# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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*Kashmir's Changing Tastes* 

# From 'Wazwaan' To Combo Meals, How Junk Food Is Taking Over

Hirra Azmat

AN excited staffer, Asif Ahmad (name-changed) at a buzzing eatery in City Mall, Lal Chowk, Srinagar readies himself to promote the latest combination meal offer on their official Instagram page. "If you are planning to visit our restaurant with a group of friends, imagine how much time you need to decide on what each of them wants to eat, if they want to

share, how many sides should they get, etc. Why not make it easier for you? Try our supersaver combo meal that includes enough food to feed 3-4 people? This combo has three large pieces of fried chicken, five juicy chicken lollipops, one dip, and two refreshing soft drinks - all at an unbeatable price of just 551 rupees! But wait, there's more - you can savour this feast at home with our hassle-free online delivery



via Swiggy or Zomato," the phone camera stops recording. all, people want more food at

Asif says with a smile, "After

a less price. That's the secret recipe that keeps them coming back for more.' Gone are the days when

the classic chicken Kanti and flavourful Wazwaan was the most sought-after food for any restaurant goer in Kashmir. With more cafes and online food delivery services, the kind of food people prefer has also changed. These days, the mostly ordered food in Kashmir is Tibetan momos, fried chicken,

and pizzas. Umar Rather, a Kashmir based food-blogger and owner of 'Kashmirfoodgram' page with two lakh followers said the most ordered food in the valley nowadays is combo meals that includes fried chicken, pizza, burgers, soft drinks. "It doesn't have to be a big one, the combo meals can go as low as 300 rupees. It creates a satisfactory menu, such as main + side + dessert, | More on P6

#### **Indian Youths Creating Brave New World: PM**



**Press Trust Of India** 

Tiruchirappalli: Indian innovators took the number of patents from around 4,000 in 2014 to almost 50,000 now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Tuesday.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of state-run Bharathidasan University here, the Prime Minister quoted the 'Puthiyathor Ulagam Seivom' Tamil verses of poet Bharathidasan, after whom the university had been named, and said it meant creating a brave new world which is also the uni-

versity's motto. Modi said the Indian youth were already creating such a world. The Indian scientists are on the world map through missions like Chandrayaan and 'our innovators took the number of patents from around 4,000 in 2014 to almost 50,000 now.'

India's 'humanity scholars are showcasing the India story to the world like never before.' Also, the nation's musicians and artists were continuously bringing international awards for the country, he said.

Modi underlined that giving back to the people | More on P6

Truckers' Strike Against Hit & Run Law

# **Panic Buying, Commotion At Kashmir Fuel Stations**



**Syed Mohammad Burhan** 

Srinagar: Chaotic scenes were witnessed at fuel stations across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday as a truckers' strike, protesting stricter penalties in hit-and-run cases under new laws, disrupted supplies in the region. The strike triggered a surge in panic-buying, with motorists queuing up to secure fuel amidst growing

uncertainty. With most petrol pumps in the city reportedly running dry, the I&K fuel station owners tion warned that 90% of pumps in Jammu have depleted stocks, as 1,500 fuel tankers were on strike, impacting supplies to the Union

Territory of J&K and Ladakh. "We had enough supplies to last four to five days, but since everyone is filling full tanks and there is a huge rush, the stock will last maximum for a day," a fuel station manager in Srinagar said.

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which is set to replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, drivers who cause serious road accidents due to negligent driving and run away without informing police or the administration will face up to 10 years in prison or a fine of Rs 7 lakh. Truckers in several states launched a protest against the

"stringent provision" on Monday. The strike, leading to non-delivery of petroleum products on depots, was called off in the evening after assurance from authorities. However, the All J&K Petrol Tanker Owners' Association had earlier said that drivers will not return to work unless the new legislations are repealed.

Truck drivers at Narwal, Jammu, asserting their solidarity with the nationwide strike on Tuesday, had announced their will to halt the movement of trucks towards | More on P6

### Shah Calls For Elimination Of Terror Eco-System In I&K Takes Stock Of J&K Security Situation In High-Level Meeting In New Delhi

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Union Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the backdrop of last month's terrorist attack in Poonch in which five soldiers were killed.

The high-level meeting was held at North Block, New Delhi and started around 4.30 PM on Tuesday, officials said. National Security Advisor



(NSA), Ajit Doval, Lieutenant of Jammu & Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay

Bhalla, Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) General Manoj Pande, Director Intelligence Bureau (IB) Tapan Deka, Heads of

reviewed the area domination plan of security agencies in J&K to eliminate the threat of terrorism, an official spokesperson said.

tended the meeting.

CAPFs, Chief Secretary & DGP, of Jammu and Kashmir at-

During the meeting Shah

While reviewing the functioning of the security grid and overall security scenario of J&K, Shah instructed to strengthen the counter-terrorism operations and the need for complete elimination of the | More on P6

**Army Probing Civilian Deaths** In Poonch: Official

he Army is conducting an internal probe into the death of three civilians in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir and those found guilty will "definitely be punished," a senior government functionary said on Tuesday. Three civilians, aged between 27 and 42, were found dead on December 22 after they were allegedly picked up by the Army for questioning in connection with a terrorist ambush a day before that left four soldiers dead in Poonch district. The deaths sparked public outrage, prompting the authorities to announce compensation for | More on P6

#### Kashmir's Dry Spell Linked To El Niño Effect: Experts

**Predict A Mild Winter** With Less Snowfall

**Majid Nabi** 

Srinagar: Kashmir has been facing a prolonged dry spell for over a month, with minimal chances of significant weather activity until January 10.

Experts attribute the issue o a shift in weather patterns suggesting that the valley is likely to have a milder winter this year due to the ongoing impact of El Niño.

The valley will likely experience more frequent and extended droughts in the future, according to experts, who claimed the indicators of climate change are evident in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Shift in weather patterns brought on by El Niño, a periodic sequence of climatic changes that impact parts of the Pacific region, has significantly contributed to the dry spell in Kashmir," Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Meteorological Director Department J&K, said.

conditions "Drought-like might arise in several parts of Kashmir if precipitation in January stays below normal. This happens when El Niño occurs," Ahmad told Kashmir Observer.

According to the MeT Director, this is the longest period without significant snowfall since 2015. He said, "In 2015, the valley experienced its first major snowfall on January 24." El Niño and La Niña episodes,

Ahmad said, | More on P6

**Valley Water Bodies Freeze** 

old wave conditions prevailed in Kashmir valley with the minimum temperature remaining below the freezing point, the weather office said on Tuesday. A thin layer of ice has formed over the surface of the Dal Lake as the minimum temperature in Srinagar on Monday night was minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, officials said. The residents of the lake, who live in houseboats, had a tough time breaking the ice layer while roving | More on P6

Construction Of Hotels, Huts

#### **Sat Imagery For Sonamarg** Likely In A Month Or So: SDA

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Process of getting the satellite imagery for Sonamarg "is in good progress" and can be completed within a month or so, SDA has informed the High Court of I&K and Ladakh.

In this regard, the court directed Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organization, Kashmir and Director Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing Department Srinagar to render cooperation to Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) in completing the process of satellite imagery for the golden meadow.

A division bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice M. A. Chowdhary passed the orders after submissions by government advocate, appearing for the SDA that while the process of getting the satellite imagery "is in good progress, however the same involves consultation with Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organization, Kashmir and Director Ecology, **Environment & Remote Sensing** Department, Srinagar."

"Copy of this order may be furnished to all the authorities so that there shall be no delay on their part to render coopera-

tion to the SDA," the court said. Pertinently as | More on P6

#### **Panel To Draft Proposal For Madrassa Board In J&K**

**Agencies** 

Srinagar: Authorities in Kashmir on Tuesday set up a committee for preparing a comprehensive draft proposal for establishing a Madrassa Board in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the establishment of Draft Committee comprising below-mentioned officers/officials who will prepare a comprehensive draft proposal regarding establishment of a Madrassa Board in J-K," the Director of School Education, Kashmir, said in an order issued here.

The four-member draft committee will start its work on Wednesday and submit a report to the Director of School Education, Kashmir, by or before January 10.

Several states have Madrasa Boards that regulate education in Islamic religious schools.

## **Finger Print Bureau To** Come Up In J&K

**Press Trust Of India** 

Jammu: Sanction has been accorded to a 73-member strong Finger Print Bureau (FPB) in Jammu and Kashmir Police, a move that will help consolidate fingerprint data to further strengthen investigation in criminal cases, officials said on Tuesday.

The decision to set up the first-ever FPB in the Union Territory was taken by the Administrative Council headed by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha last week, they said.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the creation of 73 posts for establishment of



FPB in Jammu and Kashmir police," J-K home department said in a recent order.

It said the FPB will be headed by a senior superintendent of police and include one Superintendent of Police and two Deputy Superintendents of Police.

In a separate order, the home department has also given its assent to the creation of additional manpower of | More on P6



## **EMERGING STARTUP TRENDS IN NORTH INDIA**

े विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

birac

STARTUP EXPO

4th January, 2024

Inauguration



Hon'ble Vice-President, India

In the august presence of

DoAE, Department of Space and Vice President, CSIR

Dr. Jitendra Singh Hon'ble Union Minister of State (I/C) for Science & Technology, Minister of State in the PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions,

Date: 4th January, 2024 I Venue: Industrial Bio-Tech Park, Ghatti ,Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir



Dr. Jitendra Singh

Hon'ble Union Minister of State (I/C) for Science & Technology, Minister of State in the PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions DoAE, Department of Space and Vice President, CSIR

# To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

# KASHMIR OBSERVER 1 Srinagar | Wednesday | 03-01-2024

## **Al-Generated Influencers Stealing Business From Human Content Creators**

Generative AI-created virtual influencers are now stealing business from human content creators as big brands now embrace AI avatars to promote their products on social media.

Virtual influencers, cre-

ated by using artificial intelligence (AI) tools, have broken into the growing \$21 billion content creator economy, reports The Financial Times.

"We were taken aback by the skyrocketing rates influencers charge nowadays. That got us thinking, 'What if we just create our own

influencer?" said Diana Nunez, co-founder of the ad agency called The Clueless. Nunez created Aitana Lo-

pez and the "rest is history". Pink-haired Lopez is now a virtual influencer that is followed by more than 2,00,000 people on so-

The virtual influencer now earns more than Rs 9 lakh per month.

Brands have paid about \$1,000 a post for her to promote their products on social media-despite the fact that she is entirely fictional," the report noted.

0194-2310283 exenrajbaghsgr@gmail.com Government of Jammu & Kashmir

cial media.

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

Lal Mandi, Near L.D. Hospital Srinagar-190008

Fresh NOTICE INVITING TENDER9(2nd Call)

(for Road work/bridges/Buildings) E-NIT NO:47/RnB/RAJ of 2023-24 Dated:11.12.2023(Previous NIT NO.)

> TWO COVER SYSTEM (Above Rs. 2.50 crores)

E-NIT No.57of R&B/Div/Raj/ of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No.4912-22 Dated: 01.01.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on %age basis (as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

ı							
l	S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In	Cost of T/Doc. (In	Earnest Money	T.O.C	Class of Contractor
l			Lacs)	Rupees)	(inRs.)		
l	1.	Construction of Two storied	282.23 Incl. C/o	5500/-	5,64,460/-	365 Days	AAY
l		Extension Office Cum Publicity	Material + GST				
l		Wing complex at Directorate					
l		of Animal Husbandry Kashmir					
l		Gawkadal Srinagar.					

Project Authority: Director Animal Husbandry Department

Major Head of Account NABARD RIDF XXVI Position of AAA

Accorded by Director Animal Husbandry Deptt Kashmir Sgr vide order No. 32-DAHK

of 2022 dated 18.01.2022

tion accorded.
01-01-2024
From 02.01.2024 from 10:00 AM
08.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer
PWD (R&B) South.
02.01.2024 From 10:00 AM
15.01.2024upto 4.00 P.M
16.01.2024at 11.00 AM in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD
(R&B) Circle SrinagarSouth
To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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 below schedule:

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury challan Receipt (under M.H-0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh, Srinagar (The Date of Treasury Challan, must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

DIPK-14573/23 Dated: 02.01.2024

**Executive Engineer** R&B Division Rajbagh, Srinagar

#### The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

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

Class 10th Roll No: 312304 Year & Session - Oct-Nov-2005 Registration: 04NKM307015 Name: Mohd Ashraf Wani Father's Name: Sonaullah Wan Mother's Name: Sara Begum

Date of Birth:-15-10-1990 Residenc:- Kreeri Baramulla

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 3008186 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/24

Assistant Secretary

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost my driving license bearing No. JK-012000103603 issued on 22.02.2000, now I am applying for its duplicate in the office of RTO Kashmir. If anybody is having any kind of objection in this behalf, he may file the same to the concerned authorities within the period of seven days from the publication of this notice.

