

Behind the Digital Curtain

The Hidden Plight of Elderly Isolation in Kashmir

Farzana Nisar

Srinagar: In a snug living room, adorned with lace curtains, Atiqa Begum sits in one corner, her legs draped by a quilt. A gas heater, positioned at the center, exhales comforting warmth that counters the crisp chill seeping through the windowpanes. Surrounded by family, the room is filled with the murmur of distant conversations — not among the family

members sharing the space, but emanating from the digital devices held by each one. Amid the quiet tapping of fingertips on phone screens, Atiqa's eyes wander from one family member to another, a subtle longing in her gaze. Atiqa, who is in her early 80s, remains a silent observer — a poignant silence echoing the unspoken reality of a generation experiencing a unique form of isolation, one that exists amidst the company of

loved ones. "I feel a bit lost, even when everyone's around. I miss the days when we would talk face to face, share stories, and feel the closeness. It's not the same, just being in the same room but lost in devices," Atiqa said. "I don't know how am I supposed to pass my time. Ever since he left, I feel lonely," she added, while looking at the picture of her late husband that hung prominently

on a wall. As social interactions have increasingly migrated to virtual spaces, older individuals may feel left behind, struggling to navigate a realm that seems foreign and impersonal. The prevalence of social media, video calls, and online platforms becomes a stark reminder of a technological and generational gap prevalent in our society. Studies define loneliness as the emotional state or

subjective experience of feeling isolated, disconnected, or lacking meaningful social connections. A report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) points out that more than one-third of adults aged 45 and older feel lonely, and | [More on P6](#)



Cop Among Two Arrested In Terror-Funding Case

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) has arrested two more persons, including a policeman, for allegedly being part of a cross-border narcotic syndicate involved in terror funding here, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrest of Selection grade constable Saif-ud-din of Jammu and former sarpanch Farooq Ahmad Jungal of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district took the number of accused in the case to 17, they said.

They said the syndicate was unearthed by SIA | [More on P6](#)

VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

J&K Ranks 3rd Among IHR States Over 11 Districts Require Immediate Adaptation Measures: Study



Auqib Javed

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir figures at the third slot among Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) states with a vulnerability index of 0.62, as revealed in a comprehensive study conducted by the Department of Ecology, Environment, and Remote Sensing, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

The report, titled "An Assessment of Inherent Vulnerability to Climate Change in Jammu & Kashmir," a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, highlights the vulnerability status of J&K at the national level and within the context of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

The study identified and categorized the most vulnerable districts in J&K with respect to India and IHR along with the major drivers of vulnerability. A team of scientists led by Dr. Majid Farooq along with Dr. Fayma Mushtaq, Mudasar Dada, Ubaid Yousef and Zubair Malik

carried out the study in all the districts to know the climate vulnerabilities

Based on this assessment, over eleven districts of Jammu and Kashmir are under high risk of climate vulnerability, and require immediate adaptation and interventions to mitigate risks.

Among the eleven districts, eight belong to the Kashmir region, while three are from the Jammu region. The districts, namely Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam, Kishtwar, Ramban, and Doda, fall under the high category (0.49-0.59) of climate vulnerability.

The report reveals that in terms of agricultural vulnerability of the districts, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Srinagar, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, and Reasi fall under relatively high vulnerable categories (0.47-0.53).

"This means these districts are more vulnerable than others, requiring prioritized adaptation interventions,"

...Carnage In Kerman

Terror Attacks Kill 211 Near Gen Soleimani's Tomb In Iran

Agencies

Tehran: Two bombs exploded minutes apart on Wednesday at a commemoration for a prominent Iranian commander Lt General Qassem Soleimani, slain in a US drone strike in 2020, officials in Iran said, killing at least 211 people and wounding nearly 200 as the Middle East remains on edge over Israel's war on the Gaza Strip.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for what appeared to be the deadliest terror attack to target Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution. The blasts shook the city of Kerman, about 820 kilometers in central Iran and



sent shrapnel hurtling into a screaming crowd fleeing the first explosion. Reports said there were

two explosions at the site in Kerman where the former Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander | [More on P6](#)

Cold Wave Refuses To Relent In Kashmir

Pahalgam Coldest Place In The Valley At Minus 6.6 Degrees Celsius

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: There was no relief from the intense dry and cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Wednesday as the minimum temperatures stayed several degrees below the freezing point, officials said.

Anantnag town was the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday night as the mercury plunged more than seven degrees below the

freezing point, they said. A thin layer of ice had formed over the surface of the Dal Lake as Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive night, officials said.

The residents of the Lake, who live in the houseboats, had to a tough time breaking the ice layer while rowing 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 6.6 degrees Celsius. | [More on P6](#)

Fuel Stations Resume Operations In Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar: The fuel stations across Jammu & Kashmir resumed the operations normally on Wednesday after the transporters decided to call off strike following the government's assurances.

Earlier on Tuesday, the people were seen queuing up at almost all the fuel stations, waiting to get the fuel in cans, bottles and other things as the transporters had called for a strike in wake of the 'new penal law'.

In the late evening hours, the transporters called off their strike



after holding a meeting with the government, assuring them that they will be taken on board before implementing the new law.

However, according to reports, all the fuel stations resumed their operations normally today while a | [More on P6](#)

Normalcy Would Return In A Day Or Two: AIMTC

Truck drivers, who went on strike to protest against the new stringent law on hit-and-run cases, have started coming back to work and normalcy will return in a day or two, truckers' body All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) said on Wednesday. AIMTC on Tuesday appealed to protesting truck drivers to end their strike after the government assurance that the decision to invoke stringent | [More on P6](#)

KASHMIR RAIL PROJECT

CRS Conducts Inspection On Banihal-Khari Section

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Commissioner of Railways Safety (CRS) on Wednesday conducted the second round of the statutory inspection of the recently completed 14.869 km track between Banihal and Khari section along the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), officials said.

The Khari railway station in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district falls between Banihal and Katra on the remaining 111-km stretch of the USBRL project, which on completion will connect Kashmir with the rest of the country by train in the coming months.

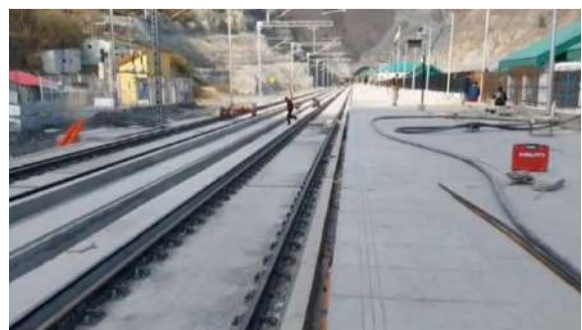
On December 6 last year, the Northern Railways successfully conducted the first trial run of an electric train

from the Banihal railway station to the Khari railway station, bringing cheer on the faces of the local population residing in the remote picturesque area.

The officials said the second round of statutory inspection by CRS Dinesh Chand Deswal for the opening of Banihal-Khari track was conducted, brightening the chances for commission of this section to link Khari with Kashmir valley by train.

During the inspection, the officials said the chief administrative officer of the USBRL, the construction officers and other concerned officials accompanied the CRS, who first led trolley inspection of the work from Banihal to Khari and later returned from Khari to Banihal by special train.

The train | [More on P6](#)



EMERGING STARTUP TRENDS IN NORTH INDIA

STARTUP EXPO KATHUA

4th January, 2024

Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar
Hon'ble Vice-President

— Inauguration —

by

Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar

Hon'ble Vice-President, India

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

In the august presence of

Dr. Jitendra Singh

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



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KASHMIR OBSERVER

2

Srinagar | Thursday | 04-01-2024

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar (Executive Magistrate) Class Sanatnagar T ehsil Chanapora / Natipora

In the case of: Abdul Gaffar Sofi S/o Ama Sofi R/o Rawalpura. ... (Applicant)
Registrar Births and Deaths SMC Srinagar
In the matter of: Application for recording/registration the Date of Birth

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar (Executive Magistrate) Class Sanatnagar T ehsil Chanapora / Natipora

In the case of: Saleema W/o Abdul Gaffar Sofi D/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/o Rawalpura. ... (Applicant)
Registrar Births and Deaths SMC Srinagar
In the matter of: Application for recording/registration the Date of Birth

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style "M/S Miraas" Situated at Rajbagh Extn Srinagar

Public Notice

Whereas I Mr. Samiullah Rather S/O Abdul Majeed Rather R/o Caari Booni, Gupt Ganga, Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S Miraas" Situated at Rajbagh Extn Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag

Notice inviting e-TENDERS E-NITNO.19of2023-24

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K U.T.e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on "Percentage basis" (Single Click) from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K.U.T Govt./ CPWD//Railways/Other Governments/Union Territories for the following works:-

Table with 8 columns: S. No, Name of work, Advt. Cost (Rs in Lacs), Earnest-Money-Deposit (Amt in Rs), Time for completion, Class of Contract, Cost of Tender Document (Rs), Major Head of Account, Tender Opening Authority

Position of Funds: Budgetary provision 2023-24.

