pre-turmoil period record. This has given a substantial leg up to the Kashmir economy, otherwise laid low by the turmoil and the successive lockdowns of the previous two years.

It is also true that 2023 saw zero hartal and as a result, zero disruption of the businesses and the academic session. The schools for the first time remained open for the entire duration.

However, normalcy has not paved the way for the anticipated restoration of democracy and the subsequent statehood. This despite the fact that the delimitation process and revision of electoral rolls has long been completed. This has effectively cleared decks for holding the Assembly polls in the UT. But considering that the general elections are being held this, there is hope that the Assembly polls in J&K will be held this year only, as also directed by the Supreme Court. Here's hoping that all our dire prognostications for the year ahead come untrue and the efforts are made towards ushering in genuine peace. Happy New Year to our esteemed readers.

OTHER OPINION

Desperation in distress

In a world where the movement of labour is curtailed and restricted, it is no surprise that people affected by distress in their homeland seek opportunities in the developed world despite the enormous risks during their journeys. The recent episode of the forced return of 303 Indians who were detained at a French airport is suspected to be another such instance, or worse, trafficking. About 20 of them sought asylum in France, while the rest returned to Mumbai on Tuesday. However, it is well-known now that an alarming number of Indians, nearly 1,00,000 and five times the number in the previous year, attempted to enter the U.S. between October 2022 and September this year, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data. More than half these attempts were through the heavily guarded Mexican border, with the rest being attempts to use the sparsely manned Canadian border. The rise of Indians risking the rather treacherous route to enter the U.S. through Mexico came to light when a six-year old girl from Punjab was found dead in the Arizona desert in June 2019. This was about nine months before the COVID-19 pandemic, which led the Trump Administration to invoke the rarely used Title 42 of the U.S. Code that deals with public health, empowering border agencies to turn away asylum seekers even without a hearing. After the COVID-19 years and since the Biden Administration came to power, such migration attempts began to steadily rise again. That Indians are willing to take risks and bear enormous difficulties only to become illegal immigrants in the U.S. suggests that they are doing so either in desperation or are being misled.

Initial reports from the current incident also bear the tell-tale signs of what has been reported in the past about such cases — the majority of the air passengers were men from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat; about a dozen were unaccompanied minors. Immediate reasons for such migrations have been cited by some Sikhs as alleged religious persecution, while others cited the distress in farming. Regardless of the reasons, it is time the Indian government paid attention to the trafficking racket that appears to be widespread especially across parts of rural Punjab and Haryana, where gullible people fall prey to tall promises of a better future in the U.S. Their situation has been exacerbated by the crisis that they face in farming with plummeting incomes and overexploited and fragmented farmlands. A crackdown on exploitative middlemen in the labour market can only be the beginning.

The Hindu

INDIA Alliance Loses Steam

Despite the potential in a diverse coalition, the lack of a unified vision and narrative impedes the India Alliance's ability to challenge the BJP's dominance



RIYAZ WANI



The opposition has little time to put its house in order. As of now, it is still grappling with technicalities of forming the alliance. There is no political strategy, narrative or a competing welfare programme in place. The promise of caste census still retains its appeal, but somehow the opposition has failed to get the message across to masses

The India Alliance started with a bang but has lost its steam soon after it was created in July last, and Congress is squarely responsible for this. After winning a landslide in Karnataka, Congress expected to sweep the recent state elections and take a leadership position in the opposition alliance. In the process, it gave a short shrift to India block parties. What is more, it also went back on Rahul Gandhi's uplifting Bharat Jodo message, letting soft Hindutva drive its political agenda. But results have cut the party down to its size, in fact, making it at par with the AAP. In North India, where the party now ruling is New Delhi and Punjab is stronger than the Congress.

Where do we go from here? Nowhere, if the alliance doesn't get its act together. It is still far from seat-sharing, nor does it have an alternative narrative that can rival Hindutva, the software of a political campaign. It can't act as a counterfeit BJP and expect to win as the Congress learnt to its dismay in Madhya Pradesh.

As things stand, Hindutva's appeal remains fresh and it transcends failures of governance, so fighting the BJP juggernaut on the same turf would make little difference. Nor would highlighting the alleged poor governance or the lack of jobs, however, they may resonate with a substantial section of youth. Politics is largely about poetry, it is fleshed out by fiction. You should be able to transmit a certain sense of high to the targeted constituency. This is where the ideology comes in: it lends a larger meaningfulness to the lives of people by making them partake in a grand vision for the country, something that demand for jobs and welfare measures won't.

The opposition so far lacks a cogent ideological response to Hindutva. Considering the over-

whelming popularity of Hindutva, the India Alliance is shy of playing the secularism card, lest it work to the advantage of the BJP. Instead, the alliance has taken a recourse to the caste politics which it hopes to revive the social fault lines papered over by the majoritarianism. But as the recent five state elections have demonstrated, Caste Politics 2.0 has had little resonance on the ground. But this doesn't mean that it won't in the upcoming general election. Many blame the opposition for its inability to articulate caste discrimination in an idiom that makes the concerned caste groups relate to it.

That said, the opposition has little time to put its house in order. As of now, it is still grappling

The promise of caste census still retains its appeal, but somehow the opposition has failed to get the message across to masses. So, if the caste politics has to have any fresh resonance, the opposition has to find a way to reinvent the message. And that too, without the adequate support of the media

with technicalities of forming the alliance. There is no political strategy, narrative or a competing welfare programme in place. The promise of caste census still retains its appeal, but somehow the opposition has failed to get the message across to masses. So, if the caste politics has to have any fresh resonance, the opposition has to find a way to reinvent the message. And that too, without the adequate support of the media.

On paper, the opposition still seems to have a good chance to sneak from behind and come out on top. The India Alliance represents a diverse array of regional and national parties, which have historically been rivals but have set aside their differences for a common cause: to address the pressing issues affecting the

country and challenge the BJP's nationalist platform. Other than the Congress, the alliance boasts of some major regional parties and the leaders who command massive public following. Already, the opposition's wins in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka have put some wind in the sails of political resistance to the BJP. It is true, some regional parties have done individually well for themselves in their respective states. For instance, Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Nitish Kumar and Tejasvi Yadav in Bihar, Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi and Punjab. Akhilesh Yadav mustered a good showing in the last Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh. Besides, after losing Karnataka heavily to the

Congress this year, the BJP has no presence in South India.

Should this state of affairs reflect in the parliamentary polls, the BJP could struggle to get to a majority. But then the elections in the country over the past decade have largely been about the overarching persona of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hindutva. And should the two factors come into play again, as looks likely, there is little that the opposition can do in the absence of a credible answer to both.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Conscious Winter

WITH temperatures dropping, Kashmiris have geared up for yet another spell of cold. As we prepare to enter a full blown season of low temperatures, we are stocking up everything especially gadgets and electronics to keep oneself warm.

