

Battle 2024? BJP Chief Visiting J&K Today



- CHART LOK SABHA POLL STRATEGY
- FINALIZE CANDIDATES
- COUNTER INDIA BLOC
- DISCUSS PM MODI'S VISIT IN KEY BJP MEETING

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: BJP president J P Nadda is reaching here Sunday on a daylong tour to discuss and finalise the party's Lok Sabha poll strategy for Jammu and Kashmir, a party leader said.

Nadda will begin his tour by paying obeisance at the historic Raghunath temple in the heart of the city before chairing a meeting of senior members led by J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina at the party headquarters here.

National General Secretary, incharge J&K, Tarun Chugh will also attend the meeting along with both Member Parliaments from J&K - Union Minister Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma - who have won Udhampur and Jammu seats twice for the

party, respectively.

The leader quoted above said the meeting is likely to finalise the party's candidates for the Lok Sabha elections based on an internal survey report which was recently submitted to Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The focus of the meeting would be to finalise the party strategy to counter the INDIA bloc which has hinted of putting up joint candidates against the BJP, he said.

The meeting will also discuss Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir later this month or in early February, the leader said. He said Nadda is also scheduled to hold a separate meeting with J&K BJP president and General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul before returning to Delhi.

Nation Is Proud Of What J&K Has Achieved In Last 4 yrs: LG

Says VBSY Has Infused A sense Of Self Confidence In The Poor And Marginalized

Commends PM Modi For Transformative Impact On Citizens' Lives

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi the welfare schemes and rapid development in all sectors have transformed the lives of the poorest of the poor, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that the entire nation is proud of what Jammu and Kashmir has achieved in the last 4 years.

"Today, the entire nation is proud of what J&K has achieved in the last four years. Our consistent focus is on economic empowerment of women, farmers and youth for growth. We have to make sure they access and fully utilise the opportunities resurgent Jammu Kashmir has to offer," Sinha said.

Addressing a Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra here in this capital city on Saturday, the LG expressed gratitude to the citizens for their overwhelming participation in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme across the



No Dearth Of Electricity In J&K: LG

Agencies

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, said on Saturday that he personally monitors the daily electricity supply in the Union Territory (UT), while Srinagar has become a role model for the rest of the country. Addressing a function in Srinagar, Sinha said that he personally monitors the electricity supply on a daily basis in the UT every evening. "I monitor and get feedback on area-wise power supply," he said.

The LG said that the damaged transformers are being repaired within 24 hours. "There is no dearth of electricity in J&K," he said. He also lauded the endeavours of Srinagar Smart City Limited and Municipal Corporation for transforming Srinagar City into a prime example of urban transformation. Praising the services of outgoing SMC Commissioner, Athar Amir Khan, LG said, | More on P6



THE MASSIVE AND FIRST OF ITS KIND NEW YEAR

celebration at Lal Chowk to welcome the year 2024 and the festivities till late night is an indication of positive change in people's lives and restoration of Kashmir's ancient glory."

Union Territory and commended their effort to translate accelerated growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi into inclusive growth and Developed Bharat.

"Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has infused a sense of self-confidence in the poor and marginalised sections of society. Janbhagidari is the strength of this Yatra and collective strength of people will play a key role in saturation of schemes and economic betterment," Sinha said.

Reiterating the resolve of the | More on P6

MBBS Student From Sopore Dies In Iran

Family Seeks Help to Bring Body Home



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Tragedy struck the town of Sopore in Jammu and Kashmir as news emerged of the untimely demise of Arsalan Kanjwal, 28, a fourth-year medical student at Iran University of Medical Sciences (IUMS). The young student was discovered lifeless in his rented accommodation in northern Tehran, with reports indicating a suspected cardiac arrest as the cause of his untimely demise.

Arsalan initially studied at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. Later he shifted to IUMS in Tehran where he lived alone at a rented accommodation in Tehran. Some of his friends said that he was a jolly guy but he was under stress due to exams.

Sources said after | More on P6



Water Bodies Freeze Over, Min Temp Dips to -5.4°C in Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A thin layer of ice formed on the surface of the Dal Lake here and other water bodies in Kashmir as cold wave-like conditions gripped the region, officials said on Saturday. The minimum temperature in several parts of the valley dropped below the minus 4 degrees Celsius mark on Friday night.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period,

when a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, particularly the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius on Friday night, down from minus 3 degrees Celsius recorded

on the previous night, the officials said.