Position of Administrative Approval:- Accorded by District Development Commissioner Kulgam's order No. 493-DDCK of 2023 Dated:- 30-12-2023 vide endorsement No. DDCK/MPLADS/2023-24/8775-80 dated:- 30-12-2023.

Position of Technical Sanction:- Accorded

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions, and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

Table with 2 columns: S. No, Date of issue of Tender Notice, Date of start of downloading, Bid submission start date Technical/Financial, Bid submission end date, Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)

- 1. Bidders are advised to use the pre qualification document area in their user on www.jktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below
2. Latest GSTIN clearance Monthly /Quarterly as opted along with PAN.
3. Registration card with the latest renewal.
4. Treasury challan (0702) must be uploaded in valid format carrying no corrections or omissions so that they can be verified discretely by the Tender opening committee.
5. Scanned copy of EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR.
6. Card verification letter.
7. Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.
8. BOQ.
9. The Bidder shall have to upload an Affidavit that he has not been defaulter in any Department for the last year i.e. 2022-23.
10. The scanned documents must be uploaded in PDF format. Any deficiency in the above mentioned conditions will lead to rejection of the bid which shall be noted.
All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form)
No.FCD/Ang/4532-53
DIPK-14640/23 Dated:- 03-01-2024

Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division Anantnag

G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT KOSI-KATARMAL, ALMORA 263 643, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

Online/Walk-in-Interview will be conducted on 19.01.2024 (10:30 A.M onwards) for purely project based temporary positions of Junior Research/Project Fellow (02 No) and Junior Project Fellow (01 No.) at Ladakh Regional Centre, Leh of the Institute.

For details (age, emoluments, qualification, etc.), please see Institute website www.gbpihed.gov.in

CBC- 13136/12/0032/2324

Administrative Officer

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style "M/S Villa Sindh" Situated at Porjat Gagangeer Gund

Public Notice

Whereas I Mr. Samiullah Rather S/O Abdul Majeed Rather R/o Caari Booni, Gupt Ganga, Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S Villa Sindh" Situated at Porjat Gagangeer Gund under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/ Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit.

fko

In The Court Of Additional Sessions Court Handwara

In the case of: State through Police Station Kralgund Case FIR No.73/2011 U/S 2/3 EMICO Act, 121-A RPC

Versus

Mushtaq Ahmad Mir S/O Mohd Sultan R/O Ashpora and others. (Warrant U/S 87 CrPC) Annexure A

Proclamation Requiring The Appearance Of Accused Persons

Whereas, the application has been made before me by the SHO P/S Kralgund seeking issuance of Proclamation against the accused persons in FIR 73/2011 allegedly involved in offences 2/3 EMICO Act, 121-A RPC. The non-bailable warrant has already been issued by the court of CJM Handwara to compel the attendance of the accused persons. But the said warrant could not be executed because the accused persons could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said name d accused person in enclosed list (or concealing themselves to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation in writing is hereby made against the accused persons/absconders (list annexed herewith as Annexure B total 51 accused persons) who are required to appear before this court by or before 02.02.2024 Proclamation issued under the signature and seal of this court on 30-12-2023.

Additional Sessions Court Handwara

Additional Sessions Judge - Handwara

Annexure B

(List of absconders /accused persons)

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of missing person, Residence, Police Station, Involvement

DIPK-14653/23 dated: 03-01-2024

Additional Sessions Judge - Handwara

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Name of missing person, Residence, Police Station

از دفتر نايب تھسيلدار گلنورہ درخواست پنجاب عبدالحميد پير محمد عبداللہ بٹ ساکنہ شیخ پورہ تحصیل کبریٰ برادر دھول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ بحق بین پر حرات میدہت و سہانہ میدہت تحت اس آ آر آ 144, 294, 375 آ آر آ

از نیابت پھالان عنوان:- درخواست عادل مجید بٹ ولد محمد عبدالحمید بٹ ساکنہ شیخ پورہ تحصیل کبریٰ برادر دھول ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ پیش



Smart City Bus Conductors Accused of Ticket Refusal

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a recent development, passengers have accused a number of smart city bus conductors of refusing to issue tickets. This breach of protocol has sparked concerns among authorities and commuters alike.

However, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Commissioner and CEO Smart City, Athar Amir Khan, has taken swift notice of the issue and has assured the public that necessary actions will be taken against the erring conductors.

According to passengers, they have faced inconvenience as some smart city bus drivers allegedly declined to issue tickets after collecting the fare, raising questions about the effectiveness of the smart ticketing system implemented as part of the smart city project.

"I took a bus ride from Hawal in the old city to Lal Chowk but I was not offered a ticket by the bus conductor. It was my first ride on the bus and I was not even aware of it," a female commuter, wishing anonymity, said.

"It is sad to learn that the money has gone straight to the conductor's pocket. I hope authorities take note of the situation," she added.

This issue was also reported by veteran journalist Yusuf Jmaeel on X (Twitter), sparking a debate on the microblogging site.

"Traveled from Hazratnalla to Nowhatta by a @srlsrinagar bus a short while ago. Found commuters preferring the service but it was upsetting to see the conductor not issuing tickets to several passen-

I took a bus ride from Hawal in the old city to Lal Chowk but I was not offered a ticket by the bus conductor. It was my first ride on the bus and I was not even aware of it

gers. When asked about it, he said, they don't pay the fare in full," Yusuf Jameel wrote, tagging C.E.O smart city Athar Amir Khan.

"Also, the driver would pick up & drop off passengers at any place. Are there no designated bus stops for this service or route? Needless to say, cleanliness & maintenance are very important. Found this particular bus lacking the former. Thought to tell you about all this" Jameel added.

In a reply to the tweet, SMC Commissioner Athar Amir Khan assured action, saying they have a very strict policy with respect to this and replied that the case was verified and action initiated accordingly.

"We have a very strict policy with respect to this. It will be verified and action initiated accordingly!"

"There are 4 cameras inside the bus. We can easily see and count at any point of time or on any stretch. That gets cross checked with the tickets issued using the Electronic Ticketing Machines! We do this audit on a regular basis. There is a technical team which does the job." Athar Amir wrote.



A boatman smashes a thin coating of ice (Tul Katur) that had developed on the crystal-clear water of the majestic Dal Lake in Srinagar amid sub-zero temperature on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Once Famed, Kashmir's Anchar Lake Fights For Survival

'Pollution, Encroachment Threaten Its Pristine Waters'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Once renowned for its fish, Nadru, and lush vegetable gardens, Anchar Lake in the Soura area of Srinagar was now struggling for survival as unauthorized disposal sites have been established on its coastline, causing it to become a victim.

The lake, linked to Dal Lake through the Nallah Amir Khan water channel, has faced a drastic reduction in size as

well, nearly half of its original area, over the past few decades due to administrative neglect, rampant pollution, siltation, and encroachment.

Formerly a sought-after tourist destination, Anchar Lake is losing its allure as the nearby residents continue to dispose of solid waste directly into its waters on a daily basis. The lake, once famous for high-quality fish, Nadru, vegetable gardens, and chestnuts, no longer exhibits these features, according to locals.

According to locals, the current state of the lake has taken a toll on aquatic life, impacting the 93,000 residents who rely on fishing and other sources of income. The lake's size has dwindled from 19.4 sq. km to just 6.8 sq. km, transforming it into a dumping ground for sewage, residential trash, and various pollutants.