Akhtar Hussain Buch S/O Bashir Ahmad Buch R/O House No. 01

Central Avenue Illahi Bagh **Buchpora Srinagar** 

Certificates, KD.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Funzip Kashmir Tour and Travels" Situated at Ashia Bagh, Nigeen, Hazratbal, Srinagar.

Whereas I, MR. MANZOOR HAIDER S/O MR. MAZNOOR AHMAD DARZI R/O ASHIA BAGH, NIGEEN, HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of "M/S FUNZIP KASHMIR TOUR AND TRAV-ELS," Situated at ASHIA BAGH, NIGEEN, HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card \ Experience Certificate (Minimum 5years). Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card ) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before

my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id; ddtregl23@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in a eading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

My name has been wrongly written in my JK Bank Account Details as Tahira Jan while my correct name as per aadhar is Tahir Hameed . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the Branch Manager I&K Bank Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Tahira Hameed

D/W/O : Abdul Hameed Rather R/o: Goigam

bmg

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be

Yasir Ali Najar (DOB 25-07-2011) S/o Nisar Ahmad Najar R/o Yagi Pora Magam

**BMG** 

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be

Arif Hussain Najar (Dob 06-04-2014)

S/O Nisar Ahmad Najar R/O Yagi Pora Magam

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost my 10th class Discharge Certificate . Now I am applying for its duplicate. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani Memorial Institute Imam Sahib Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Suhana Avaz D/o Avaz Ahmad Ganie R/o Manihal Shopian

fko

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is informed to general public that I want to register myself and my children's for DOB. The details are as under:-1. Falak Jan, D/o:: Parvaiz Ahmad Sheikh, DOB: 17-12-2015

2. Jabran Parvaiz, S/o: Parvaiz Ahmad Sheikh, DOB: 17-12-2015 3 . Parvaiz Ahmad Sheikh, S/o: Ab. Gani Sheikh, DOB: 07-09-

All residents of Sorigam, Lolab and all are born at home. If any body has any objection, may file the same in the BDO office, Vavora within seven (7) days of this publication. After that no objection will be entertained.

Parvaiz Ahmad Sheikh, S/o: Ab. Gani Sheikh R/O Surigam, Lolab Ph No :9906652783 SU

#### Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Directorate Of Sheep Husbandry, Kashmir

E-mail-kashmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com

Corrigendum.& Extension

No-Dshk/Acctts/23-24/8783

Dt-02.01.2024. Ref-E-Procurement Notice for Insurance of Imported livestock issued vide e-NIT No: DSHK/Acctts/23-24/308722 Dt-25.11.2023.

The tender is extended as per the dates mentioned below.

"The clause 5.8 of the above quoted tender shall be deemed to have been deleted ab-initio."

Description Date & Time Bid submission end date 08.01.2024(2.00pm) Opening of Technical Bid (Online) 09.01.2024(2.00pm)

The other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain same

Sd/-Chairman

DIPK-14593/23 dated: 02-01-2024

State Level Purchase Committee Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir

#### U.T OF GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kupwara

Email: doshdkupwara@gmail.com, Telefax: +911955252220.

In view of the spurt in the cases of Fascioliasis as reported from various Sheep Development Blocks of Kupwara District in small ruminants especially Sheep population, the sheep breeders are hereby advised to take following immediate necessary measures:

Subject: Outbreak of Fascioliasis in Sheep population and Advisory for Sheep Breeders of District Kupwara.

1. Anti-fluke prophylactic measures may be take in consultation with the concerned Veterinary assistant surgeons of the area. 2. Pre and post dosing faecal samples be sent to Disease Investigation Laboratory Kupwara for analysis and egg count monitoring.

3. Early grazing of animals be avoided. Grazing in paddy fields should completely be avoided especially in water logged areas of Kralpora, Gulgam, Villgam, Pazzipora, Langate, Wahipora

4. Animals of all age groups be vaccinated against Enterotoxaemia. Abundant doses of ENT vaccine are available at DIL Kupwara and at each Sheep Development Block. Booster doses are advised in case ENT vaccine already done.

5. Sheep sheds be kept warm and properly ventilated to avoid accumulation of ammonia

6. Floor of the shed be kept dry to prevent Foot rot, Coccidiosis and other diseases.

7. Sheep Sheds should be well drained to avoid pooling of rain water. 8. For any query and assistance, Control Room has been established in the office of District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kupwara with

Nodal Official: Mr Feroz Ahmad Sheikh (Mob. No. 8825025569). Sheep breeders from other areas in case of any exigency may contact SDOs/Veterinary Assistant Surgeons of their respective areas:

Dr Bilal Banday: SDO Handwara- 9906518344 Dr Faisal, SDO Karnah- 9906922166

Dr Gh Ali Mala, VAS Kupwara- 6005343528 Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, VAS Zachaldara-990671234

Dr. Ishtiyaq Ali, VAS Machil/Kalaroose-7889384060 Dr. Javid Sofi, VAS Ramhall-7006345966

Dr Nayeem, VAS Gulgam/Trehgam-914954953

Dr Tanveer Ahmad Sofi, VAS Handwara-9797565615

Dr Rayees Ahmad Lone, VAS Kuligam-7006120821 Dr Aquil Mohammad, VAS Sogam-788945091

Dr. Henan Farooq, VAS Shartpora-8082616617 Dr. Tariq Beigh- VAS Karnah-706573720 Mr. Mohd Afzal Bhat, ALO Kralpora-889961154

No. DSHOK/Tech/2023-24/3505-21 DIPK-14561/23 Dated: 02/01/2024

(ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST)

Sd/= (Dr Sheikh Ishrat Mehmood) District Sheep Husbandry Officer یوسف ِ زہراءٌ تیرے نام کاسہارا ہم لیلائے ولایت علی و فاطمہ کے دیوانے اور مجنون میں ۔لوگوں کی ملامت و مذمت کوشیطان کی آ ذان سبحصة بین اور ملامت کرنے والوں کوشیطان کے اعوان وانصار سبحصتے ہیں۔ چودہ سوسال کے بعداب آج نبی کی لا ڈ لی بیٹی ، علی کی معصوم دلہن ،امامحسن کی اماجان ,مولی حسین کی نازنین ماں ، بی فی آغوش ،مظلومہ بیٹی زینب کی ٹھنڈری حیماؤں ،شنرادےا کبروقاسم واصغروسکیندع کی دادی ماں ، پوسف زہراءً کے حق میں دعاء گوشفیق ماں شیعان جهاں کیشکنته پهلواورشکنته قلبشنرادءرسالت ,بسید ة النساء خاتون جنان ,ماوتاباں ،کوثرقر آن ،ام الائمه،ام ابیھا ،حضرت فاطمہ الز ہراسلام اللہ وصلوانہ علیہاوا بیہا وبعلہا وبنیہا کےمیلا دمقدس کے بابرکت موقعہ پینیں20 جمادی الثانیہ کےشب اور یوم کومولی علی وسید فاطمہ زہرا کی مہندی رات اور یوم از دواج کے ساتھ منسوب کر کے ان دونوں ہستیوں کے حب میں عشق میں ،مودۃ میں ، ولایت میں . 🧇 2 جنوري منگلوار تا3 جنوري بدهوا، 👍 ہم اینے گھروں کا چراغاں کرینگے۔ 🏖 مولیعلی اور بی بی بتول کی پاک روحوں کوایئے گھر بُلا 'مینگے ، وہ خلق عظیم کے پیکرضر ورتشریف لا 'مینگے۔ 🚯 کھرعبدالمطلب کے راج دلا رول کے فضائل ومنا قب پڑھ کرفضا کومہکا ئیں گے۔ 🐠 لی بی عائشہ، جناب امسلمہ اور دیگر لوگوں کے کیجا شعار گنگنا کیں گے۔ 🗗 علی و فاطمہ کی مدح سرائی کی دھوم مجائیں گے۔ 🚯 شروع اورآ خرمیں دولہااور دلہن کا صدقہ کر کے نذرو نیاز بانٹیں گے۔ 🕏 اور پھر دولہااور دلہن کے بزرگوں سے بیاروں کی شفاء مجتا جوں کی حاجت روائی ستم رسیدہ لوگوں کی مشکل کشائی کے مدیباور تخفے مانگیں 91-7889301308+( أغاسيه مجابد حسين الموسوى ) 917006613286+ ( حكيم مهميل عبا



#### **Div Com Congratulates Dept's For Timely Completion Of Barzulla Bund Road**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: In a bid to ease traffic snarls on Rambagh-Natipora road, the Divi-Administration Kashmir today threw open Barzulla Bund Road, thereby providing a sigh of relief to the commuters.

In this connection, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today took a spot visit of Barzulla Bund Road after timely completion of its work, giving green signal to concerned authorities for diversion of one way traffic through this route.

He congratulated the concerned departments for timely completion of Barzulla Bund Road as promised. He also asked them to complete other projects with the same zeal and zest for their timely completion.

The Div Com was accompanied by Commissioner SMC/ CEO SSCL; Chief Engineer R&B; SSP Traffic and other Officers and officials.

On the occasion, Div Com inspected the work on the retaining wall and directed R&B authorities to complete the same timely, while traffic shall continue to ply. He also directed for filling undulations that arise after plying of traffic on the road.

The Div Com said that blacktopping of the road cannot be done right now due to freezing temperatures; the same will be done when temperature improves.

It was decided that this alternate route shall be put into use to divert the traffic during peak hours to ease the traffic flow on the main road.

The locals on the occasion expressed gratitude to the Divisional Administration for addressing their long pending demand of putting an end to traffic gridlocks at Natipora by the development of parallel Bund Road



**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The Chief executive Officer (CEO) Srinagar Smart City Ltd and Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Athar Amir Khan conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing smart city projects in Downtown Srinagar.

The CEO was accompanied by the Chief Engineer SSCL, GM SSCL Executive Engineers, AEE's, and officials from Srinagar Smart City

The tour commenced at Habba Kadal and continued to Malaratta, Mahraj Gunj, Bohri Kadal,Zaina Kadal, Pather Masjid and Nawab Bazar where Athar personally assessed the progress achieved at various project sites during a thorough inspection.

The primary objective of the visit was to evaluate the current status of the smart city projects in Downtown, ensuring that they are on track for timely completion.



Demand for dried fish populaly known as hokh gaad in Kashmir, has surged as minimum temperature hover around below freezing point amid prolonged dry spell in Kashmir. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

# **Popularity Of Harissa Sparks Increased Demand For Mutton in Kashmir**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: With Harissa taking center stage in Kashmir this winter, the demand for mutton has soared manifold in Kashmir.

Harissa, a winter delicacy of Kashmir, apart from kitchens is also being adopted by scores of the restaurants in Kashmir. This has increased the demand

for mutton following which the supply has considerably increased in Kashmir this season. The situation is such that the sup-

ply of mutton in Kashmir this winter has increased by more than 30 per cent during the ongoing season. All Kashmir Mutton Dealers' Association, Khazir Mohammad Rigoo said

on an average daily mutton worth Rs 12 crore was supplied to the valley

"Mutton demand has gone up this

winter. There is not any kind of shortage right now and on an average daily mutton worth Rs 12 crore is being supplied to the valley," he said.

Rigoo said during summers, the supply and consumption of mutton was less compared to the ongoing winter. "If we compare the current mutton

supply with summer, we would receive a supply worth Rs 8 crore on an average daily. Right now, mutton demand is higher because of the winter food habits of Kashmir," he said.

Rigoo said the quality of mutton has subsequently improved during the winter season. "Quality of mutton is much better now. People want the best quality mutton, so the suppliers import best mutton breeds to Kashmir," he said.

Known for its bold blend of chili peppers, garlic, and various spices, Harissa has become the go-to ingredient for chefs and home cooks alike, transforming traditional mutton dishes into spicy delights.

Restaurants across Kashmir are seizing the opportunity to cater to the growing demand, featuring harissamarinated mutton prominently on their winter menus.

From the bustling streets of Srinagar to the serene valleys of Gulmarg, sizzling Harissa has become one of the most consumed winter delicacies in restaurants.

"Sale of harissa is witnessing a surge during winter due to which we see a lot of restaurants and home kitchens selling Harissa as a prime cuisine during winters. We are witnessing maximum sales of Harissa during winters even though we serve other dishes like tandoori chicken, butter chicken and Gajar ka halwa," said Rubina who owns a food outlet Neimat-(KNO)

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#### **AIRPORTS**

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PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



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

# **CALENDAR** 20 Jumada al-Sani 1445

**PRAYERS FAJR** 6:07 **ZUHR** 12:35 **ASR** 3:56 Magrib 5:37 **ISHA** 7:03

#### This Day In History

1945 - Allies land on west coast of Burma, conquer Akyab.

