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# **Govt Shifts 56** IAS, JKAS Officers In Major Rejig

Dr. Bilal Bhat Posted As DC Srinagar, Jatin Kishore To Hold Charge Of Director Information, Athar Amir DC Kulgam

**Bukhari Calls On Amit Shah** 

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The Union Territory government on Thursday ordered a major reshuffle by transferring 56 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Jammu And Kashmir Administrative Service (IKAS) officers in the interest of the administration

Among those shifted include at least five Deputy Commissioners with Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat posted as DC Srinagar, according to a government order.

Alok Kumar, IRS: 1990. Secretary Principal Government, School Education holding addi-Department, tional charge of Administrative Secretary, Higher Education Department, Civil Aviation Department Estates Department and Civil Aviation Commissioner, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department. "He shall

also hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Estates Department, till further orders," reads the order.

Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS:1991, Director, Social Forestry, J&K, holding additional charge of MD, State Forest Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Culture Department.

Shailendra Kumar, IAS:1995, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Agriculture Secretary, Production Department, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department.

Ms. Mandeep Kaur, IAS:2004, Commissioner/ Secretary to Government, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, holding additional charge of Administrative Secret Housing & Urban | More on P6 Administrative Secretary,

Poonch district.

Three civilians, aged be-

tween 27 and 42, were found

dead on December 22 after

they were allegedly picked up

by the Army for questioning

in connection | More on P6

# All 3 Branches Of Govt Unanimously Removed Art- 370: VP 'With This, Syama Prasad Mookerjee's Dream Has Been Completely Fulfilled'

**Press Trust Of India** 

Kathua: All three branches of the government unanimously abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution, thereby fulfilling the dream of Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Thursday.

The vice president said there is now a substantial shift in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and attributed it to the prevailing peace, stability and public order in the region.

He was addressing a function after inaugurating a biotech startup expo in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at developing the district along the International



Border with Pakistan as a hub for budding entrepreneurs.

"Congratulations to the executive led by the prime minister, the legislature --Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

-- and the judiciary. All three unanimously removed Article 370 from our Constitution," Dhankhar said.

With this, Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream has been completely fulfilled, he said. Mookerjee had left an indelible mark on this land, he said.

The land with grave imprints of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the land facing danger, has seen that danger being removed in this era. No one thought that Article 370 would be stamped out. This article, called temporary in the Constitution, became a curse for us," Dhankhar said.

Science Union Technology Minister Jitendra Singh attended the function.

Twenty-five startups, including 11 from Jammu and Kashmir, took part in the expo, titled "Emerging Startup Trends in North India".

The vice president also said there is now a | More on P6

#### Dry, Cold **Weather To Continue Till Jan 13**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Although extreme cold has gripped Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir for more than a month, dry and cold weather is likely to continue across Jammu and Kashmir till January 13, according to the Metrological Center Srinagar.

The dry spell with chilly mornings and evenings is likely to continue in J&K until January 13, according to MeT authorities.

Since no significant weather activity has been forecast in the Union territory as of now, the MeT officials said the intensity of the cold is expected to rise, especially in the mornings and evenings.

However, given that the Weak Western Disturbance (WWD) is set to affect J&K tonight, MeT officials said the sky is expected to remain overcast across the UT.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Director Meteorological Center Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said there would | More on P6

#### **Terrorists Escape From Forces Dragnet**

Agencies

Srinagar: An encounter that broke out on Wednesday evening at Hadigam village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district following specific input about the presence of terrorists was called off, as terrorists managed to flee from the spot, officials said on Thursday.

An official said that an encounter broke outWednesday evening after a joint team of Police, Army's RR and CRPF launched a search operation in the area.

He said as the joint team of forces intensified searches towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired upon the party, which was retaliated to,

triggering an encounter. "There was a complete lull in firing from both sides after initial contact." The operation was suspended during the night in view of darkness. However, with dawn, the security forces resumed search operations in the

area and expanded the cordon. "There was no | More on P6

#### **Eid Milan: HC Refuses Bail To**

**M** Ahmad

Accused

**Srinagar:** The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a plea by Syed Shamasuddin Rehman, one the twelve people arrested in connection with 'Eid Milan' last year, challenging dismissal of his bail application by NIA court here last year. In his plea Rehman claimed that he is a "religious scholar" and had, on invitation, attended the Eid Milan where other accused were "incidentally" present.

"The Trial Court did not go through the evidence and the material collected by the Investigation Agency to find out whether the prima-facie case against the appellant (Rehan) was made out or not," he said while challenging order dated 25 September 2023 passed by | More on P6

'Minimize Input Cost For Farmers And Maximise Output'

# **LG Asks Edu Institutions** To Take Innovative Approach

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday called upon educational institutions to take innovative approach to minimize the input cost for farmers and maximise output with efficient growing techniques and technological support As Jammu Kashmir leaps to-

wards building a modern and sustainable agriculture and allied industry through Holistic Agriculture ` Development Programme (HADP), educational institutions will have to take innovative approach to minimize the input cost for farmers and maximise output with efficient growing techniques and technological support," Sinha said.

He was addressing the 8th Convocation Ceremony of SKUAST Jammu at Baba Jitto Auditorium here on Thursday.



At the convocation, the LG called upon agricultural universities and educational institutions to develop innovative agriculture technologies and enhance productive

capabilities of the farmers. "A huge opportunity awaits India in Agri Innovation, Agri Technology and Processed Food and institutions like SKUAST will play | More on P6

# BONANZA

New Delhi: Apni Party presi-

dent Altaf Bukhari met Home

Minister Amit Shah here on

Thursday and raised several

issues, including the recent

killing of three civilians dur-

ing an anti-terror operation in

## **BRING HOME INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS** THIS NEW YEAR FROM PRESTIGE

\*Offer Valid from 23rd Dec 2023 to 28th Jan 2024.













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Among Princip Station, 1840, Princip Station,

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

**Press Trust Of India** 

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

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

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

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

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

the researchers said.

They also noted that cytisine may be more effective than nicotine replacement therapy, a medically ap-

that cytisine is an effective and inexpensive stop-smoking aid. It could be very useful in reducing smoking in LAMI countries where cost-effective



through means other than tobacco. "Our study adds to the evidence

proved way to treat people with to- smoking cessation drugs are urgently bacco use disorder by taking nicotine needed," said Omar De Santi from Centro Nacional de Intoxicaciones (CNI), Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"World-wide, smoking is considered the main cause of preventable death. Cytisine has the potential to be one of the big answers to that problem," said De Santi, lead author of the study.

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

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

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

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



پی خبرانتہائی دکھاورافسو*س کے ساتھ د*ی <del>ماتی ہے ک</del> على محديث سائحنه ملك صاحب صوره مورينه 3 رجنوري 2024 (بدھوار) کو انتقال فرما کرما لک حقیقی کے حضور آغوشِ جمت میں جا گزیں ہو گئے مرحوم صوم وصلّوۃ کے بابند،اعلّ<del>ی</del> خلاق وبلند کر داریسےمتصف اورعلاقه کچرمیں اپنی شرافت

مقاً ماتَ سِيسر فراز فرمائے اور لواحقین کوصبُر جمیل عطافر مایے ( آمین )۔اس ً میں مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 7رجنوری 2024 (اتوار ) قبیح 10:30 بیجان کے آبائی مقبر'ہ سجدملک صاحب صورہ انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعداز ال تعزیقی کجس مسرحوم کے دولت غاندواقع ملک صاحب صورہ دن جمر جاری رہے گی۔ نوٹ: متورات سے التماس ہے کہ وہ اسپنے ساتھ محمی قسم کامیوہ وغیرہ مذلا ئیں۔ سوگواران \_\_\_ تصدقُ احمد بٹ منظوراحمد بٹ (فرزندان)

8899609587, 7780885703

بنواست منجاب عبدالحميد بث پسر محمد عبدللد بث ساكنه فيخ بوره سیل کریری بمراد حصولRBAسر ٹفییٹ بحق نجق پسرحارث جمید بٹ و سہانہ حمید بٹ ئتاس ارآ 144,294,375

اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہر خاص وعام

عامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر فمين درخوست سائل دفتر بذامين زير كاروائي ہےاس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکار ڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کے شخص پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ سمنیہ کی سالاند آمدنی 2,40,000 ہے کمنیہ بذیل افر ادپر مشتل ہے

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افر اد کمینہیں ہتلایا گیاہے 👚 سرٹفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجرء کر 🗕 میں اگر کسی تخص یاا شخاص کو کوئی عذریااعتر اض ہو تووہ اپناعذریااعتر اض سات یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔میعاد گزر نے کے بعد کوئی عذریااعتر اض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہو گاہ

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

**IANS** 

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

aback by the skyrock-

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 Aiis history".

Pink-haired Lopez is now a virtual influencer that is followed by more than 2,00,000 people on social media.

The virtual influencer now earns more than "We were taken Rs 9 lakh per month.

"Brands have paid

eting rates influencers 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.

The Clueless has another creation in development, which tana Lopez and the "rest it calls a "curvy Mexican" named Laila.

> Over the past few years, there have been partnerships between luxury brands and virtual influencers, like Kim Kardashian's make-up line KKW Beauty with Noonoouri, and Louis Vuitton with Avavi

#### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office Of The Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Quotation (for supply of items for celebration of Republic Day 2024 event) at Municipal Council Pulwama.

#### E-NIT No: MC/Pul/2023-24/3110-14

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons, parties, dealers, firms, suppliers, for supply and installation of below mentioned items for "celebration of Republic Day 2024 programme" at Municipal Council Pulwama.

ties (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in,as per the schedule of dates given

	Date of 1330c of Tellact Notice	04.01.2024			
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04.01.2024 to 10.01.2024			
3	Bid submission Start Date	04.01.2024 from 10.00 AM			
4	Bid submission End Date	10.01.2024 upto 04.00 PM			
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	11.01.2024 at 10.30 AM in the office of the Chief			
		Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama.			
6	Call Deposit Receipt	Rs. 5000/-(Five Thousand Only)			
1.1-4	of POO itoms:				

Tent (ONLY TOP) (50x50) with seating arrangement (chairs) for 200 persons with stage

List of BOQ items

	and mic system.
02	Invitation cards
03	Banners (10x10)
04	Banners (6 x 6)
05	Certificates
06	Refreshment (Kehwa with Shirmal)
07	Illumination (Tri colour) Town Hall Building and Clock Tower.
09	Trophies (Medium Size) Republic Day 2024 with Flag, SBM Logo and Municipal Council
	Pulwama embossed

Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

NIT No. 104-Kupwara/9817-25 of 2023-24 e-tendering

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir,

DATED: - 01-01-2024 For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis

from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD , Railways and other state/Central Gov-

S.	Name of Work	Est. Cost	Cost of T/	Earnest	Time of	Time &	Class of	Major
No		(Rs. In Lacs)	Doc. (In rupees)	/	Comple- tion In days	Date of Opening of Bid	Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Construction of Washroom and Development of Prade ground at DPL Kupwara	4.17	200/-	8350/-	21 days	08-01- 2024	"DEE"	NFB D/S
2.	Repairs / Renova- tion of Bathroom for ACR Kupwara		200/-	3700/-	15 days	08-01- 2024	"DEE"	NFB/RCP

Position of AAA

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

01. 02. 03. 04. 05.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	01-01-2024
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-01-2024 to 08-01-2024 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	02-01-2024 from (10.00A.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	08-01-2024 upto (04.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	08-01-2024 at (6:00P.M) in the Office of the
		Executive Engineer RnB Division Kupwara

Terms and Conditions:-

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

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

The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after successful completion of the defect liability Period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security The contractors are directed to upload the additional performance security deposit in advance, during download-

ing bid process as admissible under rules. The bidders shall ensure that their bids shall be accepted only if their registrations cards are uploaded on https:// ikpwdoms,ik.gov.in portal in active Tab. as per circular instructions issued by Development Commissioner works vide No.PW/

The GST-3B for last Quarter ( Quarterly return) and Previous month for (Monthly return) Should be uploaded irrespective of date of Tender

1st lowest bidder will submit the CDR/FDR within two days after opening of Tender failing which 2nd lowest will be approached. Besides 1st lowest will be debarred from participating in tendering process for one year in this division

**Executive Engineer** No. 9817-25 R&B Division Kupwara. DIPK-14691/23 DT: 04-01-2024

Municipal Council Pulwama.