Fareeda Begum, residing on the lake's shores, expressed concern as her area, along with other low-lying areas, is

being used as a dumping site for domestic and commercial waste. "The lake, once crystal clear and a source of drinking water, is now heavily contaminated," she said. Migratory birds have vanished due to growing pollution, according to Fareeda's daughter, Shafeeqa.

Local fisherman Mohammad Ashraf laments the decline in Nadru production, attributing it to pollution, encroachments, and the lake's fast shrinkage.

DC Srinagar Holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp At Bemina

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wednesday held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp here at Bemina in Shalteng Tehsil of the District under weekly Block Diwas program in order to bring Administration at the door steps of people for an on spot resolution of their developmental issues.

The Program witnessed large participation of people from Bemina, Parimpora, Qamarwari,

Boatman Colony, Bilal Colony, Umer Colony and other adjoining areas of Shalteng Tehsil of Srinagar District.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC including augmentation of drainage network system to resolve water logging issue, road upgradation, redevelopment & face lifting of public parks, providing transport services from inner Colonies of the area to Qamerwari.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC sought issue wise on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

He also assured the people of Bemina and other local vicinities that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be looked at on priority basis. He said jurisdictional issues have already been taken up with higher authorities and will be resolved soon.

Jammu And Kashmir Power Development Corporation Office Of The Executive Engineer, Gas Turbine Division, Pampore

(E-Mail: xengtampore2@gmail.com)

NIT No: GTD/PDC/TS/23 of 2023-24
Dated: 03/01/2024

For and on behalf of the Managing Director J&K Power Development Corporation, sealed bids in two covers (Part-A: Techno-Commercial Bid & Part-B: Price Bid) valid for 180 days accompanied with Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR or Bank Guarantee @ 2% of the Estimated Cost (as specified in para 1 of Tender Notice) amounting to Rs. 4420/- pledged to Executive Engineer JKPDC Gas Turbine Division Pampore, are invited from Registered Electrical Contractors/Firms of appropriate class having sufficient related experience (as per CVC guidelines) for the following works:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs. Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount (2%) (Rs)	Cost of tender documents (Rs) (Non-Refundable)	Time of Completion
1	"SITC of 2 Nos. 15kVA, 3-Phase, ONAN, Servo Controlled Automatic AC Voltage Stabilizers having Input Line Voltage Range of 300-460V, Output Line Voltage Range of 380-415V ±1%, Frequency 50Hz at Forebay and Headworks"	2.21	Rs. 4420	Rs. 500	30 days

CRITICAL DATES

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	03/01/2024
2	Document Download Start Date	04/01/2024 at 09:00 a.m.
3	Document Download End Date	15/01/2024 at 12:30 p.m.
4	Bid Submission Start Date (Online)	04/01/2024 at 12:00 p.m.
5	Bid Submission End Date (Online)	15/01/2024 at 12:30 p.m.
6	Pre- Bid Clarifications Start Date	04/01/2024 at 11:00 a.m.
7	Pre- Bid Clarifications End Date	10/01/2024 at 4:00 p.m.
8	Last Date/Venue for receiving original Proof of Cost of tender document and EMD	16/01/2024 at 12:00 p.m. (Office of the Executive Engineer, Gas Turbine Division Pampore)
9	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	16/01/2024 at 2:30 p.m.
10	Online Financial e-Bid Opening Date & Time (Only of the Technically Qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders

- Position of Funds - Available
- Administrative Approval - Accorded
- Technical Sanction - Accorded

1. The entire bidding process shall be online.
2. The bidding documents consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of Terms & Conditions and other details can be seen at & downloaded from the government website www.jktenders.gov.in or the official website of JKPDC www.jkspdc.nic.in. The bidder has to submit the bids (complete in all respects) online.

DIPK-NB-5087/23
DATED: 03-01-2024

-sd-
Executive Engineer,
Gas Turbine Division Pampore

PUBLIC NOTICE
I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No: 0202020003536 From Ali Mohd Wani S/o Gh Nabi to Mohammad Ayyub Paray S/o Mohammad Siddique Paray R/o Bagi Sunder Payeen Near Tanga Adda Chowk Chattabal Srinagar. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned of the Electric Division 3rd KPDC, Shireen bagh Srinagar PPD office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Ali Mohd Wani mtzko
S/o Gh Nabi
R/o New Colony Batmaloo Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE
I want to correct name in my passport bearing No: LI935363 which was wrongly mentioned as Syed Altaf Hussain instead of Syed Altaf Hussain Quazime. If anybody having any objection in this regard may contact concerned authorities within a period of seven days after publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.
Syed Altaf Hussain Quazime
S/o Syed Raza Quazime
R/o Sonium Pattan inf

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

PRAYERS
FAJR 6 : 08
ZUHR 12:35
ASR 3: 57
Magrib 5:37
ISHA 7: 03

This Day In History

- 46 BC- Julius Caesar defeats Titus Labienus in the Battle of Ruspina
- 871- Battle at Reading: Ethelred of Wessex defeated by Danish invasion army
- 1490- Anna of Brittany announces that all those who would ally with the king of France will be considered guilty of the crime of lese-majesty.
- 1642- King Charles I with 400 soldiers attacks the English parliament
- 1656- Spanish galleon Nuestra Señora de las Maravillas, laden with gold and jewellery bound for Spain, sinks off the coast of the Bahamas, only 45 of 650 people survive (most eaten by sharks)
- 1698- Most of the Palace of Whitehall in London, the main residence of the English monarchs, is destroyed by fire
- 1717 - Netherlands, Great Britain & France sign Triple Alliance
- 1754- Columbia University founded, as Kings College (NYC)
- 1847- Samuel Colt sells his first revolver pistol to the United States government
- 1854- The McDonald Islands are discovered by Captain William McDonald aboard the Samarang
- 1863- Four wheeled roller skates patented by James Plimpton in New York
- 1878- Sofia is emancipated from Ottoman rule.
- 1894- France ratifies Duple Alliance with Russia
- 1902- The French Panama Canal Company offers to sell its right to build a canal to the US for 40 million, tipping the balance away from those favoring a canal through Nicaragua
- 1906- South Africa beat England by one wicket, their 1st Test win
- 1912- Smallest earth-moon distance this century, 356,375 km center-to-center
- 1915- Trans-Caucasus Russian defeat Turkish troops
- 1932- British Viceroy of India Lord Willingdon arrests Indian independence leaders Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru
- 1945- Germans execute resistance fighters in Amsterdam
- 1948- Burma declares independence from UK
- 1951- Korean War: Chinese forces recapture Seoul
- 1958- Sputnik 1 reenters atmosphere & burns up
- 1959- USSR's Luna 1 (Metcha) becomes the 1st spacecraft to leave Earth's gravity
- 1963- Soviet Luna (4) reaches Earth orbit but fails to reach Moon
- 1970- More than 15,000 people are killed in Tonghai County, China after a magnitude 7.7 earthquake
- 1989- George H. W. Bush is 1st sitting Vice President since Millard Fillmore (in 1850) to declare himself President of the United States
- 1989- US F-14s shoot down 2 Libyan jet fighters over Mediterranean
- 1991- Iraq agrees to send Aziz to Geneva to meet Baker on Jan 9th
- 1991 Jan Krzysztof Bielecki becomes premier of Poland
- 1998 - Wilaya of Relizane massacres in Algeria: over 170 are killed in three remote villages. 1998 - A massive ice storm hits eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, continuing through January 10 and causing widespread destruction.
- 1999 - Former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura is sworn in as governor of Minnesota.
- 1999 - Gunmen open fire on Shiite Muslims worshipping in an Islamabad mosque, killing 16 people and injuring 25.
- 2000 - After 2 months, Catherine Hartley and Fiona Thornewill, reach the South Pole, the same day as Sir Edmund Hillary 48 years before.
- 2000 - 19 are killed after two trains collide in Asta, Norway.
- 2004 - Spirit, a NASA Mars Rover, lands successfully on Mars at 04:35 UTC.
- 2004 - Mikheil Saakashvili is elected President of Georgia.
- 2006 - Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel suffers a second, apparently more serious stroke. His authority is transferred to acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 04-01-2024

Security Review Meet

The recent surge in violence in Poonch and Rajouri and also killing of a former senior police official serves as a stark reminder of the persistent threat posed by the militancy. The tragic loss of lives, including security personnel and civilians, highlights the urgency to adopt measures, both security and political, that ensure a durable peace in the region.