1947 - 1st opening session of Congress to be televised.

1948 - Bradman completes dual Test tons (132 & 127\*) v India MCG.

1956 - A fire damages the top part of the Eiffel

1958 - Edmund Hillary reaches South Pole overland.

1958 - The West Indies Federation is formed. 1959 - Alaska admitted as 49th US state.

1961 - US breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba.

1970 - Marxist government takes over in Congo. 1974 - Arias Navarro succeeds Carrero Blanco as premier of Spain.

1974 - Burma accepts its constitution.

1977 - Apple Computer, Inc incorporates. 1977 - Former Home Secretary Roy Jenkins

announces his intention to be Britain's first President of the European Commission.

1980 - Babrak Karmal defends the Soviet-backed coup in first public appearance since taking power as President of Afghanistan.

1984 - Syria frees captured US pilot after appeal from Jesse Jackson.

1985 - Israel government confirms resettlement of 10,000 Ethiopian Jews.

1988 - Israel orders 9 Palestinian "instigators" deported from W Beirut

1988 - Margaret Thatcher becomes longest-serving

British PM this century

1990 - Panama's leader Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities. 1991 - Israel reopens consulate in USSR after 23

1993 - In Moscow, the Start II arms reduction treaty is signed by George H. W. Bush (USA) and Boris Yeltsin (Russia).

1994 - 100s killed in Venezuela in prison revolt. 1994 - Tupolev-154M crashes at Irkutsk, Siberia: 122

killed. 1994 - 35-foot-tall Chief Wahoo, trademark of

Indians on top of Stadium since 1962, is taken down, to be moved to Jacob's Field.

1994 - Restoration of South African citizenship, announced on 15 December 1993 by the South African parliament led by President F. W. de Klerk, becomes effective four months before the first South Africa non-racial polls of 27 April, 1994. 1996 - The first flip phone, the Motorola StarTAC,

goes on sale. 1999 - Israel detains, and later expels, 14 members

of Concerned Christians.

2002- The Palestinian freighter Karine A is seized by Israeli forces in the Red Sea

2004- After hosting the show for over 30 years, Casey Kasem gives up the hosting duties of "American Top 40" to Ryan Seacrest

200 - Flight 604, a Boeing 737 owned by Flash Airlines, an Egyptian airliner, plunges into the Red Sea, killing all 148 people on board.

2009- Israeli ground forces invade Gaza. 2009- The Bitcoin network is created as the first

block of the digital currency is mined by a person or group of people using the name Satoshi Nakamoto 2013-27 Shiite pilgrims are killed and 60 are injured by a suicide bombing in Musayyib, Iraq

2015- Over 2,000 people are killed in north-east Nigeria after Boko Haram militants raze the town of Baga

2018- First bionic hand with a sense of touch, for use outside a lab unveiled in Rome

2018- Lawyers of US President Donald Trump try to stop the publication of book on Trump's

administration "Fire and Fury" by Michael Wolff 2018- Previously unknown ancient Beringians

group of people unearthed in Alaska, earliest

known Native Americans at 11,500 years old 2018- Security expert reveal two security flaws, Meltdown and Spectre which affect most

2019- Archaeologists in Mexico announce discovery of pre-Aztec temple to god Xipe Tótec in Puebla state (dated 900-1150 AD)

# SMC Extends VBSY Reach To Srinagar

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Srinagar Mu-Corporation nicipal (SMC) successfully extended the reach of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) camp today with a series of events held at Qamarwari.

The VBSY camp provided a valuable platform

J&K Bank

for officers and officials from various departments to interact with the local community, fostering an environment of collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Representatives from diverse departments took the opportunity to explain the core objectives and procedural intricacies of their respective schemes,

with the aim of bridging

the information gap and ensuring that citizens are fully informed about the numerous benefits and assistance available to them.

The event at Qamarwari marks a significant step forward in the SMC's efforts to engage with the community and ensure that essential information reaches the citizens.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001 Tel: (0194) 2481930-35 Fax: (0194) 2481928 Visit us at: www.jkbank.com

CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048

#### **Symbolic Possession Notice**

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Sajad Ahmad Wani as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 16.01.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Ali Mohammad Dar S/O M Abdullah Dar R/O Hanjik Shriefabad, Budgam Kashmir to repay an amount of Rs.48,79,827.00 (Rupees Forty Eight Lacs Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Seven Only) being the balance outstandingas on31.08.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that Mrs. Asmat Ara the authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 28th of December of the year 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.50,84,051.66 (Rupees Fifty Lacs Eighty Four Thousand Fifty One And Paisa Sixty Six Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2023and other charges incurred or to be incurred. The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

#### **Description of the Immovable Property**

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

Registered Mortgage of Land measuring 19 marlas alongwith residential house constructed thereon bearing khasra no.490min,khata no.339,khewat no.100 at Hanjik Budgam in Mouza Hanjik Tehsil and District Budgam standing in the name of Mr. Ali Mohammad Dar S/O M Abdullah Dar R/O Hanjik Shriefabad Budgam.

**Authorized Officer** 

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

#### Office of the Executive Engineer Sub - Transmission Division Pulwama

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO.:- 210F 2023-24 (e-Tendering) Dated:- 01/01/2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-Tender is hereby invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. for the following work.

S. No.	Name of work	Advertised	Earnest Money	Tender fee in Rs.	Class of Contract
		Amount in Lacs	in. Rs.		
2	PART A: Commissioning of 33kV Tie-Line from Goodwill School (33kV IGC Aglar Tap Line) to Receiving Station Keegam under Stabilization of 33kV Lines UT Capex 2023-24. PART B: Stabilization / Augmentation of ACSR (0.05) Rabbit Conductor to ACSR(0.1) DOG Conductor of 33kV Awantipora Sangam 2nd line (Panzgam Tap line) and raising of ground clearance of river crossing under stabilization of 33kV lines	16.54	33095.00 in the form of CDR/FDR	1000.00 (In the form of Treasury	A-Class Electrical Con- tractors enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/ DGBPO and Inspection Agency of J& K PDD

1. The scanned copies of documents in original which proves the eligibility of bidders follows as under

1) Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&K/ Relevant issuing authority 2) Average Annual Financial Turn Over of not less than 30% of the estimated tender value during the last

three (03) years.

3) Updated/Filed GSTR 3B of last month.

ITR of previous 3 Years. 5) Performance and Past experience of similar type of work. Work Completion/Satisfactory Performance

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Set of terms and conditions can be seen/downloaded from the official website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Date of issue of Tender Notice Date of start of downloading. e-Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial. Bid submission end date. Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bid Office of the Executive Engineer STD

There is no need of furnishing of hard copies of bids after submission of e-tenders. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bid as per the instructions of Finance Department issued vide O.M No. A/24(2017)-651; Dated: 07-06-2018.

Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/receipt/ E- Challan under (MH-0801 PDD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Sub – Transmission Division Pulw (tender inviting authority). All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only valid for a period of at least one year from the date of issuance of this tender notice from any schedule or nation-

alized bank pledged to the Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority). No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. However the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bid has to submit the original EMD to the office of the Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Pulwama through speed post. Courier or by hand. No Bidder, unless or otherwise specified in the terms and conditions, shall be exempted from depositing of Earnest Money. Tenders not accompanied with the requisite amount of earnest money shall be rejected. 7. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the

venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any

reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet pro-

To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. The Employer or its representative shall have a right to test any material or any part thereof before or during the execution of works as specified in the technical specifications at any reputed testing laboratory, the expenses of which shall be borne by the concerned executing agency/contractor. In case of the failure of the Test the Lot shall be rejected. Same shall be replaced by the Contractor without affecting to the delivery period.

All other terms and conditions are laid down in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) which is uploaded separately with this tender.

No.:- STD/Pul/3151-57 DIPK-NB-5058/23 Dated:-02/01/2024

vided with the SBD.

Sd/-**Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division** 

Pulwama

Dated:28.12.2023 Place: Srinagar

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Wednesday | 03-01-2024

# Durable ceasefire in Gaza

he recent events unfolding in the Middle East have once again brought the enduring conflict between Israel and Palestine to the forefront of global attention. The violence that erupted in October, triggered by the attack on Israel by Hamas, highlights the urgent necessity for a durable and lasting ceasefire in Gaza. As the USS Gerald R. Ford, a symbol of the US military might, prepares to return to its base, it's the moment for stakeholders to prioritize peace over escalation.

Israel's plan to reduce troop presence signals a potential shift in strategy towards localized operations. The conflict, ongoing for nearly three months, has resulted in significant casualties and destruction. Efforts to negotiate a truce and address the hostage situation are underway, with concerns persisting about the conflict's broader implications for the region.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces have intensified their operations in Gaza, engaging in heavy fighting across multiple areas, including airstrikes, tank shelling, and ground operations. Ongoing clashes in central and southern regions have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis for Gaza residents. So far over 21000 Palesrinians have been killed in the Israeli strikes, most of them women and children.

The recurring cycle of violence between Israel and Hamas has resulted in immeasurable suffering for Palestinians. Each resurgence of conflict not only claims precious lives but also deepens the wounds of a conflict with historical complexities. It's evident that military might alone cannot be the harbinger of peace. Instead, a concerted effort towards dialogue, diplomacy, and a sustainable ceasefire is the need of the hour.

A durable ceasefire is not merely a momentary cessation of hostilities; it's a foundation upon which a path to lasting peace can be built. It requires a collective commitment from all parties involved to engage in constructive dialogue, address underlying grievances, and work towards a sustainable solution that, first and foremost, respects the rights and aspirations of Palestinians.

The international community, including key stakeholders in the Middle East, must step up their efforts to facilitate meaningful negotiations. The support for humanitarian aid and reconstruction in Gaza is equally imperative to alleviate the suffering of its inhabitants and rebuild shattered infrastructure.

The tragedies witnessed in Gaza, as well as the wider region, demand a shift from the cycles of violence towards a future where peaceful coexistence is not just a distant aspiration but a tangible reality. While ceasefire is the immediate necessity, long-term peace hinges on robust diplomatic initiatives, which means a serious global effort for a two-state solution within 1967 borders whereby sovereign Israel and Palestinian states live side by side.

#### OTHER OPINON

# Old and strong: On India-Russia ties

Tt is equally unusual for Russian President Vladimir Putin to meet lower-ranking foreign officials, as he did while meeting Mr. Jaishankar. The warmth was significant given that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has skipped the annual leadership summit, an unbroken tradition from 2000-21, for two years now, leading to speculation about the health of the India-Russia relationship after the Ukraine war. While India took care not to criticise Russia, worries over the flagging of defence supplies, continued issues over paying Russia for imports in third currencies, and the general decline in other bilateral engagements have persisted. It is clear that a large part of Mr. Jaishankar's mission was to smooth over the perception of differences. The resultant agreements, pertaining to furthering collaboration in future Kudankulam nuclear power projects, fostering connectivity, trade and resuming talks for the Eurasian Economic Union-India free trade agreement, and joint military production indicate that bilateral relations are on track. So is multilateral cooperation, especially as Russia plans to host the expanded BRICS summit next year, and India and Russia continue to coordinate positions at the UN and SCO. Mr. Jaishankar's announcement that imports of Russian hydrocarbons will continue to rise despite the West's Russian sanctions, indicated the strength of ties that continue "regardless of political fluctuations".

Mr. Jaishankar's affirmation that the annual leadership summit will be resumed in 2024, appeared to signify that both sides are working to eliminate any static in the relationship. His statement that the India-Russia relationship was the 'only constant in world politics' over the last six decades would not have gone unnoticed especially in Washington and Beijing, given some of the friction in India-U.S. relations over the Pannun investigation, as well as U.S. President Joseph Biden's decision not to accept Mr. Modi's invitation for Republic Day, while India-China relations have ended another year in impasse over the military standoff. It remains to be seen whether the bonhomie will yield concrete movement on the rupeerouble payment mechanism, or on expediting the delayed delivery of S-400 air system units. However, the larger import of his visit, and his words that the "geopolitical and strategic convergence" between India and Russia in a multipolar world that is "rebalancing", will be watched most closely by votaries and critics of the relationship.

The Hindu

# Misinterpreting 3rd Party Info Under RTI Law

FAAs, J&K bank PIOs, and Public Authorities need to understand this legal provision. FAA is as important as the Information Commission

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

or a pretty long time I have been planning to write a detailed piece on third party information which is a provision in the Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI). I have observed during the last few years that many PIOs and even the First Appellate Authorities -FAAs designated under RTI Law have been misinterpreting and misusing this legal provision. In the last few years, I have gone through several orders issued by PIOs and FAAs of various public authorities who have invoked section 11 of RTI Act 2005 and denied sharing information citing third party reasons. I am quite sure that if I ask all these PIOs or those who have denied sharing information by invoking 3rd party provision of RTI Act 2005, most of these officers and even their seniors (First Appellate Authorities-FAAs) would be unaware about what the 3rd party information means. I am also pretty sure that they would not even know which section details the 3rd party in RTI Act 2005 and what it is all about.