Many of these heating gadgets are not energy efficient and often create a lot of pressure on the power department as well.

Therefore, it is important for us to use energy efficient alternatives. Additionally, we must also check reckless use of these ap-

pliances. For instance, we must regulate the number of geysers we use. Perhaps, we can only use one and ensure that we switch it off well in time.

We can also be careful about the use of electric blankets and switch them off before going to bed. This

will not only save electricity but is also a safe use of such appliances.

These are just some common uses that can be regulated ethically. We must keep our eyes open and ensure a judicious use of all such resources.

Jawad Muhammad

NAVIGATING UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE NEW YEAR

Hope, Resilience, and Opportunities

Dr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani

As we bid farewell to the past year, it's time to reflect on the highs and lows, the challenges and triumphs, and the lessons learned along the way. The past year has been a rollercoaster ride of emotions and experiences, shaping us into who we are today. It's a time when we leave behind the old and step into the new with a sense of hope and renewal. It's a time to embrace new opportunities, learn from the past, and make resolutions that inspire positive change. Let's explore how we can take lessons from the past and set our sights on a brighter future:

EMBRACING THE LESSONS OF THE PAST

The end of the year is an opportune moment to reflect on the experiences and lessons of the past. It's a time to acknowledge the challenges we faced, the triumphs we achieved, and the growth we experienced along the way. By taking stock of our past, we can gain valuable insights that can guide us in making better decisions and setting meaningful goals for the future.

SETTING INTENTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

With the New Year comes a renewed sense of energy and possibility. It's a time when many of us set intentions and resolutions for the year ahead. These intentions can encompass various aspects of our lives, such as personal growth, relationships, health, career, and more. By setting clear intentions, we create a roadmap for ourselves, helping us stay focused and motivated as we strive towards our goals.

EMBRACING CHANGE AND NEW BEGINNINGS

The New Year serves as a reminder that change is inevitable and can be embraced with open arms. It's an opportunity to let go of any negativity or regrets from the past and approach the future with a fresh perspective. Whether it's starting a new job, pursuing a passion, or making positive lifestyle changes, the New Year provides a perfect backdrop for new beginnings. By embracing change, we open ourselves up to new opportunities and personal growth.



UNEMPLOYMENT CAN BE A DAUNTING AND DISHEARTENING EXPERIENCE, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT FEELS LIKE OPPORTUNITIES ARE SCARCE. It's important to acknowledge the impact it can have on our mental well-being and overall outlook. However, it's crucial to remember that unemployment is not a reflection of our worth or capabilities. It's simply a temporary phase that can be overcome with the right approach and good luck

TURNING THE TIDE: TACKLING THE UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE NEW YEAR

As a youth, the New Year holds a lot of promise and excitement for us. It's a time when we set goals, dream big, and work towards making our aspirations a reality. We expect the New Year to bring new opportunities for personal and professional growth. It's a chance for us to explore our passions, take on new challenges, and learn and grow as individuals. As youth, we often hope for a world that is more inclusive,

equal, and sustainable. We want to be part of positive change, whether it's through activism, volunteering, or raising awareness about important issues. We expect the New Year to provide us with platforms and opportunities to make a difference and contribute to the betterment of society. In terms of our personal lives, we may have expectations of academic success, career advancements, and personal development. We hope to excel in our studies, secure internships or jobs that align

with our interests, and gain valuable experiences that will shape our future. We also look forward to building meaningful relationships, making new friends, and creating lasting memories. The New Year also brings a sense of hope and optimism for the future. We expect progress and positive changes in various aspects of life, such as technology, education, healthcare, and social issues. And as the New Year begins, it's natural to have high hopes and aspirations for the future.

However, for many individuals, the issue of unemployment can cast a shadow of uncertainty. In this article, we will delve into the challenges of unemployment and explore ways to navigate this situation with hope, resilience, and a proactive mindset.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CHALLENGE:

Unemployment can be a daunting and disheartening experience, especially when it feels like opportunities are scarce. It's important to acknowledge the impact it can have on

our mental well-being and overall outlook. However, it's crucial to remember that unemployment is not a reflection of our worth or capabilities. It's simply a temporary phase that can be overcome with the right approach and good luck.

EMBRACING A POSITIVE MINDSET:

In the face of unemployment, maintaining a positive mindset is key. While it may be tempting to dwell on the negatives, shifting our focus towards the possibilities and opportunities can make a significant difference. This is the time to reflect on our skills, passions, and interests, and to identify areas where we can enhance our qualifications or explore new career paths.

DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS:

The New Year presents an excellent opportunity to invest in our personal and professional development. Whether it's through online courses, workshops, or networking events, acquiring new skills can make us more marketable and increase our chances of securing employment. It's important to stay adaptable and open-minded, as the job market is constantly evolving.

UTILIZING SUPPORT SYSTEMS:

During periods of unemployment, it's crucial to lean on the support systems available to us. This includes career counseling services, job placement agencies, and professional networks. These resources can provide valuable guidance, feedback, and connections that may lead to potential job opportunities. Remember, you're not alone in this journey, and there are people who genuinely want to help.

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Sometimes, the traditional job market may not offer immediate opportunities. In such cases, it's worth considering alternative options such as freelancing, entrepreneurship, or volunteer work. These avenues can not only provide valuable experience but also open doors to unexpected opportunities and connections.

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Win Over the Veggies

Hate salad or veggies? Just keep eating them. Here's how our tastebuds adapt to what we eat

Emma Beckett

Do you hate salad? It's OK if you do, there are plenty of foods in the world, and lots of different ways to prepare them.

But given almost all of us don't eat enough vegetables, even though most of us (81%) know eating more vegetables is a simple way to improve our health, you might want to try.

If this idea makes you miserable, fear not, with time and a little effort you can make friends with salad.

WHY DON'T I LIKE SALADS?

It's an unfortunate quirk of evolution that vegetables are so good for us but they aren't all immediately tasty to all of us. We have evolved to enjoy the sweet or umami (savoury) taste of higher energy foods, because starvation is a more immediate risk than long-term health.

Vegetables aren't particularly high energy but they are jam-packed with dietary fibre, vitamins and minerals, and health-promoting compounds called bioactives.

Those bioactives are part of the reason vegetables taste bitter. Plant bioactives, also called phytonutrients, are made by plants to protect themselves against environmental stress and predators. The very things that make plant foods bitter, are the things that make them good for us.

Unfortunately, bitter taste evolved to protect us from poisons, and possibly from over-eating one single plant food. So in a way, plant foods can taste like poison.

For some of us, this bitter sensing is particularly acute, and for others it isn't so bad. This is partly due to our genes. Humans have at least 25 different recep-



tors that detect bitterness, and we each have our own genetic combinations. So some people really, really taste some bitter compounds while others can barely detect them.

This means we don't all have the same starting point when it comes to interacting with salads and veggies. So be patient with yourself. But the steps toward learning to like salads and veggies are the same regardless of your starting point.