Firstly, combating militancy demands a concerted effort on multiple fronts. Strengthening counter-terrorism operations, as highlighted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in Tuesday's meeting. This necessitates enhancing the capabilities of security agencies and ensuring coordination among them. The review of the area domination plan will entail concentration of troops in areas affected by militancy.

However, a sustainable solution goes beyond military strategies. Addressing the disillusionment and alienation among segments of the population is crucial. This involves socio-economic development initiatives that empower local communities, offering them opportunities for growth and progress. Investing in education, skill development, and job creation can significantly help ameliorate the situation.

Simultaneously, ensuring transparency and accountability in security operations is imperative to maintain public trust. Instances of alleged civilian casualties or human rights violations must be thoroughly investigated, as the recent incident in Poonch underlines. The administration was quick to reach out to the families of the three civilians who allegedly lost their lives in Army custody and institute probe. Upholding the rule of law and respecting human rights not only upholds ethical standards but also strengthens the credibility of security forces.

Moreover, constructive dialogue with stakeholders, including regional leaders, community representatives, and youth, is instrumental in addressing grievances and channeling aspirations through democratic means. This inclusive approach acknowledges the diversity of perspectives within the region and aims to find common ground for reconciliation.

The withdrawal of Article 370 in 2019 was a significant policy decision of the union government. However, the journey toward stability demands a comprehensive approach that amalgamates security measures with inclusive governance and socio-economic progress. The commitment to addressing the complex challenges in Jammu and Kashmir requires a cohesive and sustained approach, transcending short-term remedies to pave the way for a peaceful and prosperous future for the region.

While the Valley has come a long way over the last four years, much work remains to be done. As things stand, security forces have done their job to usher in the prevailing calm by reigning in the militancy. It is time that politics and political outreach moves to the foreground and gives people a sense of involvement in the decisions affecting them. This alone can give them a stake in Naya Kashmir.

OTHER OPINION

What INDIA needs

As the new year takes the baton from the old, and with the parliamentary contest only months away, three images of the country's Opposition seem resonant. In no particular order: AAP and Congress, two prominent members of the joint anti-BJP front, INDIA, are locked in an impasse over seat-sharing in Delhi and Punjab, and one of them, Congress, is also up against the Shiv Sena wall on the same issue in Maharashtra.

In West Bengal, festering tensions between the so-called old and new guards within Mamata Banerjee's TMC spilled into the open, with factions loyal to state president Subrata Bakshi and general secretary Abhishek Banerjee exchanging taunts on the occasion of the party's Foundation day.

And the fog is yet to lift within the Opposition front on the question of whether to go to Ayodhya for the inauguration of the Ram temple on January 22, or not, with the CPM its only prominent member so far to clearly rule out its participation. The three images point to three Opposition challenges that will become more and more urgent in 2024.

Of course, it won't be just three. INDIA must deal with more than conflicts of interest between constituent parties, turbulence within them, and the difficulties of framing and coordinating responses to issues thrown by the dominant BJP. What it will also have to find answers for, as the election countdown grows louder, are questions that involve not just parties but also the people.

After all, when all the calculating and negotiating and compromising within and between parties is done, the crucial task of convincing and persuading the people will still remain. Why will the supporters of the AAP or SP or TMC, for instance, vote for the Congress, and will they, really, just because the parties have firmed up a bargain on poll-eve? Are the Opposition's arithmetic sequences and sums reason enough? Why will voters prefer INDIA if it offers them a reactive or BJP-lite position on important issues, as it seems to be currently doing, instead of articulating an agenda that is more imaginative and affirmative?

As much as it constantly projects a confident and optimistic vision, the Modi agenda also counts on an accumulated voter pessimism and cynicism vis a vis Opposition parties.

The Indian Express

2024: Global Election Fest

2024 will be a historic election year, when democracy will undergo a major test with elections in approximately 70 countries including the United States, India, Mexico and South Africa. More than 3.7 billion voters will head to the polls, and their results may have global impact and ramifications

Asad Mirza

The current year will be the greatest year for democracy and democratic institutions worldwide. The greatest power in the world (the United States), the most populous country (India), the biggest trading bloc (the European Union), the largest Muslim country (Indonesia), the largest Spanish-speaking country (Mexico) and the territory that is the most contentious one between the two superpowers of this century (Taiwan), all will hold elections in 2024.

A total of more than 3.7 billion inhabitants around 70 countries - or almost half of the global population - will head to cast their votes in either presidential or legislative elections in the coming year. The verdict of these polls may have profound consequences on the lives of people and on a world that is going through a turbulent time, with on-going brutal wars in Ukraine and Gaza, as the West seems falling into decline, with no clear alternative.

On a geopolitical level, this electoral jamboree might have a major impact. Major disruptive results include the return of Donald Trump to the White House, a third consecutive victory in Taiwan by candidates that Beijing considers hostile, or a consolidation of the extreme right in the European Union, all of which could lead to far-reaching consequences.

In addition to these, other elections to watch out for include the potential presidential elections in Venezuela to those in Ukraine, from Indonesia to South Africa and Mexico, besides the United Kingdom - where a substantial change of course would not be expected regardless of the outcome.

Test for Democracy

However, what might be the worrisome aspect of these elections is the litmus test which democracy will undergo. Surveys by different international think tanks and institutes indicate dissatisfaction with the present-day working of democratic institutions - a sentiment common throughout the nations of the west - meaning, the US and Europe - even though they see themselves as democracy's home ground. A recent Ipsos opinion poll in western countries found a widespread belief that current democratic systems favour the rich and powerful and ignore everyone else.

Freedom House, the independent, US-based watchdog concluded in its 2023 report that the Global Freedom Index declined for the 17th consecutive year. The principle of free speech, essential to a fully functioning democracy, is also under attack.

Paradoxically, this unprecedented vote-fest comes at a moment when classic forms of liberal democracy are under existential attack from authoritarians and dictators such as China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin, far-right nationalist-populist parties such as in Austria, Hungary and Scandinavia, and military coup plotters and Islamists from Venezuela to Chad.

Yet the report said while 35 countries experienced declines in political rights and civil liberties, 34 saw overall gains. Autocrats were neither infallible nor unbeatable.

The geopolitical and economic impacts of so many ballot box battles, occurring more or less at once, may combine to further destabilise an unstable world - for good or bad.

Rise of the Far Right

The European continent will see elections in



For India, which itself will be holding the general elections, in which the incumbent Prime Minister N Modi is expected to score a hat trick, will closely watch elections in its neighbourhood i.e. in Pakistan and Bangladesh which may have a major regional and strategic impact

Austria, Belgium, Croatia and Finland, as well as for the European Parliament in June. The pervasive fear is that they may accelerate advances by nationalist-populist, anti-migrant, xenophobic parties of the far right, matching those seen recently in Italy, the Netherlands and Slovakia. The results will shape the new chamber, with possible new legislative majorities that will influence the leadership of the EU. One wonders how high the far-right wave may rise.

The average of polls compiled by Politico magazine indicates a rise of the two far-right blocs and a decline in support of the traditional European conservatives, social democrats, liberals and greens. Even so, the latter groups might retain a comfortable majority. The crux of the question is to see if an eventual coalition between populist and far-right groups could form an alternative majority. At the beginning of December, in the seat projection put out by Politico, the distance between extremists and moderates was only about 20 seats, out of a total of 720.

India and Its Neighbours

For India, which itself will be holding the general elections, in which the incumbent Prime Minister N Modi is expected to score a hat trick, will closely watch elections in its neighbourhood i.e. in Pakistan and Bangladesh which may have a major regional and strategic impact.

Pakistan is plagued by a serious economic crisis and high political tensions, including arrests and attempted assassinations of political leaders. Following the dissolution of Parliament back in August, elections should have been held within 90 days, but have been postponed twice. They are now scheduled for February. The country - with some 240 million inhabitants - has enormous strategic depth, not only due to its nuclear arsenal, but also due to its close relationship with China. The Beijing-Islamabad axis is New Delhi's biggest concern.