Dated: 03.01.2024

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quanti-

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	04.01.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04.01.2024 to 10.01.2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	04.01.2024 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid submission End Date	10.01.2024 upto 04.00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	11.01.2024 at 10.30 AM in the office of the Chief
		Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama.
6	Call Deposit Receipt	Rs. 5000/-(Five Thousand Only)
	•	,

S. No Particulars

02	Invitation cards
02 03 04 05 06 07	Banners (10x10)
04	Banners (6 x 6)
05	Certificates
06	Refreshment (Kehwa with Shirmal)
07	Illumination (Tri colour) Town Hall Building and Clock Tower.
09	Trophies (Medium Size) Republic Day 2024 with Flag, SBM Logo and Municipal Council
	Pulwama embossed.

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama.

The bids must be accompanied with the CDR amounting to the tune of Rs.5000/-only. The bids/rates for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 03 months till 31st March 2024 from the date of opening of bids.

The bidder has to make payment of Rs. 2000/- in the name of Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama bearing account number 0054040500001346 JRY at Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Main Branch Pulwama having ifsc code as JAKAOGOLDEN as bid document fee and upload the receipt under bank challan / receipt – mandatorily, without which the bids are liable to be rejected.

Payment in respect of the successful bidder shall be made only after receipt of items as per the specifications and conditions laid down in the notice.

The registered dealers, suppliers, event managers, individuals, interested parties pr persons shall upload valid GST.

The bidder has to quote item wise rates (as per boq) including all taxes, freight, installation.

The successful bidder has to complete the job by or before 25th January 2024. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reasons

Instructions to the Bidders regarding E-Tendering process:

should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission pro-

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get,, Digital Signature Certificate(DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

Note:-Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Scanned copy of cost of tender document & Bank Receipt/challan in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama and bid securing declaration must be uploaded with the bid. The Bidder must have to upload(soft copies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original

Tender Document Form (annexed)

Valid GSTIN.

The Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tending portal before issuance of contract.

**DIPK-NB-5096/23 Chief Executive Officer** dated: 04-01-2024 Municipal Council Pulwama.

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Alpather Tours And Travels " Situ-

#### Public Notice

Whereas I, Ishrat Majid D/o Abdul Majid Bhat R/o Gumboora Khag intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of "M/S Alpather Tours And Travels " Situated At Adina Magam Budgam Kashmir under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate Qualification Certificate, pan cardr \ 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) befre my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id; ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be enter-

bmg

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

A. Motor cycle bearing Registration No. Engine 29607 Chasis 18315 Police Station by No. No.: is under seizure at which is owned by Ali Mohammad Dar s/o Gh Mohd DarThe owner/applicant is seeking release of the vehicle. If anybody having any objection may kindly report to the Office of Tehsildar South Srinagar within 03 days. No objection will be accepted after the given time has passed.

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Ulfat Fayaz Paretnage: - Fayaz Ahmad Mir Residence:- Check-i- Kawoosa Registration No: 2186-MAG-2017 Certificate/s lost:- Graduation Marks Card

Roll No/s:- 20617272 Session/ Year Dec-2020- Fab 2021

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled

No: F(Duplicate/ MC-6th Sem/PA /KU/22

**Assistant Controller** of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof bmg

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the number plate of my JCB Machine bearing regd no; JK04C- 6076. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Showkat Ahmad Mir** S/o Ghulam Hassan Mir R/o Kandhama Beerwah Budgam

Sd/-

bmg



## **Poor Airtel Network Connectivity Irk Sonwar Residents**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The residents of Sonwar, Srinagar, are grappling with severe network disruptions, experiencing persistent calling and internet connectivity issues from the service provider Airtel.

The ongoing ordeal has plunged the locality into a communication crisis, severely impacting the daily lives of the local inhabitants.

The residents highlighted the distress caused by erratic mobile network services, rendering routine tasks challenging and communication nearly impossible.

Several individuals have voiced their frustration over prolonged call drops, slow internet speeds, and frequent service outages plaguing the Airtel network in the area.

"This situation has become unbearable. Our phones frequently lose signals, making it impossible to connect with anyone," said Umer, a local.

"Our phones usually lose signals, leaving us stressed and tense. We have complained many times to the Airtel Customer Service Helpline, but nothing has happened. Now, we are requesting the authorities to kindly look into this matter,' said Sahil, another local.

## **DC Srinagar Chairs DLIC Meeting For Implementation Of PM Vishwakarma Scheme**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: A meeting of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for implementation of PM Vishwakarma launched to uplift traditional Artisans and Craftspeople was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Among others, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, Secretary SMC, Principal ITI Bagh-i-Dilawar Khan, Principal ITI Bemina, Lead District Manager and representatives of MSME, Nominee of MSDE, Domain Experts and other concerned Officers.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a firsthand appraisal about the progress made so far with regard to registration of Artisans (Vishwakarmas), verification process in both rural and urban areas, capacity building of stakeholders and monitoring & evaluation mechanism in place for Artisans (Vishwakarmas).

On the occasion, the DC was informed that as of date as many as 3070 applications have been received on PM Vishwakarma Portal in the

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The Srinagar

Municipal Corporation

(SMC), today expanded

its reach under the Viksit

Bharat Sankalp Yatra

(VBSY) to Nundreshi Col-

Van was welcomed by

On the occasion, IEC

After that no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

ony Bemina.

District for registration under Vishwakarma scheme and 21 Panchayats of Srinagar District have been onboarded on the PM Vishwakarma Portal.

deliberating After threadbare the strategy to be adopted for 2nd tier verification of applications received by District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC), the DC asked the Officers of line Departments to complete the verification process within 5 days to further speed up the process.

The DC also reviewed the process being undertaken by Common Service Centers (CSCs) in ensuring smooth enrolment of beneficiaries under the scheme.

On the occasion, the DC asked the Officers of all line Departments to be more practical in successful implementation of the scheme so that the target group is benefitted for their overall socio-economic development. Highlighting the fea-

tures of PM Vishwakarma, the Deputy Commissioner said that the scheme will directly benefit thousands of Artisans and Craftsmen of the District working with their hands and tools, besides transforming the lives of the Artisans and Craftspeople contributing in preservation of traditional and heritage crafts.

SMC Expands VBSY Scheme To Nundreshi Colony, Bemina

Secretary SMC Muda-

sir Hussain and Narjay

Gupta General Man-

ager Jammu and Kash-

mir Bank to encompass

events in IMI Boys

School Iqbal Abad Nun-

dreshi Colony Bemina,

marking a significant

milestone in the Cor-

poration's efforts to en-



Shikara wala's gathered around a bonfire to warm themselves near the banks of partly frozen Dal Lake amid intense cold on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

# **CEO SSCL Conducts City Tour; Assess Progress Of Smart City Projects**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The CEO SSCL and Commissioner SMC, Athar Aamir Khan today conducted a comprehensive tour of various parts of Srinagar city to oversee the progress of ongoing smart city projects.

CEO SSCL was accompanied by a delegation of officers of SSCL viz. Chief Engineer, GM Planning and Urban Development, Executive Engineers, AEE's and senior officials from Smart City and SMC.

The team visited several project sites including Developments of Roads/Footpaths and Utility Shifting at Tengpora Bemina Bye Pass, Redevelopment of Old Habba Kadal Bridge along with development of Kiosks at Haba Kadal, Construction of Footbridges and Viewing Decks and beautification of Bund at Chunti Khul, Upgradation and Redevelopment of Nishat Sathu including Cycle Track/ Walkway/and Decks for Angling.

SSCL meticulously reviewed the status of the projects at these sites and provided immediate directives to accelerate the pace of work, emphasizing the critical importance of adhering to project timelines for their timely completion.

Additionally, strict warnings were issued to the agencies whose work was identified as lagging behind the schedule, underscoring the commitment to ensuring the swift and efficient execution of the

# Behind Kashmir's Floating Heritage Lies A Tale Of Hardship, Livelihood

Throughout the tour, CEO

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Beyond the breath-taking mirror of Dal Lake lies a hidden story etched in wood and vibrant colors.

Nestled amidst the beautiful Dal Lake, serves as a canvas for the craftsmanship exhibited in the iconic Shikaras and houseboats that grace its waters.

The skilled artist whose families have meticulously crafted these wooden wonders for general tions, Ghulam Nabi Kinzou, said, "I have been working in this craft for the last 25 to 30 years. My father used to be involved in this craft, and after him, I took over this craft of Shikaras and houseboat making. We have about 10 to 15 types

gage with general public

designated departments

have actively participat-

ed in the VBSY events,

utilizing the platform to

elucidate the core objec-

tives and procedural in-

tricacies of their respec-

tive schemes.

Representatives from

within its jurisdiction.

of Shikara made here, and it takes us about 20 days to make Shikara.' "It is a time-consuming and

hectic process but thanks to the Almighty Allah, work is good," said Ghulam Nabi, adding, his workload is dependent on the tourism sector. We make our Shikaras from

Deodar wood. It incurs huge expenses to shift our material here in the interiors of Dal Lake," he said. Speaking about government

support, he added that if rates are controlled, "it will be easy for us, and

"Though I am skilled in making both houseboats and Shikaras, government regulations have limited me to crafting Shikaras only. I seek to expand my work by building more Shikaras, and houseboats but my heart aches for

**J&K** Bank

the declining houseboat industry. Therefore, I urge the government to reconsider the ban and allow responsible construction of houseboats to revive this vibrant tradition," said Ghulam Nabi.

As already reported, the iconic houseboats are declining, with a recorded number decrease from 2000 to just 750, courtesy of a blanket ban on construction and non-availability of master craftsmen.