I have been prompted to write this piece after I went through an order dated December 15th 2023, issued by Zonal Officer Jammu & Kashmir Bank Baramulla who is the designated First Appellate Authority -FAA under RTI Act 2005 for Baramulla zone.

After J&K Bank was designated as a Public Authority by the J&K Government in November 2018, the bank designated different officers as FAAs , PIOs and APIOs under RTI Act 2005. As per the details available on J&K Bank's website, there are 16 designated First Appellate Authorities-FAA's and Public Information Officers-PIO's respectively plus 944 Assistant Public Information Officers-APIOs. After going through some of the orders passed by PIOs and FAAs, I think these designated officers are not trained properly on how to handle RTI applications and appeals.

#### What is Third party Information?

Section 11 of RTI Act 2005 says that if a Public Information Officer (PIO) intends to disclose an information supplied by a third party which the third party has treated as confidential, the PIO, before taking a decision to disclose the information, shall invite the third party to make submission in the matter

First of all we need to know who is the first party, second party and third party. RTI applicant is the 1st party, PIO is the 2nd party and 3rd party is the person or organisation who has already given in writing to PIO that if the information related to them is sought by someone they need to be intimated about the same.

#### The section 11 of the RTI Act 2005 reads:

"Where a Central Public Information Officer-CPIO or a State Public Information Officer-SPIO the case may be intends to disclose any information or record, or part thereof on a request made under this Act, which relates to or has been supplied by a third party and has been treated as confidential by that third party, the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, shall, within five days from the receipt of the request, give a written notice to such third party of the request and of the fact that the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, intends to disclose the information or record, or part thereof, and invite the third party to make a submission in writing or orally, regarding whether the information should be disclosed, and such submission of the third party shall be kept in view while taking a decision about disclosure of information. Provided that except in the case of trade or commercial secrets protected by law, disclosure may be allowed if the public interest in disclosure outweighs in importance any possible harm or injury to the interests of such third party."

#### CICs judgement on 3rd party info

The Central Information Commission (CIC) in its 2006 judgement has said that 3rd parties have no absolute right to refuse information disclosure about it. In the case of K.K. Mahajan v/s Cantonment Executive Office CIC Judgement No: CIC/AT/A/2006/00014, dated 22/5/2006, the appellant in the case who was an employee of a public authority, had applied for some information relating to the prosecution of another employee (third party), because under similar circumstances the appellant was convicted while the other employee was exonerated. The public authority refused to provide him the information he had asked for on the ground that the third party had refused the disclosure of information about it to the applicant. Judgment: The CIC held that the RTI Act 2005 does not give a third party an automatic right to order the public information officer (PIO) of a public authority, not to disclose information pertaining to it.

The CIC further held that the public authority is required to evaluate the third party's case in terms of the provisions of Section 8(1)(j) and Section 11(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, and find out that the information asked is not barred from disclosure.



"Even if the information is barred from disclosure then the public authority is to examine if it would be in the public interest to disclose the information sought and its disclosure will outweigh harm if any to the individual third party. The public authority has to arrive at the findings by properly assessing the facts and circumstances of the case," reads the judgement

This makes it clear that 3rd party even if it refuses to divulge the information and tells the same to PIO in writing , the PIO cannot take this as gospel truth and needs to evaluate the case himself and should look into other aspects as well. Ironically, most of the PIOs and even their seniors First Appellate Authorities -FAAs especially in J&K treat most of the RTI cases wherein information sought under RTI law and the same relates to other official / officials, they invoke section 11 of RTI Act 2005 (3rd party information). This is totally wrong as these officials never have said in writing that they should be consulted before information is sought about them. Third party cases are mostly related to trade or commercial secrets and this has nothing to do with information sought about Govt officials like their first appointment orders, academic qualification, TADA drawn and other things.

#### Govt of India's guidelines

The Government of India through the Department of Personnel & Trainings -DoPT in its guidelines issued on the RTI Act 2005, dated: 05/10/2009 has said that information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party, is exempt from disclosure. Such information shall not be disclosed unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information. The guidelines further say that If an applicant seeks any information which relates to or has been supnlied by a third party and that third party has treated that information as confidential, the Public Information Officer shall consider whether the information should be disclosed or not. The guiding principle in such cases is that except in the case of trade or commercial secrets protected by law, disclosure may be allowed if the public interest in disclosure outweighs in importance any possible harm or injury to the interests of such a third party. This guideline also makes it clear that 3rd party information is related to commercial and trade secrets and that too can be disclosed if PIO deems it fit that its disclosure would serve a larger public interest. Now if the PIO invokes 3rd party provision for protecting their colleagues and government officials that is a total misinterpretation of the RTI Act 2005.

#### FAA J&K misinterpreted 3rd party Info

As mentioned in the beginning, I am writing this piece after going through an official communication of J&K Bank Zone Baramulla dated December 15th 2023. The First Appellate Authority -FAA who is also the Zonal Officer Jammu & Kashmir Bank Baramulla denied sharing information to an RTI applicant namely Manzoor Ahmad Rather, a resident of Ajas Bandipora. When this author went through the six questions written in the RTI application I couldn't find any of these questions that were exempted under section 11 of the RTI Act 2005 (3rd party information)

#### The applicant has sought following information:

Certified copies of total number of employees in J&K Bank branch Ajas and their designation along with their initial appointment orders , appointing authority , date of appointment and educational qualification

Loans sanctioned by J&K Bank branch Ajas , and loan approval process , criteria for disbursement of these loans and steps taken by JK Bank branch Ajas to ensure timely repayment of loans Certified copies of latest audit reports of JK Bank branch Ajas

Certified copies of internal investigations reports conducted by J&K Bank related to Ajas branch in Bandipora

The applicant had filed an RTI application of September 30th 2023 and this was replied after 2 months by the PIO who refused to share this information citing that that information falls under section 11 – (3rd party information). The aggrieved filed 1st appeal before the Zonal Officer J&K Bank branch Baramulla who is also the First Appellate Authority-FAA. The appellant told me that the said officer without even hearing him in presence of the concerned Public Information Officer-PIO or APIO, sent him an official communication Ref No: BR/ZOB/RTI/2023-1725 Dated: 15.12.2023 . The Zonal Officer / FAA without hearing arguments of both parties disposed of the case and refused to share the information. The official communication of the First Appellate Authority -FAA under RTI Act 2005 and Zonal Officer JK Bank Baramulla reads as:

"Please refer your appeal under RTI Act 2005 dated 21.11.2023 received through Law Department Corporate Headquarters on 29.11.2023 wherein you have sought the following information . In this regard we have already replied to your application dated 30.09.2023 vide Banks letter No: ZOBRA/BS/RTI/2023 -1373 Dated 31.10.2023 . Now you have filed the instant appeal seeking the above desired information once again . In this regard please be informed that since the information pertains to third party information so same cannot be provided as same would constitute infringement of right to privacy "

The officer has not only misinterpreted the third party information but has also committed a blunder by not hearing the arguments of the appellant and the PIO or APIO. Sending a letter to the appellant asking him that he won't get information without a speaking order is not a violation of RTI Act 2005, but this goes against the principle of natural justice as well. J&K Bank First Appellate Authority -FAA Mr Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat (Zonal Officer Baramulla) must know that adjudicating appeals under the RTI Act is a quasi-judicial function. It is, therefore, necessary that the designated officer should see to it that the justice is not only done but it should also appear to have been done. In order to do so, the order passed by the appellate authority should be a speaking order giving justification for the deci-

#### CIC's technical committee report on FAA

In its 7th annual convention (12-13 Oct 2012), the Central Information Commission CIC held an important technical session chaired Mr Wajahat Habibullah, the then Chairman, National Commission for Minorities -NCM and former Chief Information Commissioner -CIC. This session was attended by Dr O P Kejariwal, Former Information Commissioner, Mr G R Sufi, the then State Chief Information Commissioner J&K , Mr M N Gunavardhan, State Chief Information Commissioner Kerala, Mr D Thangaraj, Information Commissioner Karnataka and Mr Jagadananda, Information Commissioner Odisha.

In its report the aforementioned dignitaries and RTI experts came to the following conclusion:

"The role of the First Appellate Authority in the RTI Act is as important as that of the Information Commission. Large number of appeals/complaints before the Commission, inter alia, would be reflective of the quality of functioning of the First Appellate Authorities of the public authorities. The RTI Act does not prescribe with due clarity either duties and responsibilities nor any deterrent in the event of failure to do so for the First Appellate Authorities. This perhaps appears to be one of the greatest causes for the indifferent attitude of the First Appellate Authorities in the RTI regime."

This makes it clear that FAAs have a similar role like Information Commissions and they cannot speak the language of PIOs.

#### Conclusion

The order issued by First Appellate Authority (Zonal Officer JK Bank Baramulla) is not only bad in law but it doesn't seem to have been issued by a quasi-judicial officer. This is the problem with a majority of FAAs and PIOs across J&K. They are not trained at all in deciding appeals and RTI applications respectively. I would request the J&K Chief Secretary Shri Atal Duloo to make sure all the First Appellate Authorities -FAAs and Public Information Officer -PIOs and Assistant Public Information Officers-APIOs are trained properly so that the Right to Information law is enforced and implemented in its right perspective. I would also request the FAAs and PIOs to have a thorough study of section 11 of RTI Act 2005 wherein 3rd party information is explained in detail. They must also go through various orders and judgements of the Central Information Commission-CIC and State Information Commissions as well.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder and Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He was selected for RTI fellowship by Govt of India -Department of Personnel and Training -DoPT in 2011-2012

# From Hopes to Hoax

# Kashmir's Tryst with Financial Betrayal!



# TEMPERATURES AND MIST-LADEN DAYS, THE KASHMIR VALLEY RESOUNDS WITH CALLS FOR JUSTICE, SEEKING RETRIBUTION

IN THE MIDST OF ICY

against the scammers and holding accountable the social media influencers as promoters of this deceitful scheme. A blame game has unfolded, with agitated voices hurling insults at anyone and everyone who crosses their path



Asma Majid

n the quiet of the night, Farah found herself ensuared by the ■ relentless grip of indecision, the weight of her hard-earned money hanging so heavy in the air that it strained her bosom. Sleep eluded her, as the ticking of the clock echoed the cadence of her restless thoughts. At the heart of her turmoil lay a pivotal choice – whether or not to entrust her savings to the prodigious promises of Curative Survey Private Limited, a company that purported to weave financial miracles by doubling the investments of its patrons.

Farah, a diligent soul, had carved her path through the mishmash of life by imparting knowledge to eager minds in a local educational institute. Her evenings were dedicated to private home tuitions, a labor of love and financial necessity intertwined. Every penny that she earned bore the imprint of late-night grading sessions, the resonance of classroom discussions, and the echoes of students grappling with the chal-

lenges of academia. It was Zameer, a familiar face in the professional sphere of Farah's life that first introduced her to the world of Curative Survey. She once inadvertently overheard a tete-a-tete between Zameer and another staff member and it was through their conversation that she gleaned insights into this matter. However, Zameer had kept his pledge of explaining things at length later in presence of other staff members so that each one of them could get benefitted by this novel scheme in the market and his persuasion had indeed made several including Farah give a second thought to this enterprise.

The idea of having a side income was alluring for one and all. But, as discussions unfolded, opinions diverged within the group. While some were swayed by Zameer's persuasive explanation and chose to invest in the company, intrigued by the promises it held, a faction remained skeptical and opted to withhold its financial commitments from the venture. They were staunchly critical of the idea of investing into an unreliable company with implausible claims and exhibited complacency over their present earnings and minimal savings.

Days passed and the streak of boundary between the choice that lay before Farah dimmed and eventually faded away. Farah's indecision metamorphosed into strong conviction. Zameer's cousin had already experienced the fruits of his investments, and even Farah's favored YouTuber vouched for the company's authenticity. Adding to the reassurance was a distant relative, gainfully employed by the same company and actively investing, providing an extra layer of optimism. With such positive indicators, what could possibly go wrong? And if by any chance it did, Farah found solace in the fact that she wouldn't be navigating the journey alone. In a collective chain of investors, they sailed together, and in any unforeseen turbulence, they would weather the storm together.