The first election of 2024 could be one of the most contentious. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the ruling Awami League -AL have dominated Bangladeshi politics for the past fifteen years. Over that time, they have increasingly eroded Bangladesh's democracy. As Freedom House puts it, the AL "has consolidated po-

litical power through sustained harassment of the opposition and those perceived to be allied with it, as well as of critical media and voices in civil society." The United States has been pressing Sheikh Hasina for months to hold free-and-fair elections, that pressure has yet to pay off.

Major Elections

At the global level the US elections and those of the EU may have a major bearing on India's foreign and defence policies, with some overlap on its internal politics, too.

The US presidential elections next November have immense disruptive potential. The possibility that Trump will be the Republican candidate and return to the White House is still not ruled out. A Trump-return to the White House would represent a major shake-up with associated risks. It would be a step towards American isolationism at a time when rival powers are questioning the world order that Washington has created.

Trump would embody a break with 'America for the world' scenario, his "America first" doctrine means limiting efforts and expenses in distant horizons. It's doubtful whether he would commit to supporting Taiwan if it comes under attack, or whether he would maintain financing and security guarantees made to Ukraine and NATO. New trade wars would be likely, as would a withdrawal of commitments against climate change. In addition, the elections in 2024 will further highlight the manner in which our lives have become slaves to social media and this will have an impact on the election processes too. As Kay Spencer, program director of elections at the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) puts it, the year 2024 is a big year for social media platforms and it will be important to monitor how they will manage all the elections that are coming up.

Indeed 2024 might prove to be a year, which consolidates the liberal democratic principles and institutions, or lead to their further erosion.

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

THERE'S no real "you". You're just a blueprint of the society in which you were born and one that made you. Your habits, hobbies, interests, religion, beliefs and actions are all mediated by society. What you are right now is not the actual you. However, there is a possibility to discover and rediscover yourself. You are the creator of your own story. However this change will hardly come overnight.

Consider this, in a village two children are born. One grows up in the village itself and another is raised in a developed country abroad. After twenty years, they both will have different personalities. The village boy will have his own set of hobbies and

dreams. On the other hand, the one raised abroad will have a different set of values meditated by a completely different society abroad. Therefore, it is obvious that you do not control your life, society does. One might mistake one life as though luck directed it, however, things aren't that simple. However, no matter what society has done, you can change it if you don't like your story that you are living. You can completely recreate it no matter how old and strong your story is. You have the power, because you are the author of your own life story. This is the highest power for a human being.

You have to first accept it deep within by increasing your self un-

derstanding. Research on it, analyse your past. Listen and watch struggle stories of people who then become successful all over the world. One thought can change your life. Plant your thoughts deeply in your subconscious mind through gratitude affirmations. Do this until your belief in your abilities becomes stronger.

Then the next step is to destroy your fear of people. As they say, "sabse bada rogh, kya kahenge log". If you don't remove this fear then you can't unlock your true potential or inner voice. Listen to the inner voice not the outer voice. No matter how many failures you have faced, you become closer to success from every failure.

If you are so concerned about

what people are thinking, then how can you make your decisions? You will act on their expectations of you and not on your inner voice.

Life is what you make it, it's your choice. Don't compromise in life, enjoy it to the fullest. Don't make excuses. Be patient, work hard. Keep a learning attitude, an open mind and do not see through the beliefs you hold but see things as they are.

Make a commitment that no matter what your boring story was in the past and that you will live life on your own terms and conditions.

Mohsin Nazir

Cyber Parenting, Need of the Hour

Mohd Asif Jan
Manzoor Illahie

Today's world is an information rich world and it has become a necessity for everyone to know about technology. Technology has touched every domain of life and is making human life easier and more joyful. The Internet has contracted the world into a global village. From the wake-up alarm in the morning to the dawn, we are dealing with technology in either one pretext or other, irrespective of age, gender and profession. Now the question here arises how efficiently we should use the different technologies without compromising our real life.

For that purpose, we should know the etiquettes of technology proportionally. We should inculcate the real essence of technology with others as well. Social Media platforms have become a talk of the town, even the illiterate, under aged groups are actively using these platforms. Nowadays, social media has penetrated our lives in such a way that it seems to be part of our real life curriculum. So the responsibility lies on our shoulders that we play an important role in keeping an eye on our children while using different social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Telegram, Twitter and YouTube.

If we go down the memory lane, parenting style has seen a paradigm shift from baby boomers to generation Z. The more you know your responsibility, the better you will be able in shaping the life of your child. If we go through the flashback of 2023 especially in Kashmir, what didn't we see in this year: Such as reels on 'Bheega Bheega Hai Samaa' song, Kashmiri dialogue 'Su Wattie Ghari', 'Cxe Won Kus-Ammi Kari Trus', 'Own power own rules' or the recently scam of curative survey and the different Vlogs of our so called Vloggers who call themselves as role models. Even though we have crossed the limits in such a way before going into the washroom, we set up the camera for capturing the scene of entering the washroom



NOWADAYS, SOCIAL MEDIA HAS PENETRATED OUR LIVES IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT SEEMS TO BE PART OF OUR REAL LIFE CURRICULUM. So the responsibility lies on our shoulders that we play an important role in keeping an eye on our children while using different social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Telegram, Twitter and YouTube

and exiting the washroom. We are bearing hands with thieves in their work indirectly by using different social media platforms. Let me put it this way, if a Vlogger visits his/her uncle's house s/he shoots a Vlog by the title 'Uncle K Ghar Ki Sair' and uploads this Vlog on different social media platforms for few likes and comments. After few days, we came to know about a theft incident in the same house (Uncle's house). If we think out of box, the thieves are not only responsible for the theft but the Vlogger is also responsible because

he provides a roadmap to thieves in the form of Vlog (Uncle K Ghar Ki Sair) which had paved the way for thieves. Even some intellectuals upload AI morphed pics on different social media platforms for masking their real identity among their social media friends which are limited in number without realizing the fact, the AI app/platform they used in morphing the pics are safe or unsafe. Thousands of photos of Kashmiri girls are available on the web. Now the question arises where they got these photos. This is the question

whose answer should know our social media users.

In the above summative assessment, we figure it out that we all have to play a pivotal role if we want to safeguard our society, we have to follow an approach that is known as cyber parenting. Cyber parenting or digital parenting is a concept which tells us the importance of keeping track of your child's internet usage and following the cyber parenting principles. Needless to mention, we have heard/read about four types of parenting styles- authoritarian

(parent driven), authoritative (responsive), permissive (child driven), and uninvolved (neglectful). Moreover, we have heard/read about Dr. Conte's four Cs of parenting that is care, consistency, choices and consequences that helps in satisfying children's psychological, physical, social, and intellectual needs and lay solid foundations for mental well-being. But when it comes to digital parenting, Alexandra Samuel, a researcher who conducted research two years ago on digital parenting has given three types of digital parenting: dig-

ital enablers, digital limiter and digital mentor. If we talk about digital enablers, we especially (Kashmiri) fall in this category because in this parenting, parents give complete freedom to their children when it comes to access to devices and the internet. Some sort of autonomy is given to children and no supervision of child's activities is taken into consideration. In other words we can say, let them do what they want to do. Then comes the next type of digital parenting that is digital limiter, if we talk about digital limiter, it resembles authoritarian parenting style. These parents keep their children away from the internet as much as possible and strictly limit screen time. Digital limiters closely monitor the content their children are exposed to. The third type and the last type of cyber parenting is mentor parenting, in this type, parents spend time online with their children, helping them develop their digital skills by experimenting and failing within a controlled environment. Parents provide their children different tools and resources to navigate the online world. Parents act as role models and demonstrate the behaviours that children should model online.

In conclusion, we must say indeed parenting is a difficult task when it comes to cyber parenting- a lot of training and understanding is required along with the adequate time that is to be spent with the children in order to understand them better. Be a regular parent as well as digital parent (Cyber parent). In this ICT era, a parent has to play the role of helicopter parenting style. Just like a helicopter hovers, so do the parents involve themselves in all aspects of their children's lives. In this technological driven world, parents have to make a balance between their own technological dependency while guiding their children's digital behavior.

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

How A Man's World Systematically Neglects Women

Navika Mehta

The existence of "women's issues" reflects the simple fact that we live in a man's world. Over the course of centuries, research and policies focused on men became the default, whereas initiatives that account for women are "women-centred." But if men are treated as the default, virtually no aspect of women's lives ends up being built or optimized for them. Research that excludes women is not simply "gender-neutral" - it is "incomplete."