IT TAKES TIME

We can train our tastes because our

genes and our receptors aren't the end of the story. Repeat exposures to bitter foods can help us adapt over time. Repeat exposures help our brain learn that bitter vegetables aren't poisons.

And as we change what we eat, the enzymes and other proteins in our saliva change too. This changes how different compounds in food are broken down and detected by our taste buds. How exactly this works isn't clear, but it's similar to other behavioural cognitive training.

Add masking ingredients
The good news is we can use lots of great strategies to mask the bitterness of

vegetables, and this positively reinforces our taste training.

Salt and fat can reduce the perception of bitterness, so adding seasoning and dressing can help make salads taste better instantly. You are probably thinking, "but don't we need to reduce our salt and fat intake?" – yes, but you will get more nutritional bang-for-buck by reducing those in discretionary foods like cakes, biscuits, chips and desserts, not by trying to avoid them with your vegetables.

Adding heat with chillies or pepper can also help by acting as a decoy to the bitterness. Adding fruits to salads adds

sweetness and juiciness, this can help improve the overall flavour and texture balance, increasing enjoyment.

Pairing foods you are learning to like with foods you already like can also help.

The options for salads are almost endless, if you don't like the standard garden salad you were raised on, that's OK, keep experimenting.

Experimenting with texture (for example chopping vegetables smaller or chunkier) can also help in finding your salad loves.

CHALLENGE YOUR BIASES

Challenging your biases can also help the salad situation. A phenomenon called the "unhealthy-tasty intuition" makes us assume tasty foods aren't good for us, and that healthy foods will taste bad. Shaking that assumption off can help you enjoy your vegetables more.

When researchers labelled vegetables with taste-focused labels, priming subjects for an enjoyable taste, they were more likely to enjoy them compared to when they were told how healthy they were.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Vegetables are good for us, but we need to be patient and kind with ourselves when we start trying to eat more.

Try working with biology and brain, and not against them.

And hold back from judging yourself or other people if they don't like the salads you do. We are all on a different point of our taste-training journey.

Hate salad or veggies? Just keep eating them. Here's how our tastebuds adapt to what we eat

By arrangements with The Conversation

Delhi Witnesses Massive Traffic Jams On New Year's Day

New Delhi, Jan 1 (PTI) Several roads in Lutyens' Delhi area witnessed a chock-a-block situation while revellers stood in serpentine queues inside and outside metro stations as huge crowds thronged the India Gate, Connaught Place and various religious places in the national capital on New Year's Day.

"Be it in metro or on roads, there is no space in several areas of central Delhi," a commuter said.

As people had a hard time entering and exiting Rajiv Chowk, Patel Chowk, and Central Secretariat metro stations, an official said many commuters did not have smart cards or online tickets which contributed to the long queues.

Those with smart cards or online tickets were being allowed by CISF personnel to go first at security checkpoints. Some people claimed on social media in the evening that entry was closed at the Central Secretariat Metro Station.

Massive crowds gathered at the India Gate, Prachin Hanuman Mandir, Bangla Sahib Gurdwara and Connaught Place circle, resulting in traffic chaos.

Traffic was heavy in other parts of the national capital as well, forcing people to take to X to complain about the situation. According to commuters, heavy traffic was witnessed in Chhattarpur, Barakhamba crossing towards Mandi House,

Rajendra Prasad Marg roundabout, Sarai Kale Khan flyover, Mathura Road and Singhu Border to Mukarba Chowk, among others.

A bumper-to-bumper traffic was also witnessed near the India Gate and Mandi House while people also thronged Kartavya Path, leading to a jam-packed situation there.

A senior police officer said, "Adequate arrangements were made at various temples and markets since December 31. Teams are maintaining law and order condition."

"One platoon of paramilitary personnel with eight staffers of the Delhi Police were deployed at Hanuman temple as well as at Connaught Place inner circle and metro stations to manage the crowd," a police officer said.

Lokesh Bhardwaj, a priest at Kalkaji Mandir, told PTI there was a massive surge of visitors seeking blessings on the first day of the new year. "People have been reaching here since December 31 and the numbers are still increasing," he said.

Harmeet Singh Kalka, the president of the Delhi Gurdwara Management Committee, also said that there was a continuous stream of devotees visiting holy sites. Huge traffic was witnessed near Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, checking the road towards Connaught Place.

"Awaam Se, Awaam Ke Liye".

DGP Launches JK Police Grievance Redressal Portal

Says Aim Is To Resolve Issues Of Citizens As Well As Of Our Own Personnel In More Structured And Decentralised Manner At One Place

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Jammu: To listen to the issues of citizen and also of Police personnel and to interact with common citizen or grievance redressal seeker in a more structured & decentralised manner and also to improve the density and quality of resolving their issues, the Director General of Police, J&K, R.R Swain today launched Jammu & Kashmir Police Grievance Redressal Portal "Awaam Se, Awaam Ke Liye" in an impressive function organised at Police Headquarters Jammu.

ADGSP M.K Sinha, Sunil Kumar, Anand Jain and Nitish Kumar, IGP CIV/Hqrs PHQ B.S Tuti, DIsG Ms Sarah Rizvi, Shakti Pathak, Ms Nisha Nathyal, Shridhar Patil and Javid Iqbal Matoo, all AIsG of PHQ and other gazetted officers were present on the occasion. While ADGP Armed J&K SJM Gillani, Director SKPAU Garib Dass, IGP Kashmir V.K Birdi, all range DIsG, all district SSSP of Jammu and Kashmir, all Commandants of JKAP/IRP Battalions, joined the launch programme through video conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion,

the DGP said that it is a matter of great happiness that we are able to launch the J&K Police grievance portal on the very first day of the new year. He said that the need of launching a new grievance portal is to resolve issues of citizens as well as of our own personnel in a more structured and decentralised manner at one place without being mixed up. At various levels of commanding officers, they will have the authority to check the status of application and can also forward to the concerned and simultaneously receive it back. In this portal one application, if submitted at different offices, can be filtered so as to save the time of citizens, and of the department. He hoped that this would be a smart portal which will benefit a large number of people in resolving their issues qualitatively and quantitatively.

The DGP also congratulated ADGP Armed J&K whose suggested slogan "Awaam se, Awaam Ke Liye" was selected among a huge number of suggestions received. He also congratulated DySP IT PHQ, Shri Junaid Hakeem and Director IT, NIC Shri Bajjul Ubbott for

preparing the portal.

Earlier on the onset of the launch programme DySP IT gave a brief about the functioning of the portal website. While Director NIC presented a demonstration of the portal.

From the complainant's perspective the portal will provide SMS and email confirmation to applicant /complainant, round the clock availability of the portal, and the complainant can track the status of the complaint by providing a unique complaint number (generated at the time of filing complaint) with registered mobile number. Complainants can also file additional documents and can view status of their complaint, once disposal of complaint takes place SMS and email alert will be received by the complainant.