Farah, now a registered Curative Survey member, received two payouts of 3000 rupees each at the end of each month. Two months into the membership, she was now standing at the precipice of a more substantial gamble. Farah contemplated wagering an amount that she had meticulously amassed over her 13 years of dedicated dayand-night teaching—a total of rupees 3 lakhs. This sum, her sole asset, filled her with pride as she envisioned the prospect of doubling it. To her, it felt like a divine intervention had illuminated her path to effortless prosperity. Having invested her entire savings, Farah now felt as light as a feather. It was as though all her financial worries had been lifted from her shoulders and sucked out of her life. A strange complacency haloed her. There was no looking back now. Watching the days go by had never been so agreeable.

"I felt ecstatic. I was certain that my choice to invest in the company was absolutely sound. After all, they had already compensated me twice", Farah expresses with tears welling up in

But her happiness was short-lived.

In the quiet of the night, Farah found herself ensnared by the relentless grip of consternation. Her world had turned upside down. The revelation had struck like lightning - Curative Survey, the seemingly promis-

ing venture she had invested in, had perpetrated a scam, vanishing into thin air after siphoning off a staggering 59 crores from its patrons. Earlier that evening, tainted by this unsettling truth, Farah, along with several others had been left bewildered. Social media had become a canvas of despair, with videos of distraught individuals mourning the loss of their hard-earned money. Farah, mindful of her modest background and simpleton parents, had opted to keep her investment discreet. Witnessing the anguish on social media, she heaved a momentary sigh of relief for shielding her parents from partaking in the agony. Now, as the night unfolded, her apprehensions of being entangled in the collective sinking of all manifested into a stark reality. Her face was burning, like a child caught with his hand in the biscuit tin. The placidity of the night mirrored the tumult within her, a silent witness to the profound impact of a scheme gone awry.

It turned out that the company which had managed to gain the confidence of numerous individuals was neither affiliated with NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) nor belonged to the category of those 5000 companies whose Certificate of Registration (CoR) was recently revoked by RBI. Additionally, it lacked authorization from SEBI and was not a member of the Indian Direct Selling Association, an organization primarily dealing with B2C transactions or direct business to consumers.

To compound matters, the company was officially registered in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the month of July this year. Strikingly, the company's website bio indicated its primary involvement in 'information service activities'. At no point was there any disclosure that the company was committed to compensating individuals for participating in online surveys, let alone the dubious promise of doubling their money.

In the midst of icy temperatures and mist-laden days, the Kashmir Valley resounds with calls for justice, seeking retribution against the scammers and holding accountable the social media influencers as promoters of this deceitful scheme. A

blame game has unfolded, with agitated voices hurling insults at anyone and everyone who crosses their path.

"Our peace of mind has been stolen. Until justice is served, we cannot find solace," cries out a victim.

"We urge the authorities to expose the scammers and assist us in recovering our money. The government should take stringent measures against those employed in the said company because they must be equally implicated," pleads another victim

Meanwhile, those who worked in the aforementioned company have a narrative of their own to share.

"We were hired by the company through a legitimate recruitment process and interview. We were just as unaware of the scam the company was orchestrating as the individuals who invested in it", states Mir Wasim, a former employee of Curative Survey Private Limited. "In fact, we too began investing after witnessing others reap the rewards of their investments", be adds

he adds.

Another group of victims has directed their anger towards social media influencers. These influencers are being held accountable for elevating the reputation of Curative Survey to a provocative extent. Now, the victims are demanding restitution from these influencers, insisting that they repay the money that they helped extract through the scam.

Contrarily, social media influencers maintain their innocence, stating that they are occasionally approached by brands for promotional collaborations. They emphasize that endorsing a brand does not necessarily imply encouragement or influence towards those products or services. Moreover, they maintain that they had thoroughly examined the company's documentation, and there was no scope for suspicion.

"Why would we, as figures in the social media realm, tarnish our reputation by deceiving people? Any fraudulent activity is inevitably destined to be revealed. In such a scenario, why would we jeopardize the wellbeing of our Kashmiri brethren for the sake of a few bucks?", a prominent social media influencer of the valley states.

Zooming out, a scam unraveled in Kashmir, victimizing numerous individuals. However, beneath this larger canvas lies a disconcerting reality that may not be so overt or immediately apparent. The jarring revelation of nearly 60 crores being looted raises a crucial concern. On one hand it indicates that a significant number of people were seeking alternative and effortless sources of income. Moreover the mode of investment through an app suggests that the majority of these individuals were youth, who, in an attempt to expand the network of investors, roped in their elders into this scam. This circles back to the lamentable plight of Kashmiri youth, who appear to be seeking shortcuts on the internet to secure their futures. Progressing from creating TikTok videos to Instagram reels and eventually falling prey to a Ponzi scam, the capabilities of Kashmiri youth seem to have diminished.

A renowned Clinical Psychologist of the valley, Muzzafar Ahmad Ganaii defines this behaviour of Kashmiri youth in the light of his experience.

"Inherent in human nature is the seed of greed; the desire for affluence, the yearning to be grand, to possess a lavish car, and to secure a prosperous job. This insatiable lust often drives people to seek fulfillment through investments, and sadly, some succumb to scams. The aftermath is a wreckage of financial, emotional, and psychological turmoil, as shattered dreams leave individuals grappling with a spectrum of reactions".

Having recently interacted with a 19 year old who lost 20 lakhs to a famous indian bidding platform Dream 11 and plunged into depression, Ganaii underscores the societal role as a guiding light in such dire circumstances.

cumstances.

"Amid this chaos, societal responsibility beckons us to provide support—not to demoralize, but to empathize with their current emotional state. It is imperative to recognize that individuals with low mental endurance may resort to extreme measures, such as suicide."

Researches show that cultural influences, especially through social media, play a significant role in shaping aspirations. Luxurious lifestyles portrayed on social media platforms be-

come the yardstick for success, and youth are conditioned to believe that life is synonymous with opulence. There is an increasing fascination with external cultures portrayed through platforms like YouTube. In this context, Sociologist Dr. Syeeda Nousheen Fatima posits that individuals become susceptible to such scams because they perceive an effortless avenue to acquire wealth—a shortcut that might otherwise demand a lifetime of effort.

The emphasis on training children to pursue careers in specific fields, driven by the allure of fame and affluence attached to these professions, contributes to individuals falling victim to such scams. Ruheel Nabi, an Islamic Scholar and Religious Counsellor, possesses experience in engaging with patients grappling with depression stemming from financial losses incurred in scams.

"Right from childhood, we inculcate the notion that financial success is the ultimate achievement in life, while concealing the inherent struggles associated with it. As the challenges accompanying this pursuit remain undisclosed, the values often take a backseat to the pursuit of wealth. In fact, children are guaranteed the freedom to live life on their terms, with the only condition being the attainment of stability through a secure financial source.

Nabi characterizes the youth as both active and passive participants, playing a role in their own downfall in the scam. He emphasizes that "both the perpetrators and the victims of the scam are young individuals." However, he advocates the importance of re-establishing a connection with Islamic principles and fundamental human values that do not prioritize money as the focal point of everything.

As the valley contends with the frigid demeanor of Chilai Kalan, the petrified souls of victims await the new year, clinging to the anticipation of glad tidings.

In the quiet of the night, Farah finds herself ensnared by the relentless grip of terror. Her parents, still oblivious of her ordeal, lament the financial losses suffered by the youth of Kashmir. But Farah yearns for the chilly winter night to fade away, giving way to a hopeful new dawn.

# **General Manager Reviews Performance Of Northern Railway**

**Observer News Service** 

New Delhi: Shobhan Chaudhuril, General Manager Northern Railway held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway at headquarters office and DRMs through video conferencing.

The GM emphasized that Safety is the main concern over Railways, for which all out efforts should be directed towards maintaining the tracks, rolling stock, signaling and electric overhead wires are working in top order. He directed the departments to regularly conduct training and refresher courses for the staff to keep them motivated and informed of the working of the system to minimize human

Heavy fog during the winter season poses a great difficulty in train operations across northern region. He advised all divisions to take all nassaccary remedial actions to proper & efficient working of signaling system. He shows his concern on

rail fractures and instructed that monitoring of signals, rail fractures and rail welds should be done extensively and no error

The General Manager reviews the progress of enhancement of passenger amenities work and projects of Doubling & New lines and instructed the concerned offi-

He also instructed to expedite approvals for tree cutting wherever needed from the Forest Department so that these do not

He also emphasized on focusing on electrical safety on tracks as well as safety in relay and panel rooms for error free movement of trains. He stressed upon the minimizing the human failure in train operation. He also instructed the department heads and DRMs, to maintain the punctuality and keep pace for freight loading with safety as priority.

Northern Railway is committed to provide safe, smooth and efficient services to

#### From 'Wazwaan'

or main + side + soft drink. With easy availability and affordable prices, it attracts a lot young population (in their 20's and early 30's) who consume it the most," Rather said.

Kashmir Observer also spoke to several restaurant owners in different localities of Srinagar who said the mostly ordered food nowadays includes momos, chicken fried rice, pizzas, spring rolls and burgers. "We receive around 80 orders on an average per day. It's mostly the teenagers, college and University going students who frequent our restaurant," 31-year-old Mubashirul-Aslam, owner of Kashiraq restaurant in Chanapora area, Srinagar said.

Aslam said, the food delivery services have been gaining popularity in the valley over the last few years. This has had a significant impact on the way people consume food and their food habits. From being able to order food from the comfort of your home to being able to sample a variety of cuisines, delivery services are changing the way people eat in Kashmir.

A staffer at 'Gatoes', a local food and delivery service tied with over 300 plus restaurants in Srinagar said that every day on an average, each delivery boy is assigned 15-20 orders. Out of which 90 percent ordered food is pizzas," he said.

According to a Statista report, the number of users across the meal delivery market in India is estimated to reach 346.6 Mn by 2028. This anticipated surge in user numbers has transformed online food aggregation and delivery into a highly lucrative segment, attracting new players and investors.

The reports also show that the combined monthly app downloads of Zomato and Swiggy averaged 7.6 Mn and reached a total of 83.5 Mn between January and November 2023. Zomato led with 47.5 Mn downloads (56.9%), while Swiggy recorded 36 Mn (43.1%).

It is worth noting that the Swiggy app covers its grocery services (Instamart) and restaurant deals and discovery (Dineout) vertical besides

Health implications of fast food

The rise of food delivery services has had oth positive and negative effects on While, it has made it easier for people to access multiple cuisines at affordable prices, on the other hand, it has exposed them to various lifestyle disorders.

Studies show that the apps are designed in such a way that a customer spends as much money as possible - and probably hasn't thought twice about it. "The food delivery apps tend to work on two levels: to attract you to the app in the first place, by offering a discount code or voucher for the first order, providing free delivery on the first order, or offering a limited-time promotion for new users; to influence how you behave while using the app, such as offering discounts on specific restaurants or foods to change what you buy.

"The apps promote specific restaurants or food categories in prominent positions on the platform to attract your attention (e.g., in a "featured" section). With the result, they make it more difficult to be healthy, for example making it difficult for you to inform your food choices through calorie labels." the study stated.

The results of this fast-food consumption are clearly seen. The prevalence of systemic hypertension among children appears to be increasing in Kashmir especially in view of the growing population of children with obesity and increasing survival of neonates after getting critical care for weeks and increasing screening of blood pressure in routine outpa-

tient visits. Dr. Rabbanie Tariq, Preventive Medicine Physician promoting Lifestyle Medicine in Kashmir said they have come across a number of patients from the child and adolescent group who had elevated blood pressure diagnosed by a pediatrician.

They were referred for Lifestyle Modifications relevant to their risk factors responsible for the onset of hypertension. A lot of times hypertension is discovered as a coincidental finding

in patients," Rabbanie said. He said there are multiple factors responsible for the increase in the frequency of hypertension in this age group. "In addition, to the secondary Hypertension for which certain organic causes are responsible which can be related to a certain organ or endocrine issues. There are more important reasons too. Habits are inculcated from the external environment.

should be left.

cials to expedite the work.

pose a threat to the tracks or OHE wires.

its customers.

Children and adolescents are exposed to poor lifestyle due to change in standards of living, high-calorie diet, junk foods, less physical activity, stressful competition, increased screen time and genetic modifications introduced through chronic poor lifestyle in the parental generation." Rabbanie said.

High blood pressure, according to the doctor, usually doesn't have any symptoms.

"However, signs and symptoms that might indicate a high blood pressure emergency include Headaches, Seizures, Vomiting, Chest pains, Fast, pounding or fluttering heartbeat (palpitations), Shortness of breath. Such symptoms may need to be evaluated by the expert," Rabbanie said.

Dr. Rumisa Mir, Medical officer at Subdistrict hospital Char-Sharief said the unhealthy foods like pizza, burgers, and chips lack important things like vitamins, minerals, fibre, and other necessary nutrients that help a young individual grow physically and mentally. These foods are packed with cholesterol, excessive sugars, empty calories, high sodium content, artificial colours, preservatives.