The consequences can be deadly. For example, women are 73% more likely to be injured, and 17% more likely to die, in vehicle crashes than men. One reason for this is that the crash-test dummies used in vehicle-safety trials are designed to mimic the body of an average man. "Female" dummies were not even developed until last year, and regulators still do not require that they be included in vehicle-safety research.

Personal protective equipment, like that used by health-care workers, is also optimized for male bodies, with dimensions staying the same even as items are scaled down for women users. In a 2020 survey of British health-care workers, 44.7% of women found PPE overall ill-fitting, compared to just 15.3% of men. In a recent survey in Canada, more than 80% of women respondents reported issues with PPE.

Similarly, the "unisex" body armor used by police officers is designed for men, leaving women both uncomfortable and potentially more vulnerable to attack, especially around the armpit and neck. In the United Kingdom, where 50,000 women now serve as police officers, women-specific body armor was not introduced until this year.

While women are no longer excluded from clinical-drug trials, they continue to be under-represented, particularly in the



trials' early phases. As a result, women still face a higher risk of adverse side effects from medication, not least because recommended doses are not optimised for women. An analysis of studies in which women were given the same drug dosage as men showed that, in more than 90% of cases, women experienced stronger side effects and more adverse reactions.

That analysis arose from the observation that women taking Ambien, a sleep medication, were experiencing severe side effects, including a higher rate of traffic accidents the morning after. As it turned out, researchers found, the recommended dose produced much higher blood concentrations and drug-elimination times in women than in men. The US Food and Drug Administration now recommends that women receive half the

"standard" dose.

Making matters worse, when it comes to health issues that primarily affect women, research tends not to be funded at all. In nearly 75% of cases where a disease primarily affects one sex, the pattern favours men: "men's diseases" are overfunded, and "women's diseases" are underfunded.

Women's needs also take a backseat to men's when it comes to tackling sexual violence. Because women are overwhelmingly the victims of such crimes, preventing sexual violence is treated entirely as a "women's issue" - one that has no consequences for men, even though they comprise the majority of perpetrators. Policies are so focused on the victims - for example, improving outdoor lighting, establishing helplines, and creating "safe spaces" - that the

source of the violence is never addressed.

Likewise, health-related data have been collected primarily from men, which poses serious risks as artificial intelligence trained on such data is applied in health care. For example, if a man reports pain in his left arm and back, a medical app - trained on data establishing cardiovascular disease as a predominantly male issue - will recommend that he seek help for a potential heart attack. That same app might suggest that a woman is experiencing depression and thus does not need urgent care, even though women are hardly immune to heart attacks.

AI has the potential to harm women in other ways, too. In 2015, Amazon scrapped its AI recruiting tool for exhibiting bias against women. Having "learned" to assess applications

by observing patterns in resumes submitted over the previous decade - resumes that had come overwhelmingly from men - the computer model rated male candidates more highly. This should not be surprising, given women account for only 12% of AI researchers and 6% of software developers. Several other companies that continue to use AI software for recruitment do not monitor it for bias.

Despite considerable evidence showing that advances toward gender equality play an important role in driving economic progress, analysis focusing solely on macro aspects of growth disregards gender. Ignoring the fact that government spending, taxation, and monetary policy have different consequences for men and women can lead to flawed economic assessments, undermining the effectiveness

of policies and the accuracy of forecasts.

For example, women's unpaid labour as primary caregivers is unaccounted for in macroeconomic policy. Tasks like cooking, cleaning, fetching water, and caring for children and the elderly have substantial economic value, accounting for between 10-60% of GDP. As a result of gender-blind analysis, women are over-worked and underpaid. Increasing the share of women in the workforce needs to be accompanied by policies that reduce and redistribute this unpaid labour.

Consider the debate over India's economic prospects. With India having recently overtaken China in population, some analysts predict that it will also surpass China in economic growth. But, as Ashwini Deshpande and Akshi Chawla explain, this works only if the population increase is reflected in the workforce, and in India, low female labour-force participation limits the effect.

Gender plays a crucial role in countless other policy areas, including the single biggest challenge of our time: climate change. Like most of the other issues addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals, the effects of global warming, including climate-related disasters, disproportionately affect women.

When half the global population is treated as an afterthought, research is less accurate, policy is less effective, and human welfare is diminished. That will not change until accounting explicitly for women becomes the norm in every sphere of research, product design, tech, and policy.

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

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

HIGHWAY HORROR

Kumar Chairs Meeting Of Experts Committee On Road Safety

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday chaired the meeting of the Committee of Experts constituted by the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to find out the reasons behind road accidents on Ramban-Batote -Doda-Kishtwar National Highway and the Mughal road.

The members of the committee- Prof G M Bhat, former HoD Department of Geology JU, Dr Ankit Khajuria, Assistant Professor from IIT Jammu, Er Mohinder Kumar, former Executive Engineer and Major Gaurav Tewari GREF attended the meeting.

The Committee of experts will inspect these roads to assess and find out the reasons responsible for accidents in the hilly areas.

During the meeting, the Div Com emphasised the importance of the fact findings and recommendations by the Committee that would be implemented to save the precious lives.

The Div Com stressed on the members of the committee for generating actionable points, immediate measures and practical steps in their report.

The Div Com asked the members of the committee to submit their report at the earliest after visiting the roads, vulnerable sections and assessment of the reasons.

Massive Demolition Drive Held In Kangan

District Admin Warns People, Violators To Be Dealt Strictly Under Law



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, a massive demolition drive was conducted on Wednesday against illegal constructions at Margund, Satrina and Doctors Colony Prang during which various structures were razed to the ground.

The demolition drive was headed by SDM Kangan along with the Executive Engineer I&FC, Tehsildar Kangan and SHO Kangan.

The District Administration has initiated action against the offenders who have raised structures illegally along Sindh Nallah and other places in the district.

District Administration Ganderbal has asked people not to indulge in illegal construction activities and encroachments as violators would be dealt strictly under law besides all encroachments which have been raised illegally will be demolished and no such construction will be allowed in the district.

Local Body Polls In Ladakh After Delimitation Exercise: LG Mishra

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor B D Mishra on Wednesday said elections to urban local bodies and panchayats in the Union territory would be held after the completion of delimitation of wards.

Ladakh has two municipalities -- Leh and Kargil -- having 13 wards each, and 193 panchayats -- 98 in Kargil and 95 in Leh. These local bodies completed their five-year term in November last year.

Chairing a meeting of senior officials at the lieutenant governor's secretariat here, Brigadier (retired) Mishra directed that the delimitation of wards be completed at the earliest so that municipal and panchayat elections could be held in the region.

The meeting was convened to discuss ongoing projects and public grievances along with the issues faced by various departments in carrying out developmental works, an official spokesman said.

At the outset, the lieutenant governor asked the departmental secretaries and heads of depart-

ments to ensure there is no delay in the implementation of public welfare measures.

He enquired about the assistance provided to the families affected by fire incidents at Chiktan, Tia and Nimoo and asked the officials concerned to provide the required assistance at the earliest.

He also highlighted the need to keep fire tenders at police stations and train police personnel in operating them, the spokesman said.

The lieutenant governor also highlighted the importance of paying salaries to employees, including contractual or outsourced ones, on time.

Mishra informed the meeting that he would take up with the ministries and institutions concerned the matters related to the establishment of medical, engineering and degree colleges, the expansion of airport at Kargil, strengthening of All India Radio Kargil, the drafting of recruitment rules for gazetted posts and technicians required for the installation of a pashmina dehairing plant.



AS SHIKARAS REMAIN ANCHORED, the boatmen warming themselves at the banks of Srinagar's Dal Lake on a cold Wednesday morning.

Two Remote Villages Of Keran Get Grid Connectivity For First Time In 75 Years

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: It was a moment of joy for the 1300 souls of remote villages Kundian and Patroo of Keran along the Line of Control (LOC) in Kupwara district, as their villages for the first time got electricity supply through grid connectivity.

Two Sub Stations of 250 KV (33kv/440 volts) were completed under Samirh Seema Yojan (SSY) by KPDCL Electric Division Kupwara, electrifying the villages, ending the long wait of the residents.

Residents were ecstatic, they had strong reason to be happy, some even shrieked in joy on witnessing the electricity illuminating their houses, thanks to the efforts of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan.