From the department's perspective the entire process will be electronic, right up to the point of filing response, complaints received will be instantly assigned to the concerned and the officer will also receive SMS and email alerts. The supervisory officers can monitor the follow up and it will be visible to all senior officers.

Truckers protest in Gujarat against long jail term, stringent fine in BNS for hit-and-run cases

Ahmedabad: Truckers on Monday protested across Gujarat against stringent jail and fine norms in the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita for hit-and-run cases, officials said.

Under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the colonial era Indian Penal Code, drivers who cause a serious road accident by negligent driving and run away without informing the police or any official from the administration can face punishment of up to 10 years or a fine of Rs 7 lakh.

Officials said protesters set up blocks on highways passing through Kheda, Valsad, Gir Somnath, Bharuch and Mehsana districts by parking vehicles.

The Mehsana-Ambaji highway in Mehsana and Ahmedabad-Indore highway in Kheda were blocked for some time after protesters placed burning tyres on the arterial routes.

Local police rushed to the sites and cleared the blockades, officials informed.

A video showing a long queue of parked trucks on Ahmedabad-Vadodara highway near Kanera village in Kheda was widely circulated on social media, with those uploading them asking commuters to avoid the route due to a 10-kilometre traffic jam as a result of the protests.

Kheda police reached the

spot and convinced the truck drivers to end the blockade in the interest of other commuters, officials said.

An official handling the NHA's 'Highway Helpline' said national highway-48 and the Expressway connecting Ahmedabad and Vadodara were cleared by police and there was no blockade afterwards.

Protesting truck drivers also shouted slogans against the new law on highways in Bharuch, Gir Somnath and Valsad, officials said.

Protesting trucker Bhaiya Khan said the fine amount was very harsh. "If someone had that much money, he would start a business, why would he be a truck driver," Khan claimed.

Such sporadic protests will continue till January 3, he claimed.

Meanwhile, Tapan Sharma, past president of the Ahmedabad Motor Transport Association, claimed the protests were spontaneous.

"The association has not given any strike call. Drivers are doing it on their own as they have apprehensions about the new law. They shout slogans and then move on. These sporadic protests have delayed the delivery of goods," Sharma said.

However, business has not been affected so far as drivers are doing their work despite protests, he added.

HM To Chair

in Jammu and Kashmir on January 13 last year and said that all security agencies are fighting a decisive battle against terrorism following the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He had also said that a 360-degree security mechanism would be further strengthened to eliminate the support and information system of terrorists.

The Minister had also held a review meeting of the security situation of the Union Territory of in New Delhi on April 13 last year in which reviewed the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security. (ANI)

Gulmarg Rings

Hanjura, Adil Gurezi and Afaq Shafi, who enthralled the audience with their performance at the Golf Course.

"Even though we enjoyed it a lot, we came here (Gulmarg) to witness the snowfall but it wasn't there," said Rakesh Kumar, a tourist from Maharashtra.

Kumar, who arrived in Gulmarg on December 30, said that he had never experienced snowfall before. He had promised his family of four to celebrate the New Year in Kashmir

"But still we had a good time. Everything was perfect," he added.

Notably, the valley is yet to receive any major snowfall of the season. The cold wave has swept across Kashmir with weathermen predicting no snowfall as of now.

"The dry spell may continue till January 10th. As of now, we can't predict any major snowfall," Mukhtar Ahmad, Director Meteorological Department Srinagar, told Kashmir Observer.

Pertinent to mention, the valley is witnessing a massive footfall of tourists, especially in Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Pahalgam and other tourist destinations. A number of hotels were sold out for Christmas and New Year in the first week of December.

The authorities have made adequate arrangements to enhance winter tourism; however, a number of tourists visit Kashmir specifically for the allure of snowfall.

Gulmarg is a world-famous skiing resort, attracting hundreds of national and international skiers who travel to Kashmir for skiing adventures.

"So far a number of bookings have been canceled by the international skiers and if the situation remains the same, nobody will come here this season for skiing," said Farhat Naik, a snowboarding instructor in Gulmarg.

On Sunday, Naik posted a video on X (previously Twitter) showing snowless scenes of Gulmarg. "It's heartbreaking to see Gulmarg in such conditions during this time of the year, especially if you have never witnessed something like this before. Indeed, the weather patterns have been quite erratic & unpredictable in recent years, leading to unusual occurrences like this," he posted.

He said that the skiers have canceled the January slot as of now, and if there is snowfall, they might consider coming in February.

"Domestic tourists visit for the scenic beauty, while international tourists come for adventure, which is only possible with enough snowfall," he added.

Shareef Ahmad Dar, Manager of Hotel Grand Mumtaz, told Kashmir Observer that tourists expressed disappointment upon witnessing the absence of snow in Gulmarg.

"They enjoyed a lot but snow brings a separate charm and it will eventually impact our business," Dar said.

The hoteliers are hopeful for a major snowfall in coming weeks so that they could see a successful winter tourism season.

"Both the events were successful. The authorities had made a good arrangement, but snow could have added to the charm," said Aqib Chaya, who runs Hotel Hilltop in Gulmarg.

Wasim Raja, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Gulmarg told Kashmir Observer that the snow is in the hands of God and they can't do anything about it.

"Gulmarg had experienced snowfall earlier, but it melted over time. We are expecting a major snowfall after January 10," Raja added.

occupancies this winter.

Kashmir recorded a surge in the number of visitors, eager to celebrate the onset of the New Year amidst the breathtaking

beauty and snow-clad landscapes. Although lack of snowfall has disappointed some tourists, the shift reflects changing preferences and priorities among holidaymakers.

Abhijeet Kumar, accompanied by his wife from Haryana, expressed heartfelt admiration for Kashmir, and said there is no place as serene and cold as Kashmir in India.

"Kashmir is, unequivocally, the most cherished destination for us. In the realm of cold places in India, none compares to the natural splendor of Kashmir. My wife and I yearned for the embrace of a cold haven, and thus, we chose Kashmir," said Abhijeet, who is visiting Kashmir for the first time.

When asked about not choosing other winter hill stations like Shimla, he said, "Shimla, although beautiful, falls short in comparison to the pristine cleanliness and unparalleled beauty that Kashmir exudes. Besides, Shimla has previously been overrun by tourism."

Manu Sharma, another tourist from New Delhi, said, "The Jammu and Kashmir government's efforts to promote winter tourism have played a crucial role. Initiatives such as winter cultural events and improved infrastructure have contributed to the region's appeal as a top winter tourism destination. Government's peace initiatives have borne fruit."

"Kashmir feels safer than ever before," Sharma said, adding that there are other destinations like Goa and Uttarakhand, but they wanted to visit a "winter-wonderland."

Tourism stakeholders say that the opening of tourism resorts like Sonamarg is also contributing to the increase in the number of visitors.