"In recent years, childhood obesity and related health problems has become a major concern. A significant contributor to this epidemic is the consumption of junk foods. These highly processed, calorie-dense, and nutritionally deficient foods have infiltrated our children's diets, jeopardising their overall health and well-being," Mir said.

Studies have also found the prevalence of obesity among women worldwide has escalated to 26%, and among adolescent girls, it is 18%. Since the 21st century, obesity has been called a global pandemic as its spread from adolescent to adults due to junk food are evident. Obesity is the term for excessive fat deposition, which increases the probability of every complication. Through the body mass index (BMI), which is calculated using weight, height, and age, obesity-related metabolic diseases determine our health.

"An elevated BMI is closely associated with metabolic and gynecological issues in women, such as polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), uterine bleeding (AUB), miscarriage and infertility," Mir said.

Mir added, large amounts of junk food consumption have an impact on metabolism. All the chemical processes that happen within our bodies are referred to as the metabolism. It is closely related to the number of calories expended each day. Junk food slows down the body's metabolism and reduces the number of calories it burns, which makes it challenging to maintain a healthy weight.

The doctor said the best prevention strategy should be adopted from childhood onwards. "Children are often influenced by the examples set by the actions and behaviours of the parents. A child will understand that junk food is not commonly available if parents avoid it. If a child sees their parents' eating well and not being selective about healthy food options, they are more likely to consume a balanced diet."

#### **Indian Youths**

for a better society and country is the true purpose of education.

"Youth means energy, it means the ability to work with speed, skill and scale. In the last few years, we have worked to match you in speed and scale, so that we can benefit you."

In the last 10 years, the number of airports had doubled from 74 to nearly 150. "Tamil Nadu has a vibrant coastline so you would be happy to know that the total cargo handling capacity of major ports in India has doubled

The speed of road and highway construction in the country has almost doubled in the last 10 years. The number of registered startups in the country has grown to almost one lakh; this was less than 100 in 2014.

India has also seen a number of trade deals with important economies and such deals will open up new markets for our goods and services. They also create countless new opportunities for youths.

Whether it is institutions like the G-20, fighting against climate change or playing a bigger role in the global supply chain, India is being welcomed as a part of every global solution.

"In many ways, due to the local and global factors, this is the best time to be young in India. Make the most of this time to take our country to new heights."

Underscoring the importance of constant learning, re-skilling and upskilling, he said in a rapidly transforming world, 'either you drive change or change drives you.'

Modi is the first prime Minister to address the convocation ceremony of the varsity, established in 1982.

In a very brief interaction with a group of students, he asked if anyone was interested to go to Delhi, to which two women students raised their hands and smiled.

The Prime Minister paid floral tributes to a bust of Bharathidasan (1891-1964), hailed as revolutionary Tamil poet, and he posed for a group-photograph with students, Governor R N Ravi and Chief Minister M K Stalin.

#### **Panic Buying,**

Kashmir and Ladakh. The drivers expressed discontent with what they perceive as stringent regulations, citing harsh penalties associated with the current law.

Speaking to media persons, the truck drivers said that they feel sad to see that the essential supply is getting hit due to our protest but they have no other option but to resort to a nation-

"A truck driver would never wish for an accident to happen. No driver desires to cause harm to anyone. However, if an accident occurs unintentionally, where would the driver get a total of seven lakh rupees? If we had lakhs of rupees at our disposal, we wouldn't have chosen to become truck drivers; we would have pursued different professions," a truck driver said. "It is unfortunate that such a law has been framed which will break the back of truck drivers," he added.

Another truck driver echoed similar sentiments, alleging that this law has been formulated to benefit insurance companies. "We are severely underpaid, and our families depend on us. We earn around ten thousand rupees a month, if an accident occurs, how are we supposed to arrange lakhs of rupees? We will persist with our protest until the law is either abolished or amended," emphasized the driver.

Earlier, Anand Sharma, president of All I&K petrol tankers owners' association and J&K fuel station owners' association said, "All the oil tankers are on strike since Monday morning. No driver has loaded the oil from oil depots because they call the new provisions "black law", which are not acceptable to them".

"The situation is going to get worse if the government fails to roll back the black law imposed on us. Ninety per cent of pumps have gone dry and in the next two hours, all the fuel stations will go dry. The government has bitterly failed to address the issue," he said.

Sharma added that if the situation continues like this, there will be no fuel supply for the armed forces and the public which will badly hit normal life in I&K and Ladakh.

At least 1.500 tankers---800 with It Corporation (IOC), 350 with Bharat Petroleum Corporation and 350 with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation replenish supplies in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Pertinently, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bidhuri said, "There is an impact of the nationwide strike here as well. But we have 21 days' stock of diesel and 24 days' stock of petrol available at the depots in the Valley. We also have over 20 days' stock of LPG

"I have held a meeting with the representatives of the oil companies as well. There is no need to panic," he added.

#### **Shah Calls For Elimination**

terror eco-system.

"He also advised the security agencies for appropriate deployment in vulnerable areas. He reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government will continue to adopt a zero- tolerance approach against terrorism," the spokesperson said.

Shah stressed all due procedures should be adopted while dealing with counter- terror operations and also underlined the importance of further strengthening the local intelligence network, he said.

"Union Home Minister appreciated the efforts of the security agencies and administration of the Union Territory for significant decline in terror related incidents, infiltration and improvement in law & order situation," he

A day after the December 21 terror attack, three civilians, aged between 27 and 42, were found dead after they were allegedly picked up by the Army for questioning, sparking outrage. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army chief Pande had visited Poonch in the wake of these incidents.

"The home minister has been briefed about the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir," an official said.

Earlier, UT administration had announced compensation and jobs to the families of the dead civilians and said legal action on the matter has been initiated.

Sporadic violence continued in Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning of 2023.

Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi districts in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a series of encounters last year that left 54 persons, including 28 terrorists and 19 security personnel, dead, offi-

The officials have ascribed the uptick in violence to "desperate attempts from across the border" to revive terrorism in the region.

While 31 persons, including 10 terrorists and 14 security personnel, were killed in Rajouri, 15 terrorists and five security personnel were killed in Poonch district. Three terrorists were killed in the Reasi district.

Most of the terrorists were killed while attempting to sneak into this side of the border, the officials said.

In May last year, five Army personnel were killed and a major-rank officer was injured in Chamrer forest during an anti-terrorist operation. A foreign terrorist was also killed in the operation. (With PTI inputs)

#### **Army Probing**

their families.

"The Army is conducting its own investigation. If anyone is found to be guilty, they will definitely be punished. But such an investigation is not to be disclosed publicly. Let the Army do its work. There is no need to prejudge anything or make any comment on the Army," the official said.

The official said the Army itself said that it would conduct the investigation and hence everyone should have faith in it.

On December 27, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he had full faith in the Indian Army that it will wipe out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir, even as he urged the troops to not make such "mistakes" that may hurt the citizens of the country.

It is the responsibility of the troops to win the hearts of the people while performing their duty towards the security of the nation, Singh had said.

Soon after the three civilians were found dead and a few others were injured, video clips purportedly showing their torture went viral on social media.

The Army has initiated a Court of Inquiry and police lodged a murder case against unidentified persons.

"...after terror incident at DKG (Dhera Ki Gali) on December 21, Army troops carried out searches in Topa Peer in Buffliaz for the terrorists who escaped after the attack. During searches, Army troops detained a few local youths for questioning, reportedly three such youths namely Safeer Ahmad, Mohd Showkat and Shabir Ahmad succumbed to injuries.

"As such, cognizable offence under section 302 IPC is made out. On this information instant case stands registered. As the instant case is of special nature...special report will be submitted separately as investigation is taken up," an official said quoting the FIR.

A brigadier-level officer was shifted and action was being taken against three officers of 48 Rashtriya Rifles as the Army took serious note of the allegation of custodial torture.

The counter-insurgency unit of the Army was in the news for wrong reasons in October last year as well when one of its major-rank officers opened fire on his colleagues and exploded grenades inside the Neeli post camp near Thanamandi, leaving five personnel including three officers injured.

#### Kashmir's Dry Spell

typically last between 9 to 12 months, but they can occasionally persist for years. He explained that the events of El Niño and La Niña usually occur every two to seven years, though they don't follow a set pattern.

El Niño is a naturally occurring phenomenon of periodic warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern regions of the Pacific Ocean. La Niña is the opposite, describing cooler-than-average sea temperatures. Both El Niño and La Niña significantly affect Earth's weather patterns. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), El Niño generally occurs more frequently than La Niña.

Due to the ongoing effects of El Niño and other regional variables, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had predicted above-normal minimum and maximum temperatures for the December–February period. Consequently, most parts of India are expected to have a less

harsh winter this year.

When sea surface temperatures in the tropical eastern Pacific rise by at least 0.5 degrees Celsius over the long-term average, El Niño is declared.

"The above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures over the country as a whole in December 2023 to February 2024 are mainly attributed to El Niño, where temperatures tend to be higher. Additionally, regional factors like frequent western disturbances will cause cloudiness and low minimum temperatures," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, during a virtual press conference.

Earth scientist and glaciology expert, Professor Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo, while endorsing the IMD prognosis, said that the Kashmir valley might experience a mild winter and less snowfall than usual this year.

"As the effects of the El Niño year continue, the Kashmir valley may also see milder winters with lower-than-average snowfall. This is an El Niño year, which usually brings less snowfall in the Kashmir Himalayas. It causes the protracted dry spell as has been observed in the valley these days," Romshoo told Kashmir

Professor Romshoo, who also holds the charge of Vice-Chancellor of Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, said that out of the total 78 years till end of the 21st century, approximately 40 years are predicted to be notably drier, particularly during autumns.

"The indicators of climate change are very clear in Jammu and Kashmir and we have observed an increased frequency of droughts in the region during the recent few decades. Particularly, the autumn season is becoming drier in the valley. From recent research, we have found that the Kashmir valley will experience more frequent and prolonged droughts from the mid to end of the 21st century, making it a new norm during 2051-2099 due to the climate change," Romshoo said.

He hoped that the findings from the extensive study would inform policymaking and strategies for climate action, which is one of the important sustainable development goals aimed at mitigating and adapting to the droughts under changing climate particularly in the fragile mountainous Jammu and Kashmir Himalaya.

#### **Valley Water**

their boats towards the banks. Water supply pipes have frozen in many areas of Kashmir due to extreme cold wave conditions.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 5.7 degrees Celsius, they said.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius, the officials said. Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.4 de-

grees Celsius while Kokernag town saw the minimum settled at minus 2.7 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius. Kashmir has been going through a prolonged

dry spell with no precipitation forecast over the next six days, the officials said, adding December month was 79 per cent deficit on rainfall.

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.

#### **Sat Imagery**

regards accommodation of Hotels and Huts & integrated tourist resorts, SDA informed the court on previous hearing that for Hotels, the proposed area as per Master Plan 8.87 hectares and the proposed plinth area is 5.26 hectares. Out of it, the SDA said, already 3.25 hectares of plinth area has been consumed, thus leaving the plinth area of 1.98 hectares for Hotels. As regards Huts & Integrated tourist resorts, the SDA said the proposed area as per the Master Plan is 26.20 hectares.

"Be that as it may, the .....proposed land use would be completed once the proper satellite imagery is provided by National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC). Thus, it appears that the aforesaid figures are tentative in nature which would be finalized only after obtaining proper satellite imagery," the court had said in the previous order," the court had said, adding, "Under the circumstances, we are of the view that it may not be appropriate for us to pass any definitive order allowing or not allowing the various applications filed for repairing/ construction of Hotels/Huts and Integrated tourist resorts, which can be done only after obtaining the final and comprehensive report from the Sonamarg Development Authority."

#### **Finger Print**

50 posts in different categories for police headquarters.

The new posts include one Superintendent of police and two deputy superintendents of police, it said.



## J&K Witnesses Surge In **Infertility Cases: IFS Experts**

Society Holds National Conference At Gulmarg

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, experts from the Indian Fertility Society (IFS) have raised alarms over the surge in infertility cases in Jammu and Kashmir. Concerns were highlighted during the national conference on "ART & Reproductive Medicine" Current Scenario and Treatment' held in Gulmarg.

The conference organised by IFS Kashmir Chapter in collaboration with Med Age IVF Centre, Srinagar, was attended by 150 delegates from across the country to discuss current issues related to infertility and its treatment in J&K and the country.

The experts who presented the papers at the conference said there is a huge rise in infertility cases and only a few reliable infertility and IVF centers are available for the treatment. To address the issue, an initiative "Sudeeksh" a national project, was launched for Kashmir during the conference. Sudeeksha aims to train postgraduates in gynaecology at the grassroots level to give appropriate and ethical treatment to infertile couples.