Happiness of the villagers was evident, as they had gathered at Kundian to receive the Deputy Commissioner, who visited these villages to interact with locals.

DC on reaching Patroo and Kundian congratulated the people and PRLs for getting grid connectivity for the first time. She said that it is a job well done. Everything was done in mission mode. From Officers to Line men of PDD, Local PRLs and concerned contractors, all have contributed in timely completion of this electrification project



which was handed over to people in a record time of two months. It is a big achievement and testimony of transformation down at the grassroots level as only two months ago approval and allocation of this project was made.

The DC further said that the road stretch from Dutt Bridge to Keran has been handed over to Beacon and work on it will be started. She said that by the end of this year all the villages of Keran will get saturated by the BSNL mobile network.

DC added Airtel and Jio companies will be roped in for providing and enhancing cell phone connectivity to the area.

Chairperson, BDC Keran, Mohammad Syed Khoja while expressing his gratitude to District Administration Kupwara said that District Administration led by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara deserves all the appreciation for getting the villages electrified in a short span of just two months. He said that for the residents here it is like a dream come true. We used to receive 2 to 3 hours of low voltage power through a decade old Diesel Generator Set (DG Set) which could hardly light up a bulb. We were using candles to lighten our homes. Now our children will study under electric lights and perform well.

On the occasion, Locals hailing the efforts of DC Kupwara said the hard work of the District Administration has paid off and their remote villages have got electric supply.

BJP Trying To Divide People On Communal Lines: Cong Leader

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress working president Raman Bhalla on Wednesday accused the BJP of trying to divide people on communal lines and vitiate the atmosphere across the country.

He accused the BJP of failing on all fronts.

"To divert the public attention from its failures, the BJP is trying to divide the people on communal lines. The atmosphere across the country has been vitiated due to attempt of the BJP to divide the common people on communal lines," Bhalla told a meeting of party workers here.

He said that after the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, land of the poor was being snatched and the protection for jobs disappeared.

VP Dhankhar To Inaugurate Biotech Startup Expo In Kathua Today

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate a biotech start-up expo in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday in a bid to develop the district along the international border with Pakistan as hub for budding entrepreneurs.



The expo titled 'Emerging Startup Trends in North India' at the Biotech Park in Kathua will see the participation of 25 start-ups comprising 11 from Jammu and Kashmir, six from Gurgaon and Noida, three each from Chandigarh and Kanpur and one each from Dehradun and Roorkee, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said.

Making a strong pitch for the youth to take up entrepreneurship instead of pursuing government jobs, Singh said the bio-diversity rich region of Jammu was home to numerous startups in the biotech sector focusing on plants such as lavender and mint.

"We are developing Kathua Biotech Park as a hub for start-ups as it offers land at competitive rates to entrepreneurs

from Punjab and Himachal Pradesh," Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) said.

Six women entrepreneurs are also scheduled to participate in the expo where the Vice President will also interact with startup innovators, entrepreneurs, academicians, scientists and local representatives.

Singh said the government would focus on promoting start-ups in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and make them realize that the start-up does not mean information technology and areas such as agriculture, healthcare, aroma, vaccines too had shown great potential for entrepreneurs.

Commercial Units In Reasi Directed To Install CCTVs

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Commercial units in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district have been directed to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in their business premises within 21 days for the security of the public.

District Magistrate, Reasi, Vishesh Paul Mahajan also asked the owners of hotels, guest houses, restaurants,



dhabas, shopping malls and other commercial establishments at Katra and Ransoo to furnish details of their employees to their respective police station and tehsildars within the same period.

Reasi district is home to the famous shrines of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra and Shri Shiv Khori Shrine at Ransoo Tehsil in Pouni and a large number of pilgrims from different parts of the country visit them every day.

In an order issued on Tuesday, the district magistrate said instal-

lation of CCTVs would not only help in controlling crime but will also enhance safety of people and thwart terrorist activities.

"In order to deter criminals, anti-social and anti-national elements from committing crimes, the installation of CCTV outside such establishments would work as a force multiplier, which would inspire further confidence in general public/customers visiting these establishments," Mahajan said, directing installation of the CCTVs within 21 days.

"Any contravention of this order shall attract legal consequences as are contemplated under section 188 of the India Penal Code," the order read.

In another order seeking details of employees working in commercial units in Katra and Ransoo, Mahajan said it was felt necessary to conduct verification of employees for the safety of the public and pilgrims visiting shrines.

The owners of the business establishments were asked to furnish details of their employees, including Aadhaar numbers, address and mobile phone numbers to their respective police stations and tehsildars concerned within a period of 21 days.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER ICDS GUREZ

Subject:- List of Candidates applied for the post of Sahikayas (AWH)

This office has advertised posts of Sahayikas (AWHs) vide advertisement Notice No.05 of 2023 Dated: -12.12.2023 under endorsement No: -CDPC/Poshan/G/2023/359-71 Dated:-12/12/2023 and the same was published through department of information vid DIP No 146467 in Newspaper the Kashmir Monitor on 13/12/2023 and vide publicity was also given through PRI's and same was also uploaded on website of DC Bandipora and applications were received accordingly. After proper scrutiny of application forms by the Block level selection committee the final merit of candidate for ward 7 (Markoot) was made accordingly as per H. R Policy for Sangin's (AWW) & Sahikayas (AWH) constituted by Government vide order No:222-jk (SWD) Of 2022 Dated:30.11.2022. which is now being published for inviting of objections if any within (10) ten days from the date of publication, after expiry of cut date, no objection shall be entertained. The merit list of all the candidate is mentioned at (Annexure A and B) provisional/ tentative selection list for ward 7 from were application for engagement of Sahayikas (AWHs) were received

S no	Index no	Name of Candidate	Parantage /Husbands Name	Name of Location for which she has applied	Date of Birth	Marks obtained in 8th class	Percentage of Marks
1	1	SHAHEENA BANOO	D/O Gh Rasool Lone	Ward No 07 Markoot	02-02-1988	161/500	32.2

ANNEXURE " B "

S no	Index no	Name of Candidate	Parantage / Husbands Name	Name of Location for which she has applied for Sahikayas (AWHs)	Date of Birth	Marks obtained as per 10th class marks sheet submitted by candidate	Percentage of Marks
1	1	SHAHEENA BANOO	D/O Gh Rasool Lone	Ward No 07 Markoot	02-02-1988	161/500	32.2

No:-CDPO/POSHAN/G/2024/391-401
Dated:- 02-01-2024

DIPK-14629-23
DT: 03/01/2024

Child Development Project Officer
POSHAN Project Gurez
Member Secretary DLSC

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
website: <https://www.jkbopee.gov.in>, email: helpdesk@jkbopee@gmail.com; coej@jkbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Selection List of Candidates for admission to 10th Based Paramedical Diploma (MMPHW/FMPHW) Courses-2023 in Government/Private, Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K/Ladakh after conduct of 2nd / Mop up Round of counselling.

Reference: Notification No. 142-BOPEE of 2023 Dated 24-12-2023

Notification No. 003-BOPEE of 2024 Dated: 02-01-2024

Pursuant to Notification 142-BOPEE of 2023 Dated 24-12-2023, the 2nd / Mop up round of counselling for admission to 10th Based Paramedical Diploma (MMPHW/FMPHW) Courses - 2023 in Government / Private Colleges / Institutions in the UT of J&K/Ladakh was conducted from 29.12.2023 to 02.01.2024 at BOPEE Offices, Jammu & Srinagar simultaneously.

The list of candidates who have participated in the said counselling and have been provisionally selected / upgraded for the said courses as per their merit-cum-preferences in various Government / Private Colleges / Institutions of UT of J&K / Ladakh is hereby notified as per Annexure-A to this notification which shall remain available on the website of the Board viz. www.jkbopee.gov.in only.

The provisionally selected candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges / Institutions upto 10.01.2024 till (4.00 p.m.) along with the following documents in original:-

- Marks Card of 10th Class.
- Date of Birth Certificate of 10th Class.
- Domicile Certificate.
- Category Certificate, if any.
- Any other document as required by the concerned College/ Institution(s).