Shehzad Rasool, the owner of Village Walk Hotel in Sonamarg, said that just a few years ago, the tourist resort faced the possibility of closure. "In the last two years, there has been a significant increase in hotel bookings during the winter months, especially around New Year's Eve," he said.

"Previously, Sonamarg would shut down in November, with minimal tourist activity. Remarkably, the situation is changing even during the harshest period of winter, the chill-lai kalan," Shehzad Rasool added.

Notably, hotel bookings in the hill station of Shimla have seen a decline this New Year. MK Sethi, President of the Shimla Hotel and Tourism Stakeholders Association, said that the occupancy rate is approximately 50-60 percent, marking the lowest in the last 40 years. This is even lower than the New Year tourist rush to Shimla during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Terrorism Down

be voted to power as candidates without the fear of the lurking gun of the separatists and the soft separatists used through the hapless terrorists."

He said the peaceful environment is a prerequisite for investments, employment generation and establishment of new enterprises.

"Notwithstanding the progress made, let me remind you all that there is no room for complacency. We still face challenges. Terrorism is down but not completely wiped out. We just cannot afford to lower the guard.

"The enemy is and will continue to try different tactics to derail peace. We have to defeat any such move before it takes root," Swain said.

He said while there has to be zero tolerance towards any activity or person posing a threat to the peace and stability of the country and safety of the local communities, "we have to show real empathy and compassion for our fellow peace-loving citizens".

"Till yesterday, the challenge was to dismantle the terror ecosystem in which significant progress has been achieved, and now, the new challenge is not to let it take roots or re-surface even marginally in any form," he added.

Swain said the force also faces challenges of drug menace and narco-terrorism.

"It is a security threat as well as a social evil. We need to work relentlessly to uproot it. We owe it to the society that J&K police shall keep our future generations free from this menace," he said.

Swain also talked about the challenge posed by artificial intelligence (AI) warfare and warned that the threat is going to get stronger in the near future.

"So, while we continue to improve upon the traditional methods and practices of maintaining peace as well as counter-terrorism efforts, we need to keep honing our skills in technology and AI-backed policing with an urgency," he said.

Lauding the role of the police force, the DGP said over

1,600 police personnel have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in the past three decades of terrorism.

"This proud professional force has given enormous sacrifices to get J&K out of the clutches of sponsored terrorism and ensure an enabling environment for fostering peace and development," he said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir Police is a unique police force in the country as it has the "onerous" responsibility of maintaining law and order on the streets and battling terrorists with and without guns.

Swain also hailed the force for playing a lead role in realising the vision of 'Naya Kashmir' as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The DGP said police personnel and their families faced pressures in the past from "bullies and goons working secretly on behalf of the terrorist and secessionist networks". "We will do everything possible to fight any attempt to vilify you only because you are a member of JK Police," he said.

72 Terrorists

and order duties and undertaking counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir. In comparison, the data quoted by official sources said, 187 terrorists were neutralised by the forces in the preceding year of 2022.

Out of these, 57 were foreign-origin terrorists, largely Pakistanis, while the rest 130 were local, the sources said.

23 Terrorists Declared

have been declared proclaimed offenders by the UAPA special court in Doda," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal told reporters.

Thirteen terrorists were declared proclaimed offenders by the court on September 16, he said.

"There are 36 terrorists from Kishtwar who are operating from Pakistan and PoK. Two FIRs have been registered against them," he added.

Poswal said this was made possible by the diligent efforts of Kishtwar police, which gathered crucial intelligence and registered FIRs against these terrorists before meticulously presenting all information before the court.

The court has given these terrorists a month to appear before it, he said.

"If they don't surrender before the law, their properties will be attached under Section 82 of the Criminal Procedure Code," he said, adding properties of 12 of them have already been identified by police.

Properties of seven of the 13 terrorists who were declared proclaimed offenders in September have been identified and the process of attaching them has been initiated in the court, the SSP said.

He said Kishtwar police is committed to upholding the law and ensuring the safety and security of the district.

"We are working closely with law enforcement agencies to follow the due process and bring these individuals to justice," Poswal said. (PTI)

India, Pak Exchange

was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991. It mandates the two countries to inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on the first of January of every calendar year.

The exchange of the list came amid frosty ties between the two countries over the Kashmir issue as well as cross-border terrorism.

"This is the 33rd consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992," the MEA said in a statement.

Lt Gen Sachdeva

at Nagrota, it said.

He extended his best wishes to all ranks and their families of White Knight Corps.

Srinagar Shivers

Srinagar to minus 5.2 degrees Celsius from the previous night's minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.7 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag town saw the minimum settle at minus 1.7 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

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.

However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

CJI Chandrachud

Chandrachud delivered three concurring judgements upholding the abrogation of Article 370 that provided a unique status to Jammu and Kashmir when it acceded to the Union of India in 1947.

CJI Chandrachud said, "Judges who decide a case speak through their Judgement. Once a Judgement is delivered that judgement becomes a public property of the nation. Until a judgement is delivered the process is confined to the judges who are involved in the decision of that case. Once we arrive at a decision and the judgement is pronounced it's a public property. It's a property of the nation. We are a free society." "We have a Constitution which protects the right to the freedom of speech and expression. And therefore people are entitled to exercise their right to freedom of speech and expression. To critique, to criticise, to appreciate..." he said.

Writing the judgement for himself and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, CJI Chandrachud had ruled that Article 370 was a temporary provision and the President of India was empowered to revoke it in the absence of the Constituent Assembly of the erstwhile state whose term expired in 1957.

"Article 370 of the Constitution read together with Article 1 leaves no manner of doubt that the integration of Jammu and Kashmir as a part of the nation, which in itself was a Union of States, was complete. Any interpretation of Article 370 cannot postulate that the integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India was temporary," the court had held.

Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul (now retired) and Sanjiv Khanna, who were part of the five-judge bench, had penned separate but concurring verdicts on the issue.

The apex court had also upheld the validity of the union government's decision to carve out the union territory of Ladakh from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir's Umrah

last year. This year, we have bookings to some extent in January but it is too low in February. We didn't have enough advance bookings," Feroz said.

He said the flow of pilgrims last year was satisfactory as the rush was the highest since Covid-19.

"Umrah services were affected during the pandemic. Last year, there were no restrictions and the flow of pilgrims was huge. We are still hopeful that booking may improve in February and March," Feroz said.

Lateef Ahmad, an Umrah tour operator, said they have slashed the prices of Umrah this year to attract more pilgrims.

"Still the flow is not up to the mark. Post covid-19 Kashmir saw a good hike in the number of pilgrims performing Umrah. This year, it seems people are financially stressed due to which the flow is very low," he said.