President Houseboat Owners sociation (HROA) Pakhtoon, said till early 1980s, there were almost 2000 houseboats in Dal Lake, Nigeen Lake, and river Jehlum. "But today, the number of houseboats in Dal Lake, Nigeen Lake, Chinar Bagh, and river Jhelum is just 750," he said.

Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department. Zonal Office Anantnag, Bakshiabad, Anantnag-192101

#### **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. Junaid 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 29-05-2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Syed Shamim Ahmad S/O Syed Mohammad Amin R/O takiya Behranshah Anantnag et alto repay an amount of Rs.11,63,315.85 (Eleven Lacs Sixty Three Thousand Three Hundred And Fifteen Rupees & Eighty Five Paise Only)being the balance outstanding as on30/04/2023 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 the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken 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 30th day 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.11,63,315.85(Eleven Lacs Sixty Three Thousand Three Hundred And Fifteen Rupees & Eighty Five Paise Only) together with future interest thereon from 01/05/2023 and 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.

"Land Measuring 08MarlasAlongwith Residential House Constructed Thereon Falling Under Khasra No 137, Khata No 50 to 94, Khewat No 03 Situated At Takya Behram Shah Anantnag "

Dated:-30.12.2023 Place:-Anantnag



email: amid.zoksou@jkbmail.com; T-01932-222440

**Description of the Immovable Property** 

**Authorized Officer** 



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

#### **AIRPORTS** SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

#### **RAILWAYS**



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

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



**PRAYERS FAJR** 6:08 **ZUHR** 12:35 **ASR** 3:57 Magrib 5:39 ISHA 7:04

#### This Day In History

- 1438- Pope Eugenius IV deallocated council of Basel to Ferrara
- 1463- French poet Francois Villon banished from
- 1477 Battle of Nancy, Burgundy vs Switzerland, 7,000 + killed including their leader Charles Duke of Burgundy
- 1809 Treaty of Dardanelles concluded between Britain & France1892 1st successful auroral photograph made
- 1861 Alabama troops seize Forts Morgan & Gaines at Mobile Bay1909 - Colombia recognizes Panama's independence
- offensive against Austria-Hungary
- 1918- British premier Lloyd George demand for unified peace 1919- German Workers' Party forms, precursor
- to the National Socialist German Workers' Party 1919- Left-wing Spartacus organization instigates
- a revolt in Berlin; terrified by the spread of Bolshevism, German troops brutally suppress the 1929- Coup by King Alexander in South Slavia
- 1930- Mao Zedong writes the essay "A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire" to criticize cadres not creating rural revolutionary base areas
- 1937- Australian cricket batsmen Jack Fingleton (136) and Don Bradman (out 270 the following day) make then record stand of 346 for 6th wicke in 3rd Test vs England in Melbourne 1941 - British Australian troops conquer Bardia,
- Libya 1943 - Teams agrees to start season later due to
- WW II 1944 - The Daily Mail becomes the first transoceanic
- newspaper. 1949 - General Spoor orders cease-fire on Sumatra.
- 1952 British Prime Minister Winston Churchill makes an official visit to the US.
- 1957 US President Eisenhower asks Congress to send troops to the Mid East.
  - 1964 Pope Paul VI visits Jordan & Israel. 1969 - USSR Venera 5 launched for 1st successful
- planet landing (Venus). 1971 - 1st one-day international, Australia v England
- at the MCG. 1972 - President of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman freed by the newly elected President of
- Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Sheikh Muiibur Rahman.
- 1973 Mali & Niger break diplomatic relations with Israel
- 1975 Salvut 4 with crew of 2 is launched for 30
- 1976 In retaliation for the Reavey and O'Dowd killings, the South Armagh Republican Action Force shoot dead 10 Protestant civilians after stopping their minibus in County Armagh.
- 1978 Bülent Ecevit becomes Prime Minister of Turkey for the 3rd time. 1985 - Discovery moves to launch pad for STS 51-C
- mission. 1985 - Thousands of Jewish refugees are airlifted from Sudan to Israel.
- 1989 2 French TV newsmen arrested for trying to plant fake bombs on 3 airlines at JFK airport in security test.
- 1995 Lockheed C-140 Jetstar crashes at Isfahan, Iran, killing 18. 1996 - Hamas operative Yahya Ayyash is killed by
- an Israeli-planted booby-trapped cell phone. 2001 A report reveals that former General
- Practioner Harold Shipman has potentially killed hundreds of patients 2005 - Eris, the largest known dwarf planet in the solar system, is discovered by the team of Michael E. Brown, Chad Trujillo, and David L. Rabinowitz

using images originally taken on October 21, 2003,

at the Palomar Observatory. 2016 - First batsman to ever score 1000 runs in a single innings in cricket - 15 year-old Mumbai schoolboy Pranav Dhanawade is 1009 not out.





Govt, of Jammu & Kashmir

tion. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact passport officer srinagar within seven days

Office of the Executive Engineer O&M Division Kulgam **Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd**,

Mini Secretariat Kulgam **Cancellation Notice** 

The NIT floated vide this office No. EDK/e-tender/15 of 2022-23 Dated- 05-06-2023 for "Upgradation of 63 KVA substation to 100 KVA substation at Herpora Mirhama" advertised for an amount of Rs 2,30,000/- reflected at S.No. 07 of Electric O&M Division Kulgam, is hereby cancelled and the work shall be retendered soon.

No: EDB/TS/5724-33 DIPK-NB-5103/23 Dated: - 04/01/2024

**Executive Engineer 0&M Division Kulgam** 

# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Friday | 05-01-2024

# **Rising Cancer Cases**

he surge in cancer cases across India, particularly in regions like Kashmir, demands an urgent attention. The recent Lancet study, revealing India's staggering 12 lakh new cancer cases and 9.3 lakh deaths in 2019, underlines the gravity of this health crisis. Among Asian countries, India stands as the second highest contributor to the cancer burden, a situation echoed in Kashmir, where cases have risen drastically over the past decade.

The Lancet study pinpoints critical insights: Tracheal, bronchus, and lung cancers top the list in Asia, with notable prevalence among men. However, cervical cancer ranks high among women across several Asian nations. Encouragingly, the HPV vaccine has exhibited efficacy in preventing this cancer, offering a beacon of hope in disease prevention strategies.

The findings link cancer proliferation to several factors prevalent in India and Asia. The concerning escalation of ambient air pollution acts as a significant catalyst. Five Asian countries, including India, witness alarmingly high levels of PM2.5, posing a severe health risk. Rapid industrial growth, urbanization, and heightened vehicular usage contribute to this hazardous environmental scenario.

Furthermore, smokeless tobacco consumption emerges as a prominent concern, especially in South Asian countries like India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The prevalence of products like khaini and gutkha correlates significantly with oral, esophageal, and pancreatic cancers. Similarly, issues related to food contamination and adulteration, witnessed prominently in Kashmir, have been identified as contributors to the rising cancer cases in the region.

The trend demands immediate, comprehensive intervention. A robust approach encompassing public health policies, enhanced awareness campaigns, and stringent regulatory measures is imperative. Efforts must focus on mitigating the identified risk factors: controlling air pollution, curbing tobacco usage, and combating food adulteration through rigorous monitoring and stringent legal actions against offenders.

Moreover, the healthcare infrastructure in low- and medium-income countries like India, demands urgent augmentation. Rural areas, in particular, face scarcity in oncologic facilities, resulting in delayed diagnosis and treatment, thereby impacting survival rates. Policy measures aimed at improving accessibility and affordability of cancer screening and treatment are indispensable.

Kashmir, experiencing a disproportionate surge in cancer cases, warrants special attention. The government must prioritize comprehensive research to identify the underlying causes. Unveiling the reasons behind this surge is critical for public awareness and preventive measures. Addressing issues of food adulteration, enhancing healthcare infrastructure, and fostering awareness campaigns are imperative steps for Kashmir's healthcare system.

Combating the escalating cancer crisis in India and specifically addressing the alarming surge in Kashmir necessitates a collaborative effort between the government, healthcare institutions, and the public. It's imperative to act swiftly, implementing targeted measures to alleviate this growing health burden and secure a healthier future for the country and in our Valley

#### OTHER OPINON

# Democracy's Year

lobally, more voters than ever in history will head to the polls this year as, starting with Taiwan in January and running through the US elections in November, over 40 countries representing 41% of the world's population and 42% of its gross domestic product will have a chance to elect their leaders. In that sense, 2024 will be Democracy's Year. Under normal circumstances, that's a cause for cheer as it sends out a strong signal that democracy, the most cherished possession of human beings, is alive and kicking. But these are extraordinary times—with two brutal wars raging, inflation still remaining a tough challenge and economies going through frequent phases of uncertainty, electoral outcomes have a huge potential for further disruption.

First up will be Taiwan's January 13 presidential elections, which could set the tone for US-China relations for years to come, with tensions likely to escalate further if the current Taiwanese Vice-President wins as forecast. But the biggest example of election-led disruption with a profound impact on the global economy would be the US presidential race culminating in November. After a tumultuous year, the US and China ended 2023 with an uneasy detente. But that fig leaf will be blown away if Donald Trump returns to power. Few have forgotten how a tense US-China relationship gave way to an all-out trade war under the former president. As Trump means unpredictability, there could be an unstoppable escalation of tension between the two countries with disastrous consequences.

Elections with all-but-certain outcomes can also be worth watching. While Vladimir Putin may be embarking on a surewin re-election campaign, the March presidential election victory margin, if available, could be an indicator of whether more Russians are backing his seemingly endless war with Ukraine. Yet another predictable outcome will be seen in India where Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party is already seen to be in pole position. But here too, the victory margin will be of great relevance. A diminished margin could force the ruling party to tone down its aggressive Hindutva something that many quarters are wishing for as a best-case scenario. On the other hand, a victory margin that is even close to the 2019 election results would make it easy for the BJP to implement its remaining agenda—cultural nationalism that includes the Uniform Civil Code, the One Nation-One Election idea, etc. Of special interest also will be whether the Modi government will gather the courage to unleash a fresh set of radical economic reforms.