The program would bring awareness about the problems in society and provide solutions by holding educative sessions and public forums. The start of national data collection for practices in Kashmir was also discussed as an important need during the conference. IFS Kashmir would take the lead in these programs and involve senior faculty from medical colleges who were present at the conference and agreed that they would join hands to make this happen.

Founder Secretary of IFS Kashmir Dr Syed Sajjad Hussain, who was the chief organiser of the conference, stressed on need for understanding the national laws on Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) and urged all doctors to follow ethical practices under these laws. Chief Spokesperson, IFS Kashmir, Prof Ambreen Qureshi highlighted the changing incidence and trends in infertility in Kashmir.

Top experts from across the country in the field including President IFS, Dr KD Nayer; Secretary IFS, Dr Surveen Ghumman, President-elect IFS, Col (Prof) Pankaj Talwar, IVF and reproductive health experts; professors and doctors from the country's top medical institutions; and HODs and gynaecologists from the government medical colleges and institutions of J&K UT participated in the conference. The conference was an attempt to project Kashmir's infertility problems at the national level through IFS and become partners in the national level programs. It is a progressive step for both the doctors and the public of Kashmir.

In the end, the renowned IVF expert of country, Dr Syed Sajjad explained the present dignitaries and professors of Gynaecology the six years statistics of IVF pregnancies and live birth rate at MED AGE IVF centre, Srinagar from January 2017 to December

adding that it is a big achieve-

The Deputy Commissioner

also congratulated the PRIs and

the people of Keran for getting

the grid supply, saying it is a

historical achievement add-

ing that it was a long pending

Meanwhile, the PRIs ex-

ment in itself.

## **Keran Villages Illuminate With First Grid Connectivity**

E-Inauguration Ceremony Held At Kupwara

**Observer News Service** 

KUPWARA: Kundian and Pathroo villages of border block Keran in Kupwara district got first time grid connectivity on

In this regard, an e-inauguration ceremony was organized by the District Administration Kupwara here in the Mini Meeting Hall of D.C Office Complex Kupwara during which the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri e-inaugurated the electrifica-

demand of the people of Keran valley which has been fulfilled by the Government. pressed their gratitude towards the administration for providing the grid connectivity to the far flung border area.

tion of these 2 villages.



Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan; JD Planning, Executive Engineer KPDCL Kupwara, BDC Chairperson Keran and PRIs of from Keran area were present on the

During the e-inauguration, the Divisional Commissioner virtually interacted with the BDC Chairperson Keran and PRIs and congratulated them for getting the electricity in 2 villages of border block Keran

neer KPDCL division Kupwara informed that 2 villages of block Keran including Kundain and Pathroo have been connected with grid supply under Samirdh Seema Yojana for the first time since the Independence of the country. Earlier, these villages were getting the power supply from DG Set. Around 550 souls of Kundian and 750 souls of Pathroo village will get benefited from the new grid supply.



scenes on Tuesday caused by the nationwide strike of truckers against new law on hit and run accidents.

# **J&K Becomes 1st UT In Country To Launch PM** Vishwakarma Yojana

Take Maximum Benefits Of This Yojana, Become Catalysts For Change Across Jammu And Kashmir: Advisor Bhatnagar To Craftsmen

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: In a significant step towards empowering the craftsman community of Jammu and Kashmir, enhance their competence and empower them regarding self employment as well as equip them with industry-relevant skills, Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday became the first UT of country to launch prestigious PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY) from Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Shopian.

The Yojana was launched virtually by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar alongwith Secretary, Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Atul Kumar Tiwari with the first batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) of Darzi Craft being imparted training at ITI Shopian from today.

Joint Secretary, MSDE, Sonal Mishra; Commissioner Secretary, SDD, J&K, Saurabh Bhagat; Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb; Director SDD, J&K, Principals, Superintendents and Instructors of Government ITIs, various craftsmen and large number of locals were also pres-

ent on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Ad-

visor Bhatnagar said that it is a proud moment for entire Jammu and Kashmir that with the support of Central Government our UT has become first UT of coun-

try to start this programme. He remarked that PMVY is an important scheme as it aims to provide recognition training tool kits certification marketing support and soft loans to empower our craftsmen He also underscored that this scheme is also committed to honour and empower the artisans of our country who immensely contribute towards the economy of our nation as a whole.

The Advisor further highlighted that the present LG led Administration is committed towards fostering a culture of skill environment across the region in order to create maximum employment avenues for the youth.

Advisor Bhatnagar, on the occasion, commended the efforts of SDD and ITI Shopian in implementing the program and highlighted the importance of skill development in empowering the youth and contributing to the nation's economic growth. He encouraged the craftsmen to make the most of this opportunity and become catalysts for change across Jammu and Kashmir.

The scheme will be operationalised in all districts of JK soon Speaking on the occasion, Secretary MSDE highlighted on the basic objectives of the scheme.

Commissioner Secretary, SDD and Deputy Commissioner Shopian also spoke on the occasion.

While speaking on the occasion, several trainees of first batch expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and pledged to dedicate themselves to acquiring skills that would not only benefit their individual careers but also contribute to the overall development of the region.

Pertinently, PMVY is an ambitious initiative of Central Government in September 2023 by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. The scheme aims for recognition of artisans and crafts of people through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card as well basic training of five to seven days and advanced training of 15 days or more, with a stipend of Rs. 500 per day. The scheme will also provide modern toolkit of Rs 15000 free of cost to trained Vishwakarmas besides linkage with credit based soft loans and marketing support for expansion of their business will also be provided under the Yojana

# **Army Sets Up Milk Factory In** Rajouri's Border Village

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: The Army on Tuesday dedicated a state-of-the-art milk factory to inhabitants of a remote border village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, a defence spokesman said

The initiative executed under operation 'Sadbhavana' (goodwill) at village Pukharni underlines the Army's commitment towards empowering the inhabitants towards self-dependence and socio-economic development, the spokesman said in a statement here.

He said the milk factory, inaugurated by local women, is a concrete step towards harnessing the potential of resident dairy farmers and providing a local avenue for the regions' dairy farmers to sell their milk produce thus reducing their dependence on Naushera and Rajouri towns.

"Women empowerment is one of the noteworthy aspects of establishment of Pukharni milk factory wherein this establishment will provide jobs to over 20 local women.

"Besides serving as a powerful tool for social transformation. with actively involving women in the dairy production chain, the Army aims to enhance their economic independence and social standing giving way for a more inclusive and progressive society," the spokesman said.

He said the focus of the project is not just economic development but also engaging Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities of the region where the Indian Army has collaborated with Gujjar community to comprehend the intricacies of dairy farming in the challenging terrain of Pukharni.

## **H&MED Rebuts News About SMHS Hospital Deaths**

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: The Health and Medical Education Department (H&MED) has refuted the recent news item titled "3110 deaths reported in SMHS Hospital till November this year", published in a local English daily Greater Kashmir on December 26.

As per records available with the Hospital, a total of 72,795 patients were admitted as inpatient in the Hospital in the vear 2023-24 till 30th November, 2023 and the total deaths during the aforementioned period was 2095 including 295 patients brought dead and 838 deaths in causality.
The department, in its commu-

nique received here in this regard, stated that in the year 2022-23, 3218 deaths were reported for a figure of 109202 admissions in the Hospital. The gross death rate for 2022-23 was 2.98 and for the year 2023-2024 was 2.87, thereby showing a slight decline this year.

It is crucial to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the SMHS hospital administration to address the healthcare challenges in the region. As mentioned in the news item, the hospital administration has procured 156 ventilators over the last three years from various companies, aiming to enhance critical care capabilities. Additionally, significant infrastructural developments have been initi-

ated, including construction of New Emergency Theatre Block, a 16-Bedded Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU), and installation of six new oxygen plants with a capacity of 1000 LPM each. Further, causality wards both surgical and medical have been upgraded. Nero Surgical facilities are provided with causality for critically injured patients with Head Injury. All Radiological including CT, USG, Doppler and other high end investigations are provided under one roof 24\*7 and the reports are available online.

The hospital's commitment towards improving patient care is evident through ongoing projects such as extension of ENT Department and acquisition of a new CT scan machine in the Department of Radio-diagnosis. These initiatives showcase a proactive approach towards addressing the healthcare needs of the community.

The percentage of death rate reported vis-a-vis IPD figures is well within the normal range and is not alarming, as is indicated in the news item. It is essential to consider various factors contributing to these numbers, such as the complexity of cases, underlying health conditions, and external factors beyond the hospital's control and the fact that SMHS Hospital is tertiary care Hospital and generally critical patients are

## Ellaquai Dehati Bank Unveils Year 2024 Calendar

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** Ellaquai Dehati Bank unveiled the calendar for the year 2024 on Tuesday at its Head Office, Srinagar.

The calendar was unveiled by Arshad Ul Islam Chairman in the presence of General Managers Abdul Rashid Bhat, Mushtaq Ahmad Malik and Baljeet Singh and senior officers of the Bank Irfan Muneer, Mubashir Gulzar Khan & Musbit Rasool.

The Chairman extended New Year wishes to all the staff members and the esteemed customers of the bank on the occasion and prayed for peace,

health & prosperity of everyone. He expressed pleasure at the performance of the bank and hoped for an even better performance henceforth.

He thanked all the customers for their unflinching support and assured that the bank will continue to provide best services to them. The Chairman also announced

that the bank is going to launch exciting products in the coming days that will not only add to its current bouquet of products but will be instrumental in helping the bank emerge as the preferred bank for every person in the UT of J&K.

#### **NOTICE (CORRECTION IN NAME)**

I Mohammad Ashraf Bhat S/O: Mohammad SIdig Bhat R/O: Hathi Khan, Kathi Darwaza, Srinagar has applied for re-issue of my Passport with the name as "Mohammad Ashraf Bhat" in place of "Mohd Ashraf" existing in my passport bearing No. L5707038 . The correction/ additional of surname is based on of my Identity proof and residential proof. viz Aadhar Card and Bank Account. In this behalf, anybody having any objection can approach – to the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days from publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained under rules.

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system Assistant Materials Manager, N.Rly, Store Depot, Ludhiana for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-Description **Due Date** Electrical driven air compressor 500 CFM 10 KG/CM Sq. details as per attached specifications in Annexure A 48235395 29-JAN-202 OR COFMOW Specification: COFMOW/ IR/EDAC/2019 NOTE-Above tenders with detailed description are unloaded or IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register

themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.
Tender Notice No. 002/2023-24 Date: 01.01.2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

10/2024

2024 Lok Sabha Polls

#### **Congress Alliance Panel Favours** Tie-Up In J&K

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: In a significant political development, the Congress National Alliance Committee is understood to have favoured an alliance with INDIA bloc partners in Jammu & Kashmir for 2024 Lok Sabha polls, sources disclosed.

Sources said that the panel has pitched for a tie-up with INDIA bloc partners in J&K for the Lok Sabha polls, likely to be held in April -May this year. The panel would its report to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on January 3 to pave the way for seat-sharing talks with allies of INDIA bloc.

Sources disclosed that local unit of Congress wants to contest on two Lok Sabha seats of J&K. "Leadership of J&K has told the party high command that it should stake claim on two seats-Jammu Lok Sabha seat and Anantnag-Rajouri or Srinagar segment," they said.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF LAW, JUSTICES**

## & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS **Notary Section Civil Secretariat**

#### Srinagar/Jammu CIRCULAR

As per Rule (14) of the Notaries Rules, 1956, every notary, shall, in the first week of January every year, submit to the appropriate Government, an annual return online Form-XIV of the notarial acts done by him during the preceding year.

Accordingly, it is enjoined upon all the enrolled notaries, who have not submitted their annual return pertaining to the year 2023, to submit the same through the email ID (i.e. law-jk@nic. in) of this Department within a period of 07 days in Form - XIV as prescribed in Rule -14 of the Notaries Rules, 1956 from the date of publication of this circular, failing which action as warranted under rules shall be initiated.