Pertinently, a total of 18 lakh Indian Muslims performed Umrah in 2023 -- the third highest in the world, Saudi Arabia government officials earlier said--(KNO)

CBI Files

candidates for sale of leaked questions," the agency said. The CBI said the candidates were allegedly taken to Panchkula, Haryana and provided leaked question papers in exchange for money.

The investigation was spread across several states, involved analysis of voluminous technical data, bank accounts, toll data and examination of more than 100 witnesses, it said.

DHANGRI ATTACK ANNIVERSARY

Villagers Remember Victims, Vow To Foil Terrorists' Designs

Press Trust Of India

RAJOURI : People are determined to foil the nefarious designs of the enemy, vowed Dheeraj Sharma, the sarpanch of Jammu and Kashmir's Dhangri village that saw five of its residents being shot dead by terrorists on this day last year.

Tragedy had struck Dhangri in Rajouri district again a day later. Two children of the village were killed when an IED, left behind by the terrorists, exploded.

"No one can feel my pain as my life changed in minutes during that attack. I was a proud mother of two sons, Prince and Deepak, and now I

border district of Rajouri. It led to the deployment of the CRPF company at the village.

While a couple of Pakistani terrorists, including the mastermind of the January 1 attack, were killed in two separate encounters with security forces in May and November last year in Rajouri, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two terror associates from Gursai village of Poonch's Mendhar in connection with the incident.

However, Saroj Bala expressed unhappiness over the investigation conducted after the attack. Investigation agencies are still to reach any conclusion and "we are waiting for justice", she said.



am all alone," 50-year-old Saroj Bala, a widow, told PTI.

Deepak Sharma (24) and his brother Prince Sharma (21), Pritam Lal (57) and his son Shishu Pal Sharma (32), and an ex-serviceman Satish Kumar (45) were killed in indiscriminate firing by the terrorists. Samiksha Sharma (13) and her cousin Vihaan Sharma (4) were killed in the improvised explosive device (IED) blast.

Many people were also injured in the firing by the terrorists.

"We never dreamt of such an attack. Terrorists took benefit of our casual approach. Now we have taken counter measures and are determined to frustrate the nefarious designs of enemy forces," Dheeraj Sharma said.

Explaining the measures, he said that Village Defence Guards (VDGs) are alert and the village is now protected by a company of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Bal Sharma, a VDG member who had fired on the terrorists and forced them to flee, said VDGs are alert round-the-clock to guard the village.

The attack was the first such incident in over 16 years in the

"Why was the attack carried out on our houses for no fault of ours? Why were our innocent family members killed brutally? Why was the IED placed in front of my house," Saroj Bala asked. She claimed that those who facilitated the attackers in this area are yet to be identified.

She also demanded that a memorial be built for those killed in the shooting and IED blast.

Recalling the January 1 attack, 30-year-old Nita Devi, who lost her husband Shishu Pal and her father-in-law, said she was cooking when a terrorist entered her house and asked for Aadhaar cards before firing on the men.

"My father-in-law died on the spot while my husband succumbed to injuries at the GMC (Government Medical College) associated hospital in Rajouri. They were labourers," she said.

"I am left in the family with my two children, Sakshi is in class 4 and Parvas in class 1. I am concerned about their better future in the absence of their father," Devi said. "I live with never ending fear," she said.



A MAN CARRYING KANGRIS (FIREPOTS) on his shoulders passes through a busy marketplace in Srinagar on Monday.
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Jitendra Singh Reviews Pace Of Work On AIIMS Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday reviewed the pace of work on All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu and asked the hospital administration and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to double their efforts to complete the prestigious project as early as possible.

The minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office said the central government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi had sanctioned two AIIMS for Jammu and Kashmir with the hope to provide better health facilities to the people of the Union Territory.

Singh, who visited AYUSH block convention centre, OPD block, hospital block and emergency block for inspection of the construction and other works, stressed the need for carrying out the work round the clock in double shifts for the completion of the project.

He expressed satisfaction over the residential accommodation for the faculty, students and other residential projects being completed with all modern facilities and gadgets.

In the presentation, CPWD Chief Engineer Mukesh Meena said the total area for the AI-



IMS Jammu hospital complex is 226.84 acres out of which 96 acres accommodate the north parcel comprising hospital, medical college, convention centre, AYUSH block and night shelter.

The south parcel spread over an area of 130.84 acres has complexes like student activity centre, sports centre, residential hostels and guest house.

Stating that the target of project completion is January 2024, Meena said out of Rs 1,661 crore project, Rs 1,404 crore was to be spent on building infra-structure, Rs 48.72 crore on pre-construction activities, Rs 22 crore for non-medical furniture and Rs 185.32 crore on medical equipment and furniture.

He also briefed about the assistance required from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for completion of the project for the additional es-

timated funds of Rs 203 crore.

AIIMS Jammu Director Prof Shakti Gupta said as far as the manpower for the AIIMS Jammu is concerned, the institute has already started working on it and most of the faculties and administrative staff have already been recruited.

He said an additional proposal for the creation of 449 posts for AIIMS Jammu has already been forwarded to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The institute is working on the proposal for creation of non-faculty post on contractual basis and the AIIMS Jammu has 231 sanctioned post of senior nursing officer out of which 25 per cent are to be filled through direct recruitment while as 75 per cent on promotion and for direct recruitment 57 posts have already been filled, he said.

1 Lakh People Participate In Bhaderwah Winter Festival

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: More than one lakh people visited the five-day Bhaderwah winter festival in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district that concluded on Sunday with a celebration to usher in the new year.

The festival is a symbol of the cultural splendour and winter charm of the Chenab Valley and aims at promoting the local culture and traditions, and showcase the tourism potential of Bhaderwah, officials said.

The tourism department is "committed to tap the untapped tourism potential of Bhaderwah and other lesser

five days, the Bhaderwah Fort was illuminated and it hosted several cultural performances. Films such as 'Sam Bahadur', 'Tiger-3' and '12th Fail' were screened during the festival.

"The festival not only showcased the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Bhaderwah but also marked its emergence as a dynamic hub of tourism in the Chenab Valley, blending tradition with modernity," Doda Deputy Commissioner S Harvinder Singh said.

He expressed keen interest in encouraging the tourism sector in the district to create livelihood opportunities and to give the district its due share



known tourist destinations" of Jammu and Kashmir, Tourism Secretary Abid Rashid said.

"The aim of holding such kinds of festivals is to promote local culture, traditions, and to tap the tourism potential" of areas bestowed with natural scenic and serene surroundings, he said.

Rashid said the department is also promoting homestays to meet the shortage of tourism infrastructure and to create livelihood for locals.

The festival was organised by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with the Doda district administration, the Academy of Art, Culture and Language and the Bhaderwah Development Authority.

To conclude the festival, there was a performance by Punjabi singer Kaka and a display of fireworks. Over the

on the tourism map of the country. "All measures will be taken to improve the tourism infrastructure of the district," Singh said.