# New Year Resolution

# Our Built Environment Should Secure Us From Earthquake Disasters



Dr. Afroz Shah

Our regions are prone to various hazards, and earthquakes are the most dangerous because of their unpredictable nature. which gives us sleepless nights. Therefore, it is good for our societies to work on a resolution to make the incoming year a swift leap towards preparedness and making our surroundings an abode of peace. We can do it; it costs what is easily affordable to many and possible for others with the help of government and private agencies

s we say goodbye to 2013, it is a valuable learning experience to explore what we have achieved and what needs to be accomplished to make the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh regions hazard-resilient societies. The earthquake and flood hazards remain key challenges to address, rooted in the structural setting of our region linked to the tectonic plate interactions between the lithospheric plates of India and Eurasia. The past and current geological investigations suggest that the region is prone to large-magnitude earthquakes that can devastate millions of people, inhibiting the region. Therefore, investing in building a sense of security and safety from

earthquake hazards is good. The decades of crucial scientific wisdom on understanding earthquake hazards and how to live in harmony with them cannot be accomplished and shaped unless there is an awareness in people's minds and an inner urge and thirst in administration to make a change for good. The built area comprises what humans have created over centuries for survival and comfort and must be hazardresilient; it includes our buildings, roads, hospitals, schools, etc. The built environment must be appropriately managed to improve its resilience; otherwise, it could become time bombs that explode and cause harm at a time when we wish them to save us, which is our great challenge in the future. Buildings are often made to secure life from heat, cold, danger, predators etc. but ironically not from earthquake hazards, which is something least bothering our societies for unknown reasons. I fail to understand why.
I have been writing articles

on earthquake hazards for more

than a decade now, as many other scientists and researchers do, and most of it is published by Kashmir Observer, which has taken a leading role in disseminating scientific information vital for the security and safety of our societies from hazards, in particular, earthquakes and floods. Yet, whenever I visit India, I fail to understand why our buildings do not follow the standard earthquake safety building procedures and practices that will save lives during earthquakes. I have been posing this question to myself and discussing it with several scientists, students, and people in Kashmir, which made me conclude that the changes are difficult to make but are not impossible. The mindset is not ready to leap towards a new building practice where some previous social norms may have to be abandoned for good. For example, they include well-trained architects and engineers from some of the best institutes in the world to replace the existing ones, who are locally trained, and most of them are not even formally trained at universities, etc. For example, most of the residential buildings I have witnessed in Anantnag, where I come from, are designed and constructed by local architects and other engineers, who have often not been trained in a formal engineering institution. It is a huge problem, and the current norm ought to be replaced by professional engineering design and construction.

The government must adopt a resolution to carefully monitor the competence of engineering

design and construction patterns to allow systematic replacement procedures for the greater good. The recently concluded 6th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) in Dehradun also recognized the need to change the existing practices for good. The world's scientific community and people from diverse backgrounds emphasized the need to reevaluate the existing norms in preparation for a better future to effectively combat the risks posed by hazards.

Our regions are prone to various hazards, and earthquakes are the most dangerous because of their unpredictable nature, which gives us sleepless nights. Therefore, it is good for our societies to work on a resolution to make the incoming year a swift leap towards preparedness and making our surroundings an abode of peace. We can do it; it costs what is easily affordable to many and possible for others with the help of government and private agencies. We must start to navigate the route of hazard preparedness and disaster resilience in the built environment for the better of our regions, and to accomplish this enormous task; the government must play a critical role by monitoring, facilitating, and rebuilding the infrastructure in the region.

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

> The author is a National Geographic Explorer and Sr. Assistant Professor, Structural Geology



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

#### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box #337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001 email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

# **Power of Words**

They can build and lift, comfort and calm, and teach and inspire. Contrarily, words can destroy and demolish, incite and enrage, and embarrass and demean. Their meanings crystalize perceptions that shape our beliefs, drive our behaviour, and ultimately create our world. The power of words

arises from our emotional responses when we read, speak or hear them. The words we write or speak to others can leave a huge impact and create a lasting memory, either good or bad. It is therefore very important to choose them wisely and use them properly. Words are like music – when played well, they can enchant and delight the whole environment. And, words

are free. But, if used in a wrongful and harmful manner, they even cost you a mountain. Worlds hold incredible power to shape our lives. Positive communication, rooted in empathy and understanding, can transform relationships, boost our physical and mental well-being, and inspire personal growth. By choosing our words carefully, we can harness the power

of language to create a brighter, more fulfilling life. So, let us embrace the power of words and use them to uplift, inspire, and transform the world. Said Mother Teresa: "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

Ranaganathan Sivakumar



# STEPPING STONES OF RESILIENCE

# Embracing Setbacks with Inherent Value

Wasim Kakroo

n the grand tapestry of human existence, the quest for self-worth often intertwines with external validations such as accolades and achievements. Society, with its penchant for measuring success in tangible terms, can unwittingly foster a culture where one's self-worth is tethered to accomplishments. However, the danger lies in the inherent fragility of such external markers, as they are susceptible to the unpredictable currents of life. In this article, we will explore the significance of disconnecting self-worth from accolades and achievements, emphasizing the resilience that arises from nurturing an intrinsic sense of value.

#### THE INNATE ESSENCE OF SELF-WORTH

The intrinsic sense of self-worth bestowed upon individuals at birth is akin to an intangible birthright, a gift that transcends the external markers of success. It is a fundamental essence, not subject to the fleeting nature of achievements or the capricious judgments of society. This innate value forms the very core of a person's identity, shaping their perceptions, decisions, and interactions with the world.

Acknowledging and preserving this core self-worth is paramount, for it acts as an unwavering anchor amid the unpredictable storms of life. In a society that often places undue emphasis on external validations, recognizing the intrinsic value within oneself becomes an act of self-preservation. The temptation to compromise this intrinsic worth for conditional positive regard may arise, especially in the face of societal expectations, but doing so lays the groundwork for profound challenges during setbacks.

Protecting this inherent worth is not a passive endeavor but an active commitment to self-affirmation. By embracing the profound truth that one's value is not contingent upon external achievements, individuals fortify themselves against the uncertainties of life, establishing a resilient foundation upon which they can build a fulfilling and authentic

#### CONDITIONAL POSITIVE REGARD: THE PITFALL

In the intricate dance between self-worth and societal affirmations, the concept of conditional positive regard emerges as a critical factor shaping individual perceptions. This dynamic suggests that one's value is intricately tied to meeting specific expectations or gaining approval from others. This external validation becomes a double-edged sword, offering momentary elation with each success but exposing individuals to the harsh winds of self-doubt when faced with failures.

The precarious emotional terrain navigated by those who tether their self-worth to external achievements becomes especially evident in the aftermath of setbacks. In these moments, when the applause of success fades into silence, individuals reliant solely on external affirmations may find themselves in an unsettling state of emotional disarray. Without the sturdy anchor of intrinsic selfworth, setbacks can become not just hurdles to overcome but existential crises, as failures threaten to erode the very foundation upon which their sense of identity rests.

In essence, the concept of conditional positive regard underscores the vulnerability inherent in relying solely on external markers of success for self-worth. It urges individuals to explore a more resilient path by anchoring their worth in the unwavering core of intrinsic value, free from the capricious judgments of external forces.

#### THE PERILS OF OVER-IDENTIFICATION WITH ACHIEVEMENTS

The peril of over-identifying with achievements lies in the precarious dance between success and the looming shadow of failure. This overreliance on external accomplishments sets the stage for a vulnerability rooted in the fear of judgment and falling short of societal expectations. The weight of one's self-worth tethered to accolades becomes a double-edged sword, as the elation of success is eclipsed by the paralyzing anxiety of potential failure.

This fear acts as a stifling force, a silent saboteur that whispers caution in the ears of those seeking to take risks or pursue their passions. The prospect of not meeting society's benchmarks becomes a specter, casting doubt on the validity of one's worth. The unchecked repetition of this cycle solidifies a perpetual sense of inadequacy, erecting formidable barriers to personal growth and fulfillment. Reluctance to step outside the comfort zone becomes a default response, sti-





# IN THE INTRICATE DANCE OF LIFE, CHALLENGES ARE THE INEVITABLE PARTNERS THAT TEST OUR METTLE. The illusion of

perpetual success dissipates when confronted with the unexpected twists and turns of our journey. In these crucibles of adversity, the significance of intrinsic self-worth emerges as the cornerstone of resilience

fling creativity, innovation, and the pursuit of authentic self-expression. Thus, the journey toward true self-discovery is hindered, as the fear of judgment eclipses the potential for personal evolution and resilience in the face of life's inevitable challenges.

#### NAVIGATING SETBACKS WITH RESILIENCE

In the intricate dance of life, challenges are the inevitable partners that test our mettle. The illusion of perpetual success dissipates when confronted with the unexpected twists and turns of our journey. In these crucibles of adversity, the significance of intrinsic self-worth emerges as the cornerstone of resilience. Individuals

fortified with a profound comprehension of their inherent value possess an emotional bedrock that remains unshaken in the face of setbacks. Instead of interpreting failures as a damning indictment of personal inadequacy, they embrace them as invaluable opportunities for growth and learning. Through this paradigm shift, setbacks become stepping stones, and resilience evolves not as a reaction to external circumstances, but as an intrinsic quality rooted in the unassailable belief in one's inherent worth

#### CULTIVATING INTRINSIC SELF-WORTH

Nurturing intrinsic self-worth is a lifelong journey that involves self-

reflection, self-compassion, and a commitment to personal authenticity. Understanding that one's value is not contingent upon external validations liberates individuals to explore their true passions, take calculated risks, and embrace the full spectrum of human experience. Here are some strategies for cultivating intrinsic self-worth:

- 1. Self-Reflection: Regularly engage in introspective practices to identify personal strengths, values, and areas for growth. This self-awareness forms the foundation of intrinsic self-worth.
- Positive Affirmations: Develop a habit of affirming your positive qualities and accompositive qualities.

- plishments. Verbalizing selfpraise can reinforce a positive self-image and counteract negative thoughts.
- 3. Set Boundaries: Establish and communicate healthy boundaries in relationships. Respecting your own limits fosters a sense of self-worth by prioritizing your well-being and needs.
- 4. Celebrate Achievements, Big and Small: Acknowledge and celebrate your successes, no matter how minor. This practice reinforces the idea that your efforts and accomplishments contribute to your selfworth.
- 5. Practice Self-Compassion:
  Treat yourself with kindness and understanding, especially during challenging times. Embracing self-compassion allows you to navigate setbacks without compromising your sense of worth.
- **6. Embrace Authenticity:** Align your actions with your true self. Pursue activities and goals that resonate with your values, fostering a genuine sense of identity and worth.
- Mindfulness Meditation:

   Cultivate mindfulness to stay present and non-judgmental. Mindfulness allows you to observe thoughts and emotions without attaching your selfworth to them, promoting a more balanced perspective.

   Surround Yourself with Posi-
- 8. Surround Yourself with Positive Influences: Build a supportive network of friends and mentors who uplift and encourage you. Positive influences contribute to a nurturing environment that reinforces intrinsic self-worth.
- 9. Set Realistic Goals: Establish achievable and meaningful goals. Meeting these objectives contributes to a sense of accomplishment and reinforces the belief in your capabilities, bolstering self-worth.
- 10. Express Gratitude: Regularly acknowledge and appreciate the positive aspects of your life. Gratitude fosters a positive mindset, helping you recognize the inherent value in yourself and the world around you.

The author is a Kashmir-based clinical psychologist

# THE POWER OF PATTERNS A Little Repetition Goes a Long Way

#### Bill Birchard

"Plop plop, fizz fizz, oh what a relief it is." You might have thought that only the pill that goes with that jingle creates relief. But science suggests the jingle's wording itself elicits relief. The repetitive syntactic pattern eases people's processing of the meaning, and easier processing rewards people neurologically.[i]

Scientists call this mental assistance, cognitive facilitation. Professional writers and speakers use it all the time, in works highbrow and low. At the high end is poet Percy Bysshe Shelley[ii]:

"And the sunlight clasps the earth And the moonbeams kiss the sea: What is all this sweet work worth If thou kiss not me?"