No: LAW (Notary) 50/2021 Dated: 02-01-2024

DIPK-14605-23

(Binny Kumar) Assistant Legal Remembrancer

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR** OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION BANDIPORA

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS** 

FRESH E-NIT No. 167/2023-24 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K , e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Tende r Fee (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	EMD(In Rs.)	Major Head	Block/Panchayat	TYPE OF TENDER
1	2	3	4	6	8	9	10	11	12
1	C/O Protection Bund near H/O Ab Khaliq Sheikh to onwards Qazipora	2.00	200	30 Days	DEE OTHERS	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block:-Bandipora Halqa:- Qazipora	open Level
2	C/O Protection Bund at Khapren near LK/O Gh Mohd Malla Qazipora	2.50	200	30 Days	DEE OTHERS	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block:-Bandipora Halqa:- Qazipora	open Level
3	C/O drain from H/O Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie to Javid Ahmad W.No. 06 Qazipora	2.50	200	30 Days	DEE OTHERS	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block:-Bandipora Halqa:- Qazipora	open Level
4	Development of school field near ZPE office Bandipora	3.00	300	30 Days	DEE /	3% of Adv Cost	YSS	Block:-Bandipora Halqa:- Gamroo	open Level

Position of A/A: Accorded Position of T/S: Accorded

ents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.O), Set of terms and

	cond	conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <a href="www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a> as per schedule of dates.					
	1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-12-2023				
١	2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	30 -12-2023 from 02:00 PM				
1	3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	04-01-2024 up to 04:00 PM				
١	4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	05-01-2024 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day In the office of the Executive Engineer REW				
١		Bandipora					
١	5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document, Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the origin					
١		Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsive bidders Who have					
П	1	and in standard for the Department shall some the Nation or you Dulan					

NO:-XEN/REW/BPR/ 22728-34 DATED:-29-12-2023 **Executive Engineer REW Bandipora** 

# **2nd Test: Bowlers Face Tall Task As Rohit Sharma Seeks Redemption**

**Press Trust of India** 

**CAPE TOWN:** Rohit Sharma, the leader, will need to channelise the champion tactician that resides in him as India look to restore parity against South Africa and remain consequential in the World Championship points table when the second Test starts here on Wednesday.

India are sixth in the nineteam table with 14 points (38.89 PCT) and a defeat will dent their standing further.

Ravindra Jadeja, India's "Most Valuable Player" across formats, will come back to add the requisite middle-order batting balance and steady overs with the old Kookaburra but it will be the skipper's choice of third and fourth speed merchants that will define the embattled team's response.

As harsh as it might sound, no one knows more than Rohit that Prasidh Krishna is pretty undercooked to counter the vagaries of Test cricket and Shardul Thakur's

bits and pieces talent will not win him much on most days.

But with three top-order batters, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer compounding the team's worries with their ineptitude while dealing with the bouncer barrage, Shardul's presence gives the side an assumption of batting depth on paper.

Save KL Rahul in the first innings and Virat Kohli in the second essay, none of the Indian batters could cope with the extra bounce and lateral movement at Centurion.

With one loss and one draw in three Tests in the new World Test Championship cycle, India would be desperate for a win, which will be easier said than done at the picturesque cricket stadium where the visitors have lost four of their previous six

The last six weeks of 2023 haven't exactly been kind to Rohit, who is still trying to pick up the pieces after India's World



Cup final defeat.

That final and Rohit have become a tragic love story, and what has added humiliation to the mix is the two and half day defeat at Centurion in the run

up to the New Year. The skipper stood as exposed tactically as his batters and bowlers were found to be inept technically in an innings and 32 run defeat.

There would be no better

way to start 2024 than a win at the Newlands ground with the breathtaking Table Mountain adding to the scenic backdrop.

But South Africa have had an upper hand against India

who would captain South Africa in his last Test appearance wouldn't want that Rohit becomes the second skipper after Mahendra Singh Dhoni to at least draw a Test series in the Rainbow Nation.

The toss will be crucial at Newlands which is recording temperatures of 33 to 34 degrees and despite decent grass covering, the pitch will be a batting paradise with little help for spinners from either side.

It will therefore not be prudent to retain Ravichandran Ashwin given that Jadeja is fit and available for selection.

However, Rohit's biggest decision as skipper would be whether to rely on his specialist batters and replace Shardul and Prasidh with Mukesh Kumar and Avesh Khan.

There's no guarantee that the two rookies, with a combined experience of one Test (played by Mukesh), will pull any rabbit out of the hat. But with their

solid experience of first-class cricket, their presence might just give the skipper a stronger shot at a win

But on a track, which gets better for batting with the passage of time, Dean Elgar, Aiden Markram, Tony de Zorzi, Keegan Petersen, David Bedingham are a formidable force.

Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Yashashvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kona Bharat, Abhimanyu Easwaran.

South Africa: Dean Elgar (captain), Aiden Markram, Tony de Zorzi, Keegan Petersen, David Bedingham, Kyle Verreynne (wk), Marco Jansen, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Nandre Burger, Keshav Maharaj, Wiaan Mulder, Zubayr Hamza, Tristan Stubbs.

Match Starts at 1.30pm (IST).

# **Kupwara's Female Wushu Players Shine At Khelo India Games**



Agencies

HANDWARA: Four female Wushu players from north Kashmir's Kupwara district, upon their return from the Khelo India Wushu Women's League on Tuesday said their performances have further motivated them to train hard for upcoming national events.

The J&K team won 21 medals (5 Gold, 7 Silver and 9 bronze medals) in the Khelo India North Zone Wushu Women's League Championship held at Dehradun from 27th to 31st December 2023.

Mehreen Banday, Pakeeza Durashi, Rasiba Jaan and Salika were part of the J&K contingent competing in the Wushu League in Uttarakhand. Among them, Salika won Gold, while the other three players secured Silver.

Speaking KNO, Mehreen said they initially underwent trials in Srinagar for Khelo India women's teams, during which they secured Gold.

Subsequently, they were selected for the Federation Cup, leading to their participation in the Uttarakhand event based on their perfor-

Mehreen said she is preparing for the Wushu games to be held in Goa, and aims to secure another

Pakeeza Qureshi expressed happiness with their performance, saying it boosts the morale of other players to participate in games.

Salika Tariq expressed pride in taking part in the Khelo India games in Uttarakhand, saying it has encouraged them to train even harder for future events

Rasiba Jaan, another winner, said both boys and girls should take up sports and promote fitness.

Meanwhile, locals appreciated the performance of these players, saying that winning medals would further encourage them and other aspiring girls to take up sports and fulfill their dreams.

# J&K To Face HP In Ranji **Trophy Opener On Jan 5**

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K senior men's cricket team is all set to begin its 2024 Ranji Trophy campaign against Himachal Pradesh on January 5 at the Hostel Ground in Jammu.

J&K will then face-off against Delhi at the same venue on January 12.

The J&K Cricket Association announced the team on December 30, with opener Shubham Khajuria set to lead the squad. Team India pacer

from J&K this year, has made the 15-member team. Abid was bought by the Rajasthan Royals.

All-rounder Nasir Lone has earned his first call-up to the J&K senior team, while Waseem Bashir has been designated as the 16th man, net bowler.

J&K's Ranji squad is pretty much the same that competed in the Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali. Even though the team fared poorly in both competitions, the



the team after suffering an injury in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Speedster Rasikh Salam, who was bought by IPL team Delhi Capitals in the 2024 auction, has been sidelined from the J&K squad due to an injury.

Left-arm spin all-rounder Abid Mushtaq, another IPL recruit

Himran Malik has also returned to ed to stick to the same square

J&K Ranji Trophy Squad: Shubham Khajuria (Captain), Qamran Iqbal, Abhinav Puri, Vivrant Sharma, Abdul Samad, Shubham Singh Pundir, Fazil Rashid (wk), Musaif Aijaz, Abid Mushtaq, Sahil Lotra, Lone Nasir, Umran Malik, Umar Nazir, Auqib Nabi, Rohit Sharma.

# **CBI Closes 2019 IPL Betting Cases Over Lack Of Evidence**

**Press Trust of India** 

NEW DELHI: The CBI has closed two cases related to alleged fixing of Indian Premier League matches in 2019 "based on inputs" from Pakistan due to lack of evidence, officials said on Tuesday.

The agency had filed two FIRs in May 2022 against seven people after receiving information that "a network of individuals involved in cricket

betting are influencing the outcome of Indian Premier League (IPL) matches based on inputs received from Pakistan".

The CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) named Dileep Kumar, based in Delhi's Rohini, and Gurram Vasu and Gurram Satish -- based in Hyderabad --

as accused in its first FIR. Sajjan Singh, Prabhu Lal Meena, Ram Avtar and Amit Kumar Sharma, all from Rajasthan, were named as accused in the second FIR.

After nearly two years of probe, the CBI could not find enough evidence to proceed with the prosecution against them.

The agency filed a closure report in a special court on December 23, in which it has given detailed description of the allegations and its probe in the matter besides citing reasons for recommending the closure of the case, officials said.

It will now be up to the court to decide whether to accept the report filed by the agency or order it to continue further investigations, they said.

The agency had booked these people on allegations that they were running the racket for more than 10-13 years with

suspicious cash transactions being made from their accounts, the officials said.

The CBI had alleged that these individuals were in touch with Pakistani individuals through a Pakistani mobile number.

The two networks getting inputs frwwvom Pakistan were allegedly deceiving the public by "inducing them for betting", the FIR had said.

The FIR had alleged that the rack-



eteers had bank accounts (mule accounts) using fake identities and know your customer (KYC) documents, in connivance with unidentified bank officials.

The CBI alleged that Dileep Kumar was operating a number of bank accounts in which domestic cash deposits worth more than Rs 43 lakh had been made since 2013, defying "economic rationale", the officials said.

The central agency had also alleged hat in the six bank accounts operated by Gurram Satish, cash deposits worth Rs 4.55 crore (domestic) and Rs 3.05 lakh (foreign) were made during 2012-20. In the case of Gurram Vasu, the amount was Rs 5.37 crore during the same period.

The agency had alleged that there was no recognisable business rationale to explain the transactions.

# **Australia Bid For Pakistan Sweep In Warner Week**



Agencies

SYDNEY: Australia will go for the tried and tested as they look to sweep Pakistan in their three-match series and send veteran opener David Warner out a winner at his home ground in his final test this week. Pat Cummins confirmed on Tuesday that the same team that won the first test in Perth by 360 runs and the second in Melbourne by 79 runs

would take the field for the final clash at Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

The Australia captain said that Warner, who has sometimes divided opinion even in his own country, fully deserved to end his test career on his own terms in his 112th match in the longest format. "Warner Week has started," Cummins told reporters. "I think he's our greatest three-form player.

"Three formats over a decade, two 50-over World Cups, one T20 World Cup and in all those campaigns he was front and centre and a big reason for it. Playing more than 100 tests puts him in an elite category in all three formats. "Every time he walks out there, he's competitive, ready to go, so just a champion of Australian sport and hopefully he gets a good send off

this week.

# Advantage Man City As Title Rivals Prepare To Lose Key Players

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester City could have an advantage in the Premier League title race through January as their rivals face up to losing key players to the African Cup of Nations and Asia Cup. As the Premier League emerges from a frantic set of festive fixtures with only six points separating the top five, managers will be busy drawing up contingency plans.

Some will likely deem it necessary to dip in to the transfer market to make up for the loss of some top performers. But while Liverpool will lose Egyptian Mohamed Salah and Tottenham Hotspur will have to make do without South Korea's Son Heung-min, champions Manchester City will be unaffected.

City manager Pep Guardiola does not have a single player jetting off to either the Ivory Coast or Qatar for the continental tournaments that start on Jan. 13 and Jan. 12 respectively and run for almost a



three points after their win over Newcastle United on Monday, will wave goodbye to Salah who with 14 goals is the jointtop scorer in the Premier League this season, equal with Erling Haaland.

They will also be missing combative midfielder Wataru Endo who will join up with Japan. "It's a bit of a shame how he found his feet and now he goes to the Asian Cup," manager ers Villa will only lose

squad player Bertrand Traore to Burkina Faso but fourth-placed Arsenal will be harder hit with Mohamed Elneny (Egypt), Thomas Partey (Ghana) and Takehiro Tomiyasu (Iapan) all heading off for an unspecified amount of time, depending on the progress of their nations.

Tottenham have been bedevilled by injuries in the last couple of months

and now manager Ange Postecoglou will have to adapt to captain Son, who has scored 12 league goals, representing South Korea. Tottenham also lose midfielder Yves Bissouma to Mali while Pape Sarr, who was injured against Bournemouth on Sunday, is part of Senegal's squad. Resurgent West Ham,

who are in sixth place, will be hampered by the loss key Ghanian midfielder Mohammed Kudus. Manchester United's under-

pressure manager Erik Ten Hag could do without losing Andre Onana (Cameroon), Sofyan Amrabat (Morocco) and Amad Diallo (Ivory Coast) as he tries to turn around what has been a dreadful season

At the other end of the table, Nottingham Forest are the worst hit as they prepare to make do without six players for the next few weeks including Ivory Coast trio Serge Aurier, Willy Boly and Ibrahim Sangare. Struggling Brentford will be without midfielders Saman Ghoddos (Iran) and Frank Onyeka (Nigeria) along with striker Yoane Wissa (DR Congo).

The Premier League takes a breather this weekend with the FA Cup third round taking precedence while all clubs will have one of the two following weekends off in a mini winter break. By that stage the group stages of the AFCON and Asia Cup will be virtually over, meaning some players may be heading back.