They said Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, while in the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir it was 4.5 degrees Celsius on Friday night, a notch down from the minimum temperature recorded the previous night.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, down from the | More on P6

Weapons Seizure Case

NIA Attaches Residential Property In Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday attached a residential house of a key conspirator in an arms seizure case here in Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said.

The house is located in Khan Colony in the city's Chanapora area, it said.

"The property of accused Aamir Mushtaq Ganaie, identified as one of the masterminds in the case RC-4/22/NIA/JMU, was attached today as 'proceeds of

terrorism' by an NIA team," the agency said in a statement.

The accused used the proceeds of terror for conspiring and committing terror crimes against the nation, it added.

According to the central agency, Ganaie and his associates were cadres of 'The Resistance Front (TRF)', an offshoot of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit. They were associated with their Pakistan-based handlers or commanders of the LeT, it added.

The case is connected to a larger conspiracy | More on P6



Unveiling The Comprehensive City Action Plan

What Steps Is Srinagar Taking For A Climate-Resilient Future?

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Installing solar power plants (SPP), replacing diesel gensets, adopting Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) and UJALA schemes for lighting, promoting the use of electric vehicles (EV), establishing a strong public transport (PT) system, and enhancing green cover are the steps authorities will be taking to mitigate climate change and increase climate resilience in Srinagar.

This was revealed by a Climate Resilient City Action Plan (CRCAP) for Srinagar city, prepared by the Department of Ecology,

Environment, and Remote Sensing, Government of Jammu and Kashmir in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This initiative is in collaboration with Taru Leading Edge Pvt. Ltd. and Vasudha Foundation.

This draft marks the inaugural framework for the CRCAP and maintains that the CRCAP is committed to a net zero and climate-resilient Srinagar by 2050.

Mindful of the consequences of climate change to future generations living in Srinagar and its region, the CRCAP recognizes that actions must be prioritised across four sectors - power, energy and habitat



sector; sustainable transport; agriculture and green spaces; waste management. The actions identified in each sector are framed on four pillars of success.

The CRCAP report estimated greenhouse gas emissions, identified vulnerability hotspots, understood critical infrastructure systems with respect to resilience, and developed specific climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, while also promoting sustainable development.

The CRCAP for Srinagar typically includes a thorough analysis of climate change risks, identifying priority areas for action, and developing action plans that include specific measures to boost the resilience and adaptive capacity of Srinagar city.

"Developing a Climate

PoK Forest Fire Spreads to Indian Side

Army Put On Alert

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A fire that broke out in a forest area in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir has spread to the Indian side and security forces are on alert to thwart any infiltration bid under the cover of the blaze, officials said on Saturday.

The fire has spread to the forest area along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, they said.

It broke out in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) late Friday night and spread to the Balakote sector in the Mendhar sub-division, the officials said.

They said an alert has been sounded along the LoC in view of the raging fire to ensure there is no attempt of infiltration by terrorists under the cover of the blaze.

Army troops guarding the LoC are making efforts to put out the fire, the officials said.

Search Ops In Poonch Enters 2nd Day

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: An anti-terrorist search operation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district entered the second day on Saturday, officials said.

The operation was launched in nearly a dozen forward villages in the forest area of Mankote and Mendhar on Friday following reports of suspicious movement, they said.

Intermittent gunfire was reported from Uchhad forest but it was later clarified that security forces had opened fire while clearing a natural cave, the officials said.

The search operation was underway when the last reports were received, they said.

1.6 Cr Embezzlement Case

Punjab Brothers Arrested In J&K After 4 years

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police Crime Branch has arrested two brothers from Punjab for alleged embezzlement of over Rs 1.6 crore from a government department here, officials said on Saturday.

The accused bookies -- Jatin alias "Raja" and Jatinder alias "Poot" -- who were evading arrest for the last four years were arrested from the Mukerian area of Punjab, a spokesperson of the Jammu Crime Branch said.

They were allegedly involved in an inter-state bookie business and siphoned the revenue collected by a cashier of the Jal Shakti department, the spokesperson said. | More on P6

The experts suggested that for each of the sectors, the specific timeframe, priorities (short and medium-long term), entities that are primarily responsible for the implementation and various | More on P6



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

2

Srinagar | Sunday | 07-01-2024

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: ADB Internship Program 2024

Description: ADB Internship Program 2024 is an opportunity offered by the Asian Development Bank (a regional development bank, headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines), to students enrolled in master's or Ph.D. degrees.