The first two lines mirror each other syntactically. The initial sentence and its reflection in the second—even if you're oblivious to the repetition—allows the meaning of the second to dawn quicker. Or as scientists say, the first sentence's pattern acts as a syntactic prime.[iii]

#### PARALLEL POWER

This points to one of the simplest and easiest tricks to help

you say things with more impact: Recast the flow of your words into repeating patterns. Create a prime and a follow-up (or two). You'll do something writing teachers have long advocated. You'll create a parallel structure—parallel in phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and overall expression.

Priming syntactically doesn't rank high in artistic glamor. But we now know from science that it does rank high in effectiveness because it lubricates the flow of words into people's minds. That gives you a straightforward means of writing or speaking that hooks people.[iv]

Why does priming work?
Readers and listeners are always
asking, What will this person say
next? What will the next word
be? The next phrase? The next
sentence? The next chapter? The
habit of predicting what's next
is universal. It's a human obsession—and people read and listen
at every tier of language struc-

When you place a prime early on—a word or phraseology or sentence structure you plan to reuse—people take notice even if behind the curtain of their consciousness. They instantly and

unknowingly place a predictive bet.[vi] And if they're right, they reap a payoff in faster language processing.[vii]

Many experiments confirm this advantage. One small study by Uta Noppeney and Cathy Price at University College London asked 25 people to read blocks of text with and without syntactic primes. (Some blocks had repeating language structures; some did not.) People who read blocks with parallel patterns finished sentences faster, in roughly 2.0 versus 2.1 seconds.[viii]

#### PRIME PLUS

Sascha Topolinski at the University of Cologne did a simple experiment that reinforces yet other powers of a prime. He asked people to read short question-and-answer jokes and rate their funniness. His experiment had one manipulation: Some readers unknowingly received a verbal prime buried in an introductory part of the experiment, and some did not.[ix]

The prime was a "significant" word from the joke's punchline. Each person was exposed to it one to 15 minutes beforehand.

Having been exposed to this keyword, what do you think happened in people's minds?

Here's one joke: "What were the last words of a vampire?" Answer: "Dawn!"

Okay, that's an old one not worth a laugh out loud. But if Topolinski's research holds, you just found it funnier than you otherwise would have because my third paragraph included "dawn" as a prime.

Topolinki's readers rated jokes as funnier so long as they got the punchline prime more than a minute beforehand. Less than a minute and the prime didn't work as a humor booster. In Topolinski's mind, the primes helped people to solve the joke and to cognitively master the punchline.[x]

Jokes aside, priming is an underappreciated way to make your words more reader- and listener-friendly. When readers or listeners are primed, they don't have to rev their language-processing machinery as much. Your prime is a heads up, and it gives them a head start in understanding.

#### EASY PEASY PATTERNS

Engaging people with syn-

tactic priming often takes little skill. At the most basic, you can take advantage of it by starting or finishing successive sentences similarly. Here's scientist Merlin Sheldrake, author of The Entangled Life, as he writes about the function of function

function of fungi:

"The story you hear about grain determines whether you end up with bread or beer. The story you hear about milk determines whether you end up with yogurt or cheese. The story you hear about apples determines whether you end up with sauce or cider."[xi]

Such simple repetition. How could it matter? As you try to digest his meaning, however, you get a helping hand with cognitive facilitation. Sheldrake's point becomes more accessible as he recycles his opening pattern. He has put the new wine of his content in old bottles, making that new wine that much more pleasurable to drink.

A second example: Nelson Mandela wrote in Long Walk to Freedom: "I was born free—free in every way that I could know: Free to play in the fields near my mother's hut, free to swim in the clear stream that ran through my

village, free to roast mealies under the stars and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls."[xii]

Notice how an ordinary adjective—free—placed in a repeating structure creates an extra-ordinary prime.

So powerful are syntactic primes that they act on our minds for longer than you might guess. That was demonstrated in an experiment by Kristen Tooley and others at the University of Illinois and the University of California Davis. They showed that, after a syntactic prime, people read sentences with similar structures faster even after three syntactically different sentences intervened.[xiii]

Priming and the facilitation of repetition have their limits, of course. They can get boring. That's why journalists say: "Repeat and vary." But in everyday talk and text, an old structure conveying a new idea prevents cognitive indigestion. Here's some more new wine in an old bottle: "Plop plop, fizz fizz, oh how friendly a pattern is."

The article was originally published by Psychologists Todau

#### **Govt Shifts 56**

Development Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department.

"Vikramjit Singh, IPS:2004, Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, shall hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department in addition to his own duties, till further orders."

Yasha Mudgul, IAS:2007, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Cooperatives Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department. "She shall continue to hold the charge of Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), in addition to her own duties, till further orders."

Dr. Rashmi Singh, IAS:2007, Commissioner, State Taxes, J&K, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Hospitality and Protocol Department. "She shall also hold the charge of the post of Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi, in addition to her own duties, till further orders."

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS:2009, Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, holding additional charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Prasanana Ramaswamy G, IAS:2010, Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Commissioner, Survey & Land Records (ex officio Settlement Commissioner), J&K, in addition to his duties, till further orders.

Niraj Kumar, IAS:2010, Additional Resident Commissioner and ex-officio Secretary, Resident Commission, J&K, New Delhi, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Transport Department.

Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS:2010, Commissioner, Survey & Land Records (exofficio Settlement Commissioner), J8K, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Labour & Employment Department. He has also been asked to hold the posts of Administrative Secretary, Skill Development Department and Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Talat Parvez Rohella, IAS:2010, Administrative Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner of Enquires.

Ms. Rehana Batul, IAS:2010, Administrative Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, holding additional charge of Secretary to the Government, Public Grievances and Labour Commissioner, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Information Department, relieving Ms. Prerna Puri, IAS, of the additional charge of the post.

Bhupinder Kumar, IAS:2011, Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department.

Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, IAS:2012, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Culture Department and Chief Executive Officer, J&K ERA, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department.

Dr. Piyush Singla, IAS:2012, Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, School Education Department.

Mohammad Aijaz Asad, IAS:2012, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department. "He shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders."

Shiv Anant Tayal, IAS:2012, Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department.

Vikas Kundal, IAS:2013, Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited.

Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar, IAS:2013, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary,

Public Grievances.
"She shall also hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency, in addition to her own duties, till further orders."

Nazim Zai Khan, IAS:2013, Administrative Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, has been transferred and posted as Mission Director, National Health Mission, I&K

Shakeel-ul-Rehman Rather, IAS:2013, Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora.

Rahul Sharma, IAS:2013, Transport Commissioner, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Member, Special Tribunal, J&K.

Hashmat Ali Yatoo, IAS:2013, Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, has transferred and posted Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration I&K

Administration, J&K.

Mohammad Akbar Wani, IAS:2013,
Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K, has been
transferred and posted as Director, Social
Welfare, Kashmir.

Owais Ahmed, IAS:2014, Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation. "He shall also hold the additional charge of the posts of CEO, Special Purpose Vehicle for Srinagar City for Implementation of the Smart City Project, under the Smart City Mission and Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, in addition to his own duties, till further orders."

Athar Aamir UI Shafi Khan, IAS:2016, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, holding additional charge of CEO, Special Purpose Vehicle for Srinagar City for Implementation of the Smart City Project, under the Smart City Mission and Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam.

Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, IAS:2017, Deputy

Commissioner, Kulgam, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar. Minga Sherpa, IAS:2017, Additional Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, holding additional charge of the posts of Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation and Director, Information, J&K, has been trans-

Baramulla.
Vivekenand Rai, IRS, Director Tourism, Jammu, has been asked to hold the charge of the post of Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

ferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner,

Jatin Kishore, IAS:2020, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Uri, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Uri, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. "He shall also hold the charge of the post of Director Information, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders."

Shishir Gupta, IAS-2020, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ramnagar, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Ramnagar, has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.

Asif Hamid Khan, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Director General, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, J&K.

Babila Rakwal, JKAS, Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Cooperatives Department.

Cooperatives Department.
Anil Koul, JKAS, Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative

Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department. Ms. Shabnam Kamili, JKAS, Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative

Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department. Rajinder Singh Tara, JKAS, Custodian General, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Transport Commissioner, J&K.

Ms. Anoo Malhotra, JKAS, Secretary in the Social Welfare Department, has been transferred and posted as Director General, Rural

Sanitation, J&K.
Prediman Krishen Bhat, JKAS, Director General, Development Expenditure Division-I, Finance Department, has been transferred and

posted as Commissioner, State Taxes, J&K. Bhawani Rakwal, JKAS, Secretary in the Social Welfare Department, has been transferred and posted as Vice Chairman, Jammu

Development Authority.
G.A Sofi, Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Secretary (Technical) in the Agriculture Production

Department.
Shiv Kumar Gupta, JKAS, Vice Chairman,
Jammu Development Authority, has been
transferred and posted as Director, Command
Area Development, Jammu.

Mohammad Shafiq Chak, JKAS, Director, Social Welfare, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K.

Om Prakash, JKAS, Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri. Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is transferred and posted as Additional District Development

vacancy.
Rishpal Singh, JKAS, Additional
Commissioner (Central) in the office of
Financial Commissioner (Revenue), J&K, has

Commissioner, Bandipora, against an available

been transferred and posted as Custodian General, J&K.

Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS, Director, Command Area Development, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary.

Pawan Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Additional Commissioner in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Resident Commissioner and ex-officio Secretary, Resident Commission, J&K Government, New Delhi

Narinder Khajuria, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Chief Secretary, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department.

Charandeep Singh, JKAS, Director, Rural Sanitation, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Labour Commissioner, J&K.

Sham Lal, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar, has been transferred and posted as Director, Panchayati Raj and ex-officio Special Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Shafat Sultan, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is transferred and posted as Managing Director, I&K Financial

Sukhdev Singh Samyal, IKAS, Special Secretary to Government, Social Welfare Department, has been transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Patnitop. Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, JKAS, Programme

Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS, Project, Bandipora, has been transferred and posted as Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar.

Sher Singh, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Patnitop, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Jammu, against an available vacancy.

Sandeep Seointra, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department.

Naresh Kumar, JKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Kishtwar, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment.

#### **All 3 Branches**

substantial shift in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today all the things are put in place in modern India. First is harmony and stability. What was the situation at one time? What was the situation in your region? I was a member of Lok Sabha in 1989 and a minister at the Centre. What was the situation in Kashmir? I came to Kashmir at that point of time. I saw with my own eyes. And today there is a big change," he said.

He highlighted the drastic positive transformation and cited the recent G20 meeting as an example

"The representatives of G20 took with them golden moments of their visit to Kashmir. Tourism is increasing here. People are happy. People want to invest here. This is a big change here because peace, stability and public order are here," Dhankhar added.

He underscored the importance of a unified application of law, stating, "any country and any society cannot move forward until there is a unified application of law. It is imperative to have equality before the law."