The deputy commissioner said that in view of the great potential of the district in the tourism sector, some private stakeholders have already pitched in, and world-class hotels and some five-star facilities are being established.

The administration is committed to work towards having tourism activities in the district throughout the year, he said.

Joint Director Tourism Sunaina Mehta said Bhaderwah has been earmarked as a wedding destination and a site for 'Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE)' tourism.

She said last year, over five lakh tourists visited Bhaderwah.

At LoC Village, Soldiers, Locals Celebrate New Year Over Cups Of Tea, Dance

Press Trust Of India

CHURUNDA: As people across the country ushered in the new year on Sunday night, at the Line of Control here soldiers celebrate it hours before. They had to return to their night duties -- guarding and patrolling the LoC with Pakistan.

But before they returned to their posts, they shared greetings over hot cups of tea, food and a dance at a brief celebration planned by the army and locals to mark the occasion.

During the festivities, which started around 4 pm on a cold Sunday in this sleepy village in Jammu

and Kashmir's Uri sector, the army and villagers reassured each other that they are together through thick and thin.

"The army has been the first responder whenever civilians face any problems. And, civilians have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with soldiers in times of need," Lal Hassan Kohli, a local social activist, said.

"The new year celebration programme was organised by the army. I congratulate and I thank the army for it. Whenever we face any difficulty, the army comes to our help in the most difficult times," he said.

Kohli said the local popu-

lace is thankful to the army for not allowing the enemy to enter into "our territory".

"We celebrate all important days with the army. Republic Day is around the corner and then we have Independence Day in August. The soldiers attend weddings in the village as well. We live like brothers. We have a bond with the army and we pray that it stays strong," he added.

Lal Din Khatana, sarpanch of the village, said events like these help people, including the soldiers, put aside their problems and enjoy.

"We celebrate new year together with the army at the zero point on the Line

of Control. It is a very good programme and we wish this tradition continues in the future as well. These occasions help us put aside our daily woes while the soldiers, who are away from home, also get to celebrate," Khatana said.

Jehangir Lateef, a teacher at the local school, thanked the army for ensuring a peaceful 2023 along the LoC in their area. "I hope that 2024 will be peaceful and we continue to live in harmony," he added.

As the brief celebrations ended, the civilians retired to their homes while the soldiers went back to work, patrolling the LoC.

Set In Motion Process For Establishment Of NDPS Courts: CS

Stresses On Laying Hands On The Big Suppliers To Curb The Drug Menace

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday on the 8th UT level Apex committee meeting of NCORD impressed upon the administration to put the ball rolling for establishment of NDPS courts for speedy trial of the convicts under this act.

The meeting which was attended by ACS, Home; Spl DG, Crime; Principal Secretary, PWD; Principal Secretary, School Education; ADGP, Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; IGP, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners and representatives from NCB, SIA, Prosecution besides other concerned se-

nior officers from civil and police administration.

In the onset the Chief Secretary enquired about the number of detentions made in the UT during the previous year and the proportion of successful convictions made in the court of law. He asked them to work towards enhancing the capacity of the concerned police personnel so that the cases are prepared professionally with higher conviction rate.

Dulloo maintained that since the relevant laws are in place bolstered by police force in satisfactory numbers, it becomes imminent to deal with the drug menace very forcefully to weed it out from the UT. He stressed on using their resources optimally to gather informa-

tion and laying of hands over the big suppliers who are pivotal in supporting this illicit trade here.

He also asked putting in place extra deterrent measures and giving exemplary punishments to those found guilty of running drug trade here. He asked for gathering the audio-visual data from the CCTV footage of all drug stores and analysing it to find threads about possible operators using the modern Artificial intelligence tools. He asked the DCs to report about the status of properties sealed under PIT NDPS Act.

The Chief Secretary also directed the health department to utilize the services of the best of their psychiatrists to study the models adopted in providing care to

the victims of this menace in different drug deaddiction centers across J&K. He also asked them to lay a robust protocol as per the standard operating procedure (SOP) at national level. He told them to make an effective strategy to assign the responsibility of deaddiction centers to psychiatrists only as these can treat the addicts as per their requirements.

He enquired from Deputy Commissioners about the scenario of drug trade in their areas and the response of administration against it. He asked from them about the achievements made in this regard and the issues, if any, faced by them. He asked them to work for total eradication of this trade in their respective jurisdictions.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PW (R&B) DIVISION BANDIPORA
email: xenrbbandipora@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
TWO COVER SYSTEM

Fresh e-NIT No.106 R&B Bandipora of 2023-24/5815-20 dated:-30-12-2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023.

| S. No | Name of Work | Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc.(In Rs) | Time of completion | Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid) | Class of Contractor |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. | Design & Construction of 1x20 mtr intermediate lane composite girder bridge at Aragam Bandipora on EPC MODE (ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION MODE). The job among other things includes designing part to be Vetted by Design Directorate IIT/DIQC/NIT including soil investigation, load testing, Dismantling / de-launching of existing bays bridge, construction of Foundation, Sub-structure, superstructure, (Drainage spouts, wearing Coat, Providing & Fixing of suitable bearings etc) duly approved by the department incl. construction of approaches of required length (as per the directions of Engineer in charge) on each side by way of earth cutting, filling, construction of protection works ie. R/ walls ,Edge walls, B/walls, laying of pipes, , laying of GSB, WBM grade II incl. Macadamization of approach road, river training works for 100mtrs each on upstream and downstream side, including painting with enamel paint, lighting of bridge etc. (Complete Job in all respects) | 5.047 | 5500/= | 2 working seasons | 13/01/2024 | AAY |
| 2. | Design & Construction of 1x20 mtr intermediate lane composite girder bridge at Kudara Poswal Basti at Bandipora on EPC MODE (ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION MODE). The job among other things includes designing part to be Vetted by Design Directorate IIT/DIQC/NIT including soil investigation, load testing, construction of Foundation, Sub-structure, superstructure, (Drainage spouts, wearing Coat, Providing & Fixing of suitable bearings etc) duly approved by the department incl. construction of approaches of required length (as per the directions of Engineer in charge) on each side by way of earth cutting, filling, construction of protection works ie. R/ walls ,Edge walls, B/walls, laying of pipes, , laying of GSB, river training works for 100mtrs each on upstream and downstream side, including painting with enamel paint, lighting of bridge etc. (Complete Job in all respects) | 5.04 | 5500/= | 2 working seasons | 13/01/2024 | AAY |

Major Head of Account = NABARD RIDFF-XXVIII
Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of funds = Available

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 30/12/2023 |
| 2. Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 30/12/2023 to 12/01/2024 6.00P.M |
| 3. Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting | 08/01/2024 at 11.00A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Bandipora |
| 4. Bid submission Start Date | 01/01/2024 From 10:00 AM |
| 5. Bid Submission End Date | 12/01/2024 upto 4.00 P.M |
| 6. The 1 st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of the contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour Of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Bandipora | As per time specified in SBD. |
| 7. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online) | 13/01/2024 at 11.00A.Min the Office Of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Bandipora |
| 8. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online) | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed |

No:-EE/R&B/Bpr/5815-20
Dated: 30.12.2023

DIPK-14512-23
DT: 01/01/2024

Sd/= Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora

Hussaini Sports Club Aims To Empower Women With New Trekking Initiative



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hussaini Sports Club completed five treks in just one month as part of their initiative, "Trekking Ka Dose Har Sunday Roz." This endeavour aims to empower women in adventure sports and promote a culture of regular trekking.