The provisionally selected candidates are advised to report to the allotted College / Institutions upto 10.01.2024 positively. It shall be sole responsibility of the concerned Colleges/Institutions to ensure proper check and verification of the documents and eligibility criteria as per J&K Paramedical Council Guidelines before the candidate(s) are allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents, the candidate(s) shall not be allowed to join in the respective allotted Colleges / Institutions.

In order to complete the admission process within the prescribed cut-off date viz. 10.01.2024 the concerned Colleges / Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on Holidays/off-days to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities since the delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

The Heads of concerned Colleges / Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail: helpdesk@jkbopee@gmail.com; jakbopee@gmail.com on 10.01.2024 upto (05.00 p.m.)

Note:

- The admission to the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false / fabricated and action as warranted under Law shall be initiated against such candidate(s).
- It is hereby implored upon the management of all the concerned Colleges/Institutions to ensure the veracity of documents, particularly the Category Certificates wherever the admission is to be granted in lieu of a Reserved Category.
- The Heads of the concerned Colleges/Institutions are advised to release the documents and refund the fee of those candidates who have been upgraded during the 2nd / Mop-up Round of Counselling.
- For fee/documents required for admission in the College/Institution, the provisionally selected candidates are advised to contact the concerned Colleges/Institutions before the last date of admission i.e.10.01.2024.
- The Heads of the concerned Colleges/Institutions are advised to download the copy of this notification along with its Annexure - A from the official website of the Board www.jkbopee.gov.in for reference and record.
- The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the e-Information Brochure and Notifications/Notices issued by the Board in this regard from time to time.

E & O E

No: BOPEE-EXAM/26/2023 (7346096)
Dated: 02-01-2024

DIPK-NB-5075-23
DT: 03/01/2024

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations J&K
BOPEE

Virat Kohli Surges Into Top 10 In ICC Test Rankings

Agencies

DUBAI: Indian batter Virat Kohli started the new year on a good note as he re-entered the top 10 in the ICC Test rankings, climbing to ninth position, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the latest ranking update on Wednesday. "Former India captain Virat Kohli has returned to the top 10 of the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings while South Africa opener Dean Elgar has made a huge jump after his Player of the Match effort in the first Test of the two-match ICC World

Championship series in Centurion, which the home side won by an innings and 32 runs to take a 1-0 lead," ICC announced in an official statement.

Kohli, a previous top-ranked batter who fell out of the top 10 in mid-2022, has moved up four spots to ninth place with scores of 38 and 76, but is still 103 rating points behind top-ranked Kane Williamson of New Zealand (864 points). Joe Root comes in second with 859 rating points, while Steve Smith comes in third with 820.

Meanwhile, India skipper Rohit Sharma dropped four places to 14th position in the Test rankings. On the other side, South African veteran

Dean Elgar is certain to retire as a top-20 batter after his efforts in the first Test in Centurion, jumping 19 places to 17th (680) ahead of his last appearance.

Following his comeback to Test cricket, Jasprit Bumrah re-entered the bowlers' rankings, finishing fifth (767), just behind compatriot Ravindra Jadeja (774). Marco Jansen's efforts resulted in a three-place climb to 22nd (618), but a five-place jump to 8th in the all-rounder standings, with a career-best rating of 268.

The latest weekly update also considers performances in the second Test between Aus-



tralia and Pakistan. Australia's Marnus Labuschagne has risen one spot to seventh after scoring a half-century in the first innings, while Alex Carey (up four places to 41st) and Mitchell Marsh (up 16 places to 52nd) have also risen.

Pakistan hitters Saud Shakeel (up one spot to 13th), Abdullah Shafique (up three spots to 21st), and Mohammed Rizwan (up four spots to 27th) advanced following the Melbourne Test, which Australia won by 79 runs to take a 2-0 lead in the three-Test series.

With the bat, Afghanistan batter Ibrahim Zadran jumped 14 spots to 33rd after a half-century earlier in the week. (ANI)

those six wickets keeping the lead below 100 and gaining the necessary psychological advantage as 23 wickets fell on the opening day.

South Africa were more cautious despite being aggressive as they scored 62 for three in their second innings at stumps to bring down the deficit to 36 runs. Aiden Markram (32 batting) looked solid in the middle.

The maximum number of wickets lost on Day 1 of a Test is 25 and that happened in an Ashes Test back in 1902. Dean Elgar, in his last Test match, would like to forget that he got out twice in a day's play while Mukesh Kumar (2/0 and 2/25) was rewarded for consistently pitching the ball in right areas, getting enough away movement against southpaws.

Any chance of the match going into the third day looks remote. On a Newlands track

India Suffer Batting Collapse After Siraj Special



Press Trust of India

CAPE TOWN: Mohammed Siraj got six wickets in a breathtakingly menacing morning spell but to his horror found India losing six wickets in a space of eleven balls in the final session before regaining the advantage against South Africa on a riveting day one of the second Test here.

After Siraj's career-best 6/15 decimated South Africa for their lowest post-apartheid score of 55, India were 153 for 4 before losing six wickets without addition of single run in a space of 11 deliveries to end with a 98-run lead. There were six Indian batters, who failed to open their accounts and one who remained not out also didn't trouble the scorer, making it a statistician's nightmare.

Lungi Ngidi (3/30) and Kagiso Rabada (3/38) got five of

that offered steep bounce and would certainly come under the ICC match referee Chris Broad's radar, the red Kookaburra ball took off like jumbo jet from the length making it impossible for batters to survive.

Between shoulder blades to lower abdomen, batters got hit everywhere as the bounce became variable towards the end of the day.

Rohit Sharma (39 off 50 balls) lived dangerously but smacked seven delicious fours, knowing that surviving won't get him anywhere. Ditto for Virat Kohli (46 off 59 balls) and Shubman Gill (36 off 55 balls), who also showed right intent.

The talented duo of Yashasvi Jaiswal (0) and Shreyas Iyer (0), from the famed "Khadoos School of Mumbai Cricket" didn't trouble the scorers, after once again being exposed for technical ineptitude.

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Cummins Takes 5 But Pakistan Rallies On Day 1

The Associated Press

SYDNEY: Australia captain Pat Cummins took 5-61 for his third consecutive five-wicket haul as Pakistan's brittle top order was again exposed before a combative lower order rally helped the tourists to 313 on Day 1 of the third and final cricket test.

At 96-5 shortly after lunch on Wednesday, Pakistan was in grave danger of being bundled out cheaply after it had won the toss and chose to bat under bright, blue skies at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

But an enterprising counterattack led by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan with a brisk 88, followed by a half-

taking a wicket in the first two overs, before Cummins, coming off a ten-wicket haul in the boxing day test at Melbourne, snared two wickets including the prize scalp of Babar Azam as Pakistan batters crumbled.

From 4-2, Babar and Masood started the rebuild for Pakistan, with Babar attacking the Aussie quick bowlers.

But the rally was short-lived as Cummins removed Babar (26) with a ball that came back at the right-hander and struck him on the pad. Umpire Michael Gough turned down the initial Australian appeal, but the TV umpire overturned the decision.

Saud Shakeel was Cummins' second wicket, edging behind



century from Agha Salman and a stunning maiden test half-century by Aamer Jamal helped Pakistan recover to a respectable total.

Australian pair David Warner, playing his final test, and Usman Khawaja had to survive one over from spinner Sajid Khan under fading light before stumps.

Warner (6 not out) in characteristic style smashed the first ball for four, but was lucky later in the over as he survived the ball bouncing over the stumps from a defensive shot. Australia was 6 without loss at stumps.

Much of the pre-match attention may have been on Warner's last test for Australia, but it was the pace bowlers who stole the spotlight early.

Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood set the tone with each

to Carey to leave Pakistan's first innings in tatters at 47-4.

Captain Shan Masood (35) and Rizwan shared a 49-run stand either side of the lunch break to steady Pakistan.

Mitchell Marsh (1-27) ended that partnership by teasing an edge from Masood which flew through to Smith.

Rizwan went on the attack and made an enterprising half-century off 74 balls. He continued to play his shots, but eventually holed out to Hazlewood as Cummins' brought himself back in to the attack to take his third wicket.

The Aussie skipper got his fourth when he had Sajid caught at midwicket by Nathan Lyon for 15 and a deserved fifth shortly after with Hasan Ali (0) picking out Starc in the deep.

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



0.495 cm

Spectrum Adv/1 9697000698