"Some people had such a notion that law cannot do anything to them. They are above law. The hands of law and order cannot reach them. There is a change in India as well as in Jammu and Kashmir. Today it is a reality that nobody is above the law. Everybody would have to be answerable to law.

"The law has reached to the doorstep of those who never thought they would be touched by law. People have understood that it is the process of justice. It is the second biggest

change," he said.

He outlined four fundamental changes, highlighting transparency, accountability in governance, the creation of an ecosystem for youth empowerment, and the significant em-

powerment of women.

Dhankhar applauded the government's efforts in granting women substantial rights and reservations, calling it a "double gain" in

Jammu and Kashmir.

The vice president urged political parties not to obstruct development with divisive politics.

to obstruct development with divisive politics. "Development is for all and always above partisan interest. Today, a new ray of light has come into being and the world has faith that India will be vishwaguru in 2047 while following this path of development," he said.

Dhankhar highlighted India's progress across various sectors, emphasizing the significant strides in land, water, air, and space.

He applauded the robust ecosystem of research and development that has become integral to India's growth.

He also met a delegation of industry leaders.

#### **Dry, Cold Weather**

be no major spell till January 13 and that the weather is expected to remain dry.

"The weather in J&K has been consistently dry, and there is no forecast of any significant precipitation or snowfall to occur in any area of the Union Territory in the days to come. Weather is likely to remain dry in J&K plains. Tonight, J&K is expected to be affected by a weak western disturbance, therefore the sky will probably remain cloudy," Ahmad added.

Responding to a query whether the 40-day Chilai Kalan period will be snow-free in Kashmir, Ahmad said nothing could be forecast in advance as the weather is expected to stay dry until January 13.

"The western disturbance will determine whether or not the Chilai-Kalan experiences snowfall, but as of now, no WD is expected to affect J&K in the next few days," he said.

Yet, he said that a weak Western Disturbance will once more impact J&K around January 8 and 9, resulting in cloud cover with the possibility for light snowfall in the higher reaches.

"It's not like the Kashmir valley has never had a dry period in December and January months; in fact, in 2018 the region saw continued dry weather during these months. Likewise, 2022 was dry throughout this time as well. It occasionally happens when the global atmospheric circulation remains unfavorable," Mukhtar added.

Meanwhile, Kashmir got some respite from intense cold wave conditions as the minimum temperature rose slightly across the valley, officials said.

As the minimum stayed several degrees below freezing point several waterbodies, including Dal Lake, froze overnight. A thin layer of ice had formed over the surface of Dal Lake as Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius last night, officials said

The residents of the Lake, who live in the houseboats, had a tough time breaking the ice layer while roving 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 5.1 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 6.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius while Kokernag town saw the minimum settle at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 3.9 degrees Celsius. (With PTI inputs)

#### **Terrorists Escape**

fresh contact established with the terrorists on Thursday, even drones were put in service for surveillance of the area after which the operation was called off as terrorists have taken the advantage of darkness and managed to escape," official said—(KNO)

#### cape," official said-**LG Asks Edu**

a major role in creating cutting-edge technology and new methods to revolutionise the food processing sector," he said.

A total of 590 students including 347 female students were awarded degrees in various subjects.

On the occasion, Sinha congratulated the graduating students, teachers and staff of the SKUAST Jammu and all those researchers, innovators, who are contributing in building the University into a centre of excellence for Agricultural Science and Technology.

He conferred medals to the meritorious students and extended his felicitations to the women students for their excellent academic performance across the subjects and securing 10 Gold Medals out of total 11.

"With their talent, intellect and skill, young women are gaining prominence in Agricultural Science and Technology. The number of degrees and awards to our proud daughters is heartening. They are the role models for the young generation and have set an example by hard work in pursuit of excellence," he said.

"Our daughters constitute the core and strength of the innovation ecosystem. It is a matter of pride and there is a need for scaling up the presence of women scientists and tech entrepreneurs at all levels to secure the progress of the nation," he added.

Acknowledging the important contribution of women in agricultural development and allied sectors, the LG said, "Women have toiled hard as unsung heroes in the field since the start of agriculture thousand years ago. Now, their achievements in agricultural science and technology give us the hope and confidence that they will produce path-breaking discoveries and inventions in agriculture".

Sinha also assured every possible support to SKUAST Jammu from the UT Administration

in terms of resources and extended his wishes for the university's continued success in its endeavours towards shaping a brighter and prosperous future.

He further advised the SKUAST Jammu to work on a dedicated project with immense export potential like Tulip's planting material that could address the agriculture & allied sector's needs of the country.

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu read out the university report and highlighted the academic, research and extension activities of the University.

Due to adverse weather conditions and poor visibility, the landing was not possible in Jammu. Therefore, the Vice President of India was not able to attend the convocation, he said.

#### **Eid Milan: HC**

Special Judge designated under NIA Act at Srinagar whereby his bail application was dismissed

"We are of the considered opinion that the order impugned passed by the Trial Court is well reasoned and does not suffer from any legal infirmity," a division bench of Justices Sanjeev Kumar and Javed Iqbal Wani said.

"Indisputably, there are very serious allegations against the appellant (Rehman) and 11 others who had allegedly attended a meeting on 09.07.2023...."

In the meeting, the court observed, apart from Rehman, many ex-members of "proscribed JKLF (Y), separatists and other people were also present".

"The meeting was aimed at rekindling the activities of the banned unlawful JKLF(Y) Association and thereby waging war against the Government Of India and threatening the integrity, sovereignty and security of India," the court said, adding, "On the basis of initial information received, the Police Station, Kothi Bagh, registered FIR no.23 of 2023 under Section 10 and 13 of UAP Act alongwith Section 121 (A) of IPC and the investigation was carried out by SDPO, Police Station, Kothi Bagh."

During Investigation, the court observed, the statements of two accused— Mohd.Yasin Bhat and Mohd.Rafiq Pahloo, were recorded.

"From the investigation carried and statements of the relevant witnesses recorded, it came to fore that the accused including the appellant (Rehman) were in touch with their handlers across the border and as well as the organizations like Kashmir Global Council and conspiring to unite different pro-freedom groups such as Hurriyat, JKLF etc. The news of NIA seeking death penalty for Yaseen Malik did the job of reignited their fire to conspire against the integrity and sovereignty of India."

In view of these disclosures made by the accused themselves coupled with other incriminating material collected during investigation, the court said, the Investigation Officer invoked Section 18 of the UAP Act as well.

"Before the Investigation officer could complete the investigation, and present the challan, an application came to be filed by the appellant herein seeking bail in the matter," the court said, adding, "The Trial Court considered the entire material in light of the Police report and case diaries produced by Investigation Officer and came to the conclusion that a prima-facie commission of offence under Section 18 of UAP Act was made out against all accused including the petitioner and, therefore, rigors of Section 43(D) were attracted."

The Trial court after going through the Police report and case diaries also concluded that there were reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against appellant was prima-facie true, the Division Bench said.

Consequently, the court rejected the bail

plea.

#### **Bukhari Calls**

with a terrorist ambush a day before that left four soldiers dead.

In a post on X after his meeting with the home minister, Bukhari said he was assured of a speedy trial and action against the guilty before the month-end.

Bukhari expressed profound anguish over

the death of three civilians and urged the home

minister to ensure that the guilty are brought to justice and given severe punishment, the party said in a statement.

The Apni Party president told the home minister that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are deeply hurt due to the incident and em-

phasised that while dealing with terrorism, security agencies must ensure that no civilian deaths or human rights violations occur.

"Civilian killings cannot and should not be tolerated," he said.

"On this, the home minister assured Bukhari that it would be ensured that no civilian deaths occur in the future and those responsible for the recent death of three civilians will face the law of the land," the statement said.

Bukhari also brought the issue of the ongoing power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir to the attention of Shah and sought additional supply of electricity to address pressing needs during the ongoing harsh winter.



### **J&K Clinches Gold At National ODOP Awards 2023**

**Observer News Service** 

**NEW DELHI:** In a landmark achievement, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has clinched gold (state category B) for promoting ODOP initiative during the national One District One Product (ODOP) awards ceremony, held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan.

The event, held during the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Utsav 2024, recognized exceptional contributors to the ODOP Initiative, showcasing India's cultural heritage, rich diversity, artistic skills, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Khalid Jahangir, Managing Director Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), received the award on behalf of the UT. The JKTPO has been designated as nodal agency in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for ODOP which played a pivotal role in promoting ODOP products from the region, showcasing a remarkable commitment to the initiative.

Additionally, the Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir secured bronze award under category of District Awards for Agriculture sector. This recognition highlights the district's commendable contribution to the ODOP initiative, particularly in the field of horticulture, with Apple as ODOP product.

The ODOP awards ceremony is a testament to India's journey towards self-reliance, and the winners from Jammu and Kashmir have exemplified excellence in promoting the ODOP initiative. The Union Territory, under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, stands as a shining example of commitment to fostering innovation and contributing to the nation's economic and cultural growth.

Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, along with the Commissioner Secretary of Industries and Commerce, has

been a guiding force in propelling the ODOP initiatives in the

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, extended congratulations to the Indian Missions Abroad, states and district awardees. He urged upon them to continue motivating others to promote ODOP products, benefiting local weavers, artisans, and

Piyush Goyal highlighted the efforts of Indian Missions Abroad in promoting ODOP during the G20 summit and expressed anticipation for the continued growth of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Utsav in the coming years.

Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar, who is also the Chief Guest on the occasion, emphasized the significant role of ODOP in representing India's diversity on the global stage. He shared instances of presenting local ODOP products to global leaders during India's G20 Presidency, highlighting the initiative's impact on foreign policy, foreign economic policy and foreign commerce policy.

Dr. Jaishankar expressed confidence that ODOP would contribute towards stronger tourism in the coming years as more people become aware of the rich art, culture, and his-tory associated with different regions of India.

Pertinently, JKTPO has been instrumental in promotion of ODOP and remains steadfast in its commitment to further boost these initiatives. A comprehensive activity plan, dedicated to promotion of ODOP products in Jammu and Kashmir, has been devised to further boost the ODOP with focus on products of each district. The JKTPO with the support of the government will take further proactive steps to foster growth and recognition of ODOP products in the region.

# **Wanted Hizb Terrorist Held In Delhi**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Thursday arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist, wanted in 11 terror attack cases in Jammu and Kashmir, from the national capital, an official said.

It is a major Special Commissioner of Police (SCP) HGS Dhaliwal said at a press conference.

Javaid Ahmad Matoo, 32, a highly indoctrinated terrorist carrying a reward of Rs 10 lakh, was arrested from Delhi's Nizamuddin area. He was driving a stolen car when he was apprehended, police said.

Matoo is named in "11 known terror attack cases", including five grenade attacks and killing of at least five police personnel in separate incidents, in Jammu and Kashmir, Dhaliwal said and added that he is a member of the terrorist outfits Hizbul Mu-

iahideen and Al Badr. Dozens of police personnel have also been injured in attacks led by Matoo, Dhaliwal said.