The Hussaini Sports Club, known for its commitment to fostering a spirit of adventure, organised a series of treks every Sunday over the past month. The initiative not only tested the physical endurance of the participants but also provided a platform for women to break stereotypes and embrace the thrill of outdoor activities.

The club's General Secretary Ahsan Ali Beigh expressed enthusiasm about the success of the initiative. "Trekking Ka Dose Har Sunday Roz is more

than just conquering summits. It's about empowering women, fostering a sense of camaraderie, and instilling confidence through adventure sports," Ahsan Ali said.

Participants of various age groups and backgrounds enthusiastically joined the treks, with each expedition presenting a unique challenge and breathtaking scenery. The initiative garnered widespread support from the local community, with many praising the Hussaini Sports Club for promoting inclusivity and breaking gender norms.

The success of "Trekking Ka Dose Har Sunday Roz" has ignited enthusiasm among the participants, with plans to continue the series throughout the winter. The club is set to introduce a variety of adventure sports activities, ensuring a diverse range of experiences for all enthusiasts.

2nd Test: Kohli Does Net Prep For SA Pacer Burger



Press Trust of India

CAPE TOWN: Virat Kohli looked a million dollars as he did extensive simulation for South Africa's left-arm pacer Nandre Burger but Shreyas Iyer's problems seemed to continue while facing a barrage of short balls at nets here on Monday.

On the New Year's Day, it was business as usual for Kohli, who had an extended session lasting close to an hour. First, he was at the centre nets against bowlers and then he faced high-intensity throwdowns for about 20 to 25 minutes at outside nets.

Kohli is known to come to nets with specific purpose and on Monday, it seemed he wanted to extensively bat against a left-arm pacer.

Since the Indian team's pace bowling roster doesn't include a left-arm pacer, a net bowler was summoned and Kohli faced a good 25 to 30 deliveries from him in be-

tween playing against Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, R Ashwin and Avesh Khan.

Kohli was repeatedly seen putting in a big stride forward and at times walking a couple of steps to whip the bowler through mid wicket.

However, the only problem here was that the youngster provided by Cricket South Africa (CSA) was at least 15 clicks lesser in terms of pace compared to Burger, who took seven wickets on debut in the opening Test at Centurion.

The net bowler's lack of pace allowed Kohli to read the inswing and then walk down a couple of steps to flick him through mid wicket.

In match situations, Kohli won't get so much time to come on the front foot.

A six off Ashwin was majestic and the way he played Bumrah, with so much time at his disposal, was a treat.

Shreyas Iyer's shortcoming
Shreyas Iyer's weakness

against short ball is well documented. But the Mumbaier wasn't amused one bit when the question cropped up during the ODI World Cup at home.

However, the Centurion Test once again exposed his shortcomings against bounce.

He continues to have serious issues while facing anything that's remotely above his waist line. He looked iffy while batting and as Nuwan Senaviratne, the Sri Lankan left-arm side-arter, bowled one from 18 yards, Iyer reacted late while trying to pull the delivery and was hit on the fleshy part of the stomach.

For a brief period, he stopped batting, looked in pain and was given water before he resumed his job.

All three throwdown specialists bowled to him from 18 yards, and he didn't for once look solid and display enough confidence even though he is an automatic choice in this playing XI.

Countdown Begins On Kylian Mbappé's Future At PSG

Agencies

PARIS: As the New Year begins, so does the countdown on Kylian Mbappé's future.

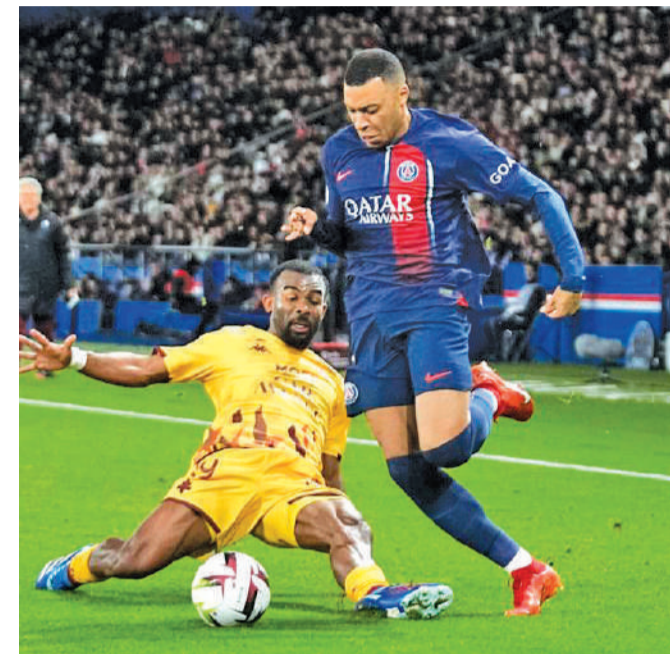
It promises to be a nervous start to 2024 for Paris Saint-Germain and its fans with speculation set to intensify about their prolific striker, one of only two players in soccer history to score a hat trick in a World Cup final.

Mbappé began this season in a transfer standoff with his

time leading scorer with 233 goals despite only recently turning 25, and has already netted some 46 goals for Les Bleus.

But it has been frustrating at times for Mbappé at PSG, which failed to reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League in the last two seasons and has scraped through to the last 16 in second place this season.

Despite having scored 21 goals in 22 games in all competitions so far this season,



club after not taking up the option of a 12-month extension into 2025. It means that, starting January 1, he can openly talk to other clubs or even sign a pre-contract agreement with long-time suitor Real Madrid or Premier League leader Liverpool.

Mbappé can do so because his contract runs out in June, when he can leave the defending French champion for free, having joined from Monaco — initially on loan in 2017 — for 180 million euros (now \$199 million).

The France star is PSG's all-

Mbappé failed to make his mark when PSG lost 4-1 at Newcastle and 2-1 at AC Milan.

His frustration has been seen in some of PSG's league games over the past three seasons, when bad defending and a lack of teamwork has led to soft goals being conceded.

Mbappé has said he wants to win the Ballon d'Or — soccer's most prestigious individual prize — and the Champions League. But whether he can win either with PSG remains to be seen and, at age 25, the time could be right for him to leave PSG as he enters his peak years.

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



0.495 cm

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