On his arrest, Dhaliwal said police seized a loaded pistol and an extra magazine from Matoo. a resident of Sopore in Jammu and Kashmir and an "A++" category terrorist. Matoo's activities started in 2010. He was also leading a terrorist module in Iammu and Kashmir that had six members, Dhaliwal said.

He is among the the last surviving terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, the official said and added that he evade security agencies by changing his identity.

Dhaliwal said Matoo had recently come to Delhi. As of now, his involvement has not surfaced in any case in the national capital, the SCP added.

Requesting anonymity, another officer said Abdul Mazid Zargar, a resident of Sopore, was among Matoo's associates. Currently, Zargar is in Pakistan and he is involved in cross-border smuggling, the officer said.

"Abdul Qayum Nazar was the operational in-charge of the terrorist module. He was killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir." the officer said.

Tariq Ahmed Lone, another associate of Matoo, was a Pakistan-trained terrorist. Lone fell to death after he jumped from a bridge when he was surrounded by security forces, the

officer added. The officer said Imtiyaz Kundu, also Matoo's associate, fled to Pakistan in 2016. His name has surfaced in several cases in Kashmir, the officer said.

Mehraj Halwai and Pakistantrained terrorist Wasim Guru, also linked to Matoo, were killed in an encounter by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, the officer said.

In 2010, Dhaliwal said, Matoo



along with his associates had killed Head Constable Mohammad Yusuf outside the Sopore police station.

Matoo along with four others had in 2010 also launched an attack on the residence of the Sopore superintendent of police. They were armed with AK-47s and had lobbed grenades at

the residence, he said Dhaliwal said after this, they killed two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans and snatched their service weapons. They also attacked a police patrol team, injuring its mem-

bers, the SCP said. In 2011, Matoo and his associates killed Constable Mohammad Shafi Lone in Sopore and also carried out an IED blast outside the Sopore police station, leading to the death of another police officer, Dhaliwal said.

He said Matoo also carried out a grenade attack on the police station in 2011.

In 2012, Matoo suffered a bullet injury during another attack on the police station. Due to the injury, he faced problems while walking, police said. In that year, Matoo along with

his associates also attacked CRPF personnel deployed at an SBI branch and launched a grenade attack at the BSNL office in Sopore, they said.

To a question on Matoo's family and one of his family members waving the tricolour in Sopore, Dhaliwal said at this point, he cannot share any details about his family.



cold Thursday morning.

# India Is Emerging As World Leader In Biotechnology: Jitendra Singh

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said while the nation is emerging as a world leader in biotechnology, Kathua with north India's first biotech industrial park is emerging as the startup nerve centre.

The minister said the biotech ecosystem in the country is emerging at a rapid pace with more than 6,500 startups and 75 bio-incubators set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) - Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

"India's bioeconomy has experienced a remarkable surge of 29 per cent, surpassing the significant milestone of \$100 billion," said Singh in his address at the inauguration of Biotech Startups Expo on 'Emerging Startup Trends in north India' at the biotech park

bioeconomy reached an impressive \$137.2 billion in 2022. Each month, India's bioeconomy has contributed \$11.4 billion to the national GDP," he added.

Singh said India's collective efforts and advancements in the biotechnology sector unas a global player in the field.

Asserting the innovation ecosystem continues to flourish, the minister said India aspires to become one of the top five global bio-manufacturing hubs and also among the top 10 biotechnology destinations globally.

"The rise of biotech startups is pivotal for the country's future economy. These startups have experienced remarkable growth, increasing from just about 50 in 2014 to over 6,756



in 2022," he said. Singh said as India moves forward, it is imperative to focus on the sustainability and scale up of the innovators and enterprises and continue to provide an enabling ecosystem to ensure "we can create a na-

tional and global impact".

"The startups and companies are now getting recognised because of their efforts towards the betterment of the society. We have come a long way in nurturing the talent pool, and providing opportunities to startups to seed, succeed and scale," he added.

The minister said "the emerging biotech ecosystem at Jammu has been supported system in the UT of J&K".

"This biotech park at Kathua is scripting the emergence of a biotech start-up ecosystem. This has created a good platform for Industry-Academia collaborations," he added.

Singh said now is the time to forge broader synergy among all professions to achieve the "Amrit Kaal" goals over the next 25 years.

He stated the next 25 years are very crucial for India and the youth of Kathua would be

among the great contributors towards making India a "Vishwa Guru" when the nation would be celebrating its 100 years of independence in 2047.

The expo witnessed more than 200 delegates participating in the expo and 25 biotech startups that showcased their innovations in different areas of biotechnology.

The participating startups were engaged in solving local problems leveraging local resources such as medicinal plants, aromatic and essential oil-bearing plants for developing therapeutics.

The startup expo also witnessed the participation of increasing number of women cased their products and technologies.

At least five startups led by women were present at the

The one-day event also had closed-door interactions with the industry, academia, scientists, entrepreneurs and local public representatives.

The representatives from the DBT, BIRAC, autonomous institutes and the scientific community were also present at

# Appeal To Reconsider JK BOSE's Decision Allowing Schools Only To Use Books Mandated By It

**Press Trust Of India** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Educational Welfare Alliance, an amalgam of stakeholders in the private education sector, on Thursday appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reconsider the decision of the JK Board of School Education (BOSE) that allows the schools only to use books mandated by the board.

"The decision to exclusively mandate the use of educational materials provided by the JK BOSE has sparked concerns among the stakeholders," Dr Tauseef Ahmad, an alliance member, told reporters.

"While the objective may be to standardise the educational content, it inadvertently restricts choices available to the students and parents. It potentially hinders the global aspiration of our future generations," he added.

Dr Ahmad said the New Education Policy (NEP) 2022 underscores the importance of skill-based learning and leveraging the game-based digital and communicative formats to facilitate holistic development of the students.

"We have to think if the books



imposed by JK BOSE on private schools are in resonance with the NEP 2020. Also, do these books cater to the curriculum designed under the NEP?" he asked.

Dr Ahmad said the decision puts at stake the future of more than 10,000 families, who are earning their livelihood from book publishing.

The alliance members also raised the issue of tagging of the students of 125 private schools with the government schools recently.

The Union Territory (UT) administration recently refused to entertain examination forms for the students of private schools, which were operating on state land without proper lease documentation.

These students have been al-

lowed to appear in the examinations by tagging them with the government schools.

"Army Goodwill Schools operating from state land have been shown leniency. The same view should be adopted in respect of these schools, where more than 2,300 persons are employed," noted educationist C L Vishen.

He said that the government decision on these schools was against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Startup India'.

"While all facilities are being provided under Startup India and other self employment schemes with the aim of generating jobs, institutions which have already created jobs are being shut down here," Vishen added.

### Gulmarg Gondola Earns Rs. 108 Crore Revenue In 2023



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Gulmarg Gondola is soaring high in skies, both in terms of the revenue generated and the number of tourists ferried, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

During the year passed by, more than a million tourists (10, 13, 458) enjoyed the rides of the Gondolas enabling the J&K Cable Car Corporation to earn a revenue of more than Rs. 108 crore during the last calendar year, he said. This is encouragingly higher than the figures of previous year(2022) which stood at Rs. 91 crore as revenue and 8.50 lakh tourist rides. What is more, tourists describe the experience as surreal and alluring.
The J&K Cable Car Corpora-

tion runs and manages the Gulmarg Gondola, considered the flagship attraction of Kashmir tourism. It is possibly India's most popular ropeway, and at a height of 14,000 ft, it is Asia's highest operating cable car.

Besides the enhanced revenue and visitor trips, the Corporation, during the last year, improved and enhanced the service delivery by improving the ticket issuing mechanism, undertaking several safety tests and overhauled the second phase of the Gondola with latest technology.
Tourists undertaking the

Gondola rides have memorable experiences to share. "It was an amazing ride. The bookings were seamless. I invite people

from all across to enjoy the experiences of Gulmarg Gondola", said Akshay from London who is on vacation at Gulmarg these days. Another tourist couple Shubham and Ajat, who are visiting Gulmarg for the first time, were fascinated by the arrangements and sanitation at both the phases of Gulmarg Gondola. The experiences were echoed by another family from Delhi.

"The people of Gondola are so friendly. My daughter fell cold and these people helped her with everything they could", said a tourist from Vietnam. Kentran who was keen to visit the place once again.

Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Raja Yaqoob has appealed to tourists to avail the online mode of ticket selling for their convenience, time saving and curbing the chances of any black marketing by any tout. He said the Corporation is committed to improving the tourist experience by giving them easy, hassle free and safe rides.

He assured of even better facilities in the days to come and appealed to tourists to adhere to timings mentioned in the ticket to avoid any inconvenience. He said tourist feedback is being taken seriously and necessary improvements in customer services are being made.

It may be mentioned here that the Gulmarg Cable Car comprises two phases; one from Gulmarg resort to Kongdori valley and the second from Kongdori to Apharwath Peak.

### **SIA Attaches Properties Of 2 Accused In Narco-Terror Case**

**Press Trust Of India** 

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency on Thursday attached properties of two people in Pulwama and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir in a narcoterror case, officials said here.

The SIA executed the attachment orders issued by the land belonging to accused Ab-National Investigation Agency dul Rashid Mir at Amarngarh (NIA) court. Srinagar, against Abdul Rashid Bhat, a resident district, the officials said.

of Larkipora in the Pulwama district's Awantipora, as he is absconding, the officials said.

They said land measuring nearly 5,500 square feet, Bhat's share in the joint property, was attached by the SIA.

In a similar action, SIA sleuths attached five kanals of in Sopore area of the Baramulla

# Term of Panchayats, BDCs In J&K To End On Jan 9

SRINAGAR: The term of Panchayats and Block Development Councils (BDCs) in Jammu & Kashmir will end on January 09. Official sources said that the

term of all Panchayats and BDCs

in J&K Union Territory will end

on Tuesday (January 09). Constituted on January 10, 2019, the five-year term of Sarpanchs and Panchs will end on January 09, in accordance with the law governing

their functioning. The Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act-1989 provides that the Sarpanch, the Naib-Sarpanch and Panch of the Pana period of five years from the date of its constitution.

Simultaneously, the will also complete their term on the same day, even as election for BDCs were held almost a year after Panchayat election. The term of BDC will end be-

cause J&K Panchayati Raj law

provides that the tenure of a BDC

shall be co-extensive with the term of Panchayats of that block. While Panchayat elections

were held in November- December 2018, the election for BDCs was held on October 24, 2019. It is worthwhile to mention

that elections for Panchayats were expected to be held in October – November 2023, but were delayed due to different chayat shall hold the office for legal and procedural issues.

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE** 

No:-359-2023-24-ADEN-JUC & 360-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on **www.ireps.gov.in** with closing date- 25.01.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.ir portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type		Tendering S	ection	Bidding System			
	Open	Works		Single Bid System			
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting	Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time		
	03.01.2024	11.01.20	24	25.01.2024/ 15:00 Hrs			
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender					
1.	359-2023-24- ADEN-JUC	Upgradation/ Improvement of Goods shed at Suranuss on JUC-ASR section under ADEN/JUC.					
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity	of Offer	Period of Completion		
	1,46,36,859.71/-	2,23.200.00/-	60 E	ays)	06 Months		
	Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
2.	360-2023-24- ADEN-I-ASR	Upgradation/ Improvement of Goods shed at Khasa on ASR-ATT section under ADEN-I/ASR.					
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer		Period of Completion		
	78,42,431.67/-	1,56,900/-	60 E	ays	06 Months		
	Similar Nature of work:-"Any civil work other than track work".						
<b>Note. 1.</b> Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.							

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# **Shortest Test Ever: India Level Series With Win Over SA**



#### **Press Trust of India**

CAPE TOWN: India beat South Africa by seven wickets to share the honours in the two-match series as the second Test ended inside five sessions here on Thursday.

Visiting India thus completed a remarkable comeback after losing the first Test in Centurion by an innings and 32 runs.

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah finished with excellent

figures of 6/61 as India bowled South Africa out for 176 to set themselves a target of 79, after Aiden Markram had struck a magnificent, counterattacking 106 off 103 balls before

The hosts completed the chase in the second session with skipper Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer remaining not out on 17 and 4 respectively.

This is the shortest Test match ever in terms of

overs bowled, bettering the previous best that involved Australia and South Africa at the MCG way back in

A total of 106.2 overs were bowled in the match. Earlier, India's pace spearhead Bumrah bowled beautifully after the opening day's play saw a stag-gering 23 wickets fall on very quick Newlands surface with inconsistent

India had collapsed to

153 all out in their first innings in the final session of day one after skittling out South Africa for 55.

South Africa were 62 for three overnight, trailing by

Brief Scores:

South Africa: 55 and 176 all out in 36.5 overs (Aiden Markram 106; Jasprit Bumrah 6/61).

India: 153 all out and 80/3 in 12 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 28).

# This Is One Of Our Best Test Victories: Rohit Sharma

CAPE TOWN: Skipper Rohit Sharma rated India's series-equalling, sevenwicket victory here on Thursday as "one of their best" in the longest format, placing it right up there with the historic win against Australia at

Riding on a terrific exhibition of fast bowling by Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, both combining to pick 15 of the 20 South African wickets, India beat the hosts inside five sessions to complete a fine comeback in the second and final Test after suffering an innings and 32-run drubbing in the opener at Centurion.

"It will be one of our best Test match victories. Having never won here, it's right up there with all the victories we have had," the exhausted skipper said at the end of the shortest Test match in the history of the game.

He didn't wish to get drawn into comparisons but Rohit felt that winning a Test at Brisbane, where no visiting team could beat the Aussies for 33 years, was as big a deal as becoming the first Asian Test team to come up trumps at the pacey Newlands.

"It's hard to compare Tests which you win elsewhere. Hard to rank these Tests. Every Test match has it's own relevance and importance. The game in Gabba. The last time Australia lost there was 1988, I think. It became their fortress and the way we won that Test was important," the skipper said.



"You can't really rank the Tests. It's right up there though. That shows how important a venue it is to come here and win. Credit to the team." He said, in a roundabout manner, that he would love to play in a three-match Test series but he would take this draw which was a good start to 2024.

'That's not in our hand. I can't decide fixtures, I would do something else entirely. What's there is there. We take pride in playing this series," the skipper answered when asked if a three-match series would have been ideal.

"We lost the first game, they played well. We won here, we played well. Cape Town, we have never won here, for this young group, this is matter of pride for us. We can take confidence from this series," said the Indian skipper.

India are back on top in the World Test Championship points table and the skipper said that winning this game was important after losing points due to slow over-rate.

"Winning Test matches is important. This start to the new year is good. But in my opinion, I didn't think about starting off the new year with a win. We also lost a couple of points due to over rate, so winning this was important."

# **Under-14 Cosco Tournament Concludes At Kulgam**



#### **Observer News Service**

**KULGAM:** An Under-14 Cosco tournament, organment Department Kulgam at newly constructed Aadpora playfield, culminated Thursday with the final match played between Aadpora and Aamnoo teams.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat graced the occasion as chief guest and

distributed awards among the teams and best performing players.

He also interacted with them.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that sports have a positive and constructive role in our social and psychological development adding that such events enable our youth to divert their attention towards positive

pursuits.

He added that more than 200 playfields were developed across the district and district administration is sports facilities to youth to show their talent.

He also appreciated RDD for organizing such events and instructed ACD to start expansion work on the playfield.

Accompanying the DC were ACR Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz, ACD Mohammad Imran and other officers.

#### **Muskan Wins Silver In Sub-Junior Bagatur Federation Cup**

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: A young athlete, Muskan Mehraj, hailing from Odura, Kulgam, has brought laurels to the region by securing a notable secondplace in the Bagatur Federation Cup Sub-Junior event held in Delhi. Her exceptional performance in the tournament

showcased her promising talent and dedication towards the sport. As she won the med-

al, the victory celebration extended beyond the tournament grounds as Muskan's achievement was warmly welcomed by her relatives, neighbors, and the local community.

Speaking to the news agency KNO, Muskan said, "I represented J&K in the recently held Championship in Bagatar Federation Cup Sub-Junior where I won a silver medal.'

"I am very happy with the achievements, and my message to others is stay healthy and stay away from drugs," said Muskar

"I have started playing martial arts from Class 9th and my family has been supporting me a lot in achieving the new heights in my career," Muskan added.

"The youth here should participate in sports activities and register themselves in academies, institutions, from where they can go to district, inter district and other levels as well," said Muskan, adding that "I am thankful to my coaches and everyone who helped in achieving this fest." (KNO)

# Kohli, Gill, Shami Nominated For **ODI Cricketer Of Year 2023**

**Agencies** 

**DUBAI:** Four players Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Mohammed Shami and Daryl Mitchell who had an impressive Cricket World Cup in India have been shortlisted for the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023

#### Shubman Gill (India): 1584 runs and 24 catches in 29 matches

Fairly raw on the biggest stage, Shubman Gill produced performances that would make 2023 his coming-of-age year in international cricket. His most notable performances came in the ODI format, with him finishing the year with 1584 runs at an average of 63.36. It was the fifthhighest tally of runs by an Indian in a year in ODIs, only surpassed by the numbers racked up by Sachin Tendulkar (1996, 1998) Rahul Dravid (1999) and Sourav Ganguly (1999).

Mohammed Shami (India): 43 wickets, 36 runs and 3 catches in 19 matches

Mohammed Shami turned around a very average first half of 2023 into a spectacle in the second half, peaking at the Cricket World Cup for India.



few games of the tournament, Shami stormed back into the playing XI and finished the tournament as the highest wicket-taker with 24 scalps at a staggering average of 10.7. Notably, Shami took three fivewicket hauls and a four-wicket haul in the seven matches he played in the tournament. The seamer also broke the record for India's leading wicket-taker at Men's Cricket World Cups, taking his tally up to 55 wickets in just 18 games.

Virat Kohli (India): 1377 runs, 1 wicket and 12 catches in 27 matches

Virat Kohli built on his comeback in 2022 with a spectacular 2023, where he found peak with a Player of the Tournament performance at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. India's number three smashed at least a half-century in nine of his 11 innings at the World Cup, finishing with a mind-blowing 765 runs, the most ever scored by an individual batter at a men's Cricket World Cup, going past the previous record Sachin Tendulkar in 2003.

Daryl Mitchell (New Zealand): 1204 runs, 9 wickets and 22 catches in 26 matches

Daryl Mitchell was in top form in ODIs in 2023, finishing the year with a whopping 1204 runs, the third-most recorded in a calendar year in the format by a New Zealand player.

# **Mbappe Undecided On His Future As Contract Winds Down**



**Agencies** 

PARIS: Paris St Germain forward Kylian Mbappe said he has not made up his mind about where he will play next season as his contract enters its final six months. Mbappe said last year he would not renew his contract at PSG, which expires at the end of the 2023-24 season when he could leave Paris for free.

The France captain, who has long been linked with a move to Real Madrid, is now free to sign a pre-contract agreement with a new club. "First of all, I'm very, very, very motivated

for this year. It's very important," Mbappe told reporters after PSG's 2-0 win over Toulouse in the French Super Cup final on Wednesday.

"As I said, we've got titles to go after and we've already won one, so that's already done. After that, no, I haven't made up my mind yet. "But in any case, with the agreement I made with the chairman (Nasser Al-Khelaifi) this summer, it doesn't matter what I decide.

"We managed to protect all parties and preserve the club's serenity for the challenges ahead, which remains the most important thing. So we'll say it's secondary." Media reports in September said Mbappe had agreed to forego loyalty bonuses worth up to 100 million euros (\$109.17 million) if he left PSG on a free transfer.

In 2022, Mbappe waited until May to announce a contract extension at PSG, just weeks before the transfer window opened. The 25-year-old said he may not leave it so late this time around. "I think it was the end of May in 2022 because I didn't know until May," he added. "If I know what I want to do, why drag it out? It just doesn't make sense.'

# David Warner Makes 34 Before Rain Disrupts Sydney Test

SYDNEY: David Warner made 34 in what is likely to be his penultimate innings in the long form of cricket as Australia reached 116 for two on the rain-disrupted second day of the third test against

Pakistan on Thursday. Bad light stopped play midway through the second session before a huge rainstorm swept down across the city, leaving the home batsmen kicking their heels for the remainder of the day still 197 runs behind Pakistan's first innings score of 313. Marnus Labuschagne, who was 23 not out, and Steve Smith, unbeaten on six, will resume on day three on Fri-

day when no rain is forecast. "I think we're starting to get used to it here in Sydney each year but yeah, it's frustrating to lose a bit of time to light and then now a bit of rain settling in," Australia captain Pat Cummins said. The last three New Year's tests at Sydney Cricket Ground have been impacted by the weather and

Australia hold an unassailable lead in the three-match series against Pakistan af-

all ended in draws.



ter victories in the tests in Perth and Melbourne but will be desperate to send Warner into retirement a winner on his home ground. The 37-year-old had come through a single over with six runs to his name at the end of play on Wednesday and resumed with childhood friend Usman Khawaja under

He should have departed for 20 when Pakistan debutant Saim Ayub dropped a sitter in the slips, and was fortunate on 27 that his edge

cloudy skies on Thursday.

went between the slips and gully and ran to the boundary for four.

A bowling change for Pakistan did the trick with offspinner Agha Salman coming on to remove Warner with his third ball, the Australian bamboozled by the spin and bounce and edging the delivery to Babar Azam in the cordon.

The crowd was initially silent but quickly roused into yet another ovation for Warner, whose runs took his career tally to 8,729 in 112 tests

"It was pretty good ball he

got there," Cummins added.

"He always finds a way to get himself up and he looked like a man on a mission when he walked out to bat. I'm sure he'll get a second innings out there to score a few more runs.'

Khawaja followed for 47 before the weather disruption, ruled to have been caught behind after a DRS appeal off the bowling of Aamir Jamal, Pakistan's find of the series.