Eligibility: Open for ADB member countries national including India who are enrolled in a master's or Ph.D. level program. Students must have an excellent command of English and be engaged in academic study in a field related to ADB's work. Applicants must have professional experience relevant to the assignment.

Prizes & Rewards: Stipend for the duration of the internship

- Last Date to Apply: 15-02-2024
- Application mode: Online Applications Only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ADBI6

Scholarship Name 2: Nehru Trust's UK Travel Awards 2024

Description: Nehru Trust's UK Travel Awards 2024 is an opportunity offered by the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum (NTICVA), for scholars or professionals working in museums, galleries, universities, or other specified institutions concerned with the preservation, study, and display of India's art and cultural heritage.

Eligibility: Open for Indian citizens who scholars or professionals working in museums,



galleries, universities or other specified institutions concerned with the preservation, study and display of India's art and cultural heritage.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to

- £1,000 (one-time)
- Last Date to Apply: 15-02-2024
- Application mode: via email or post at: The Secretary Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria & Albert Museum The School of Arts and Aesthetics SAA Building II Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi - 110067 India; Email ID: info@nehrutrustviam.org
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NUTI

Scholarship Name 3: Colgate Keep India Smiling Scholarship Programme

Description: An initiative of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited to provide financial assistance and support to individuals who are deserving and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue

their dreams.

Eligibility: Indian students who are currently enrolled in any year of the BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) course in a recognised government or private institute in Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. Applicants must have scored at least 60% marks in Class 12. The annual family income of the applicants from all sources must not exceed 8 lakh.

- Prizes & Rewards: Financial assistance of 75,000
- Last Date to Apply: 31-01-2024

- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KSSI3

CONGRATULATIONS

We express our gratitude to welcome you Ms. Shabnam Kamili as Secretary to Government, ARI & Trainings Department. Being dynamic and well versed with the latest technologies, we hope that under your supervision, this department will reach new heights. We, the employees of Government Presses especially employees of Government Press Srinagar welcome you with open heart and express our happiness to welcome such a dynamic officer in our department. We are in hope that you will give new shape to the Government Press on the line of modernization and give nod to Re-organization and Recruitment Rules which in need of the hour meet the present demand of presses. Once again, we welcome you and wish you best of luck to attain new heights in civil services.

Regards,
Representative Government Press, Srinagar
Ref.No.
Dated: inf

The Jammu & Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Attention Please
The candidate whose photograph is published in the notice is claimed to have lost his/her qualification certificate have following description:-

- Roll No:- 224509
- Class:- 10th
- Year & Session :-Bi Annual 2003
- Registration No:- OONKF265142
- Name: NIGHAT YOUSUF
- Mothers Name: SAFIYA AKTHAR
- Fathers Name: Mohd Yousuf Wani
- Date of Birth: 27-12-1986
- Residence:- Ompora Budgam



Now the candidate has applied for the DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE. before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, any person having any objection in this regard may please file the same before the secretary BOSE or undersigned with in 07 (Seven) days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above lost QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE bearing S. No. 2303159 be traeted as CANCELLED.

Sd/= Assistant Secretary
Certificates - KD
mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Particulars in my J&K Bank Account has been wrongly written as Name: Fatima Bano W/o: Gulam Hussain Rather while my correct name is Fatima Begum W/o Gulam Hussain Ganie which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Singpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fatima Begum
W/o Gulam Hussain Ganie
bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate for my son Namely Inayat Rashid . As per school records the date of birth of my son is 10-06-2010. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Rashid Bhat
F/o Inayat Rashid
R/o Lelhara Kakapora
laa

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Umer Afzal Dar S/O . Mohd Afzal Dar R/o. Naseem Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar applying for Tour and travel license under the name of "Explorers United Travel Agency" in J&K Tourism Department. Anybody having any objection in this connection may approach concern department within 7 days. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time.

I, Umer Afzal Dar S/O . Mohd Afzal Dar R/o. Naseem Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar.

وای خاندان کو صدمہ
اجتماعی فائز خواتین منگوا اور انجام دی جائے گی

یہ خبر دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ محمد اشرف وانی آت جول مال فرینڈس کالونی زکوہ سیرنگ پورہ مورخہ 6 جنوری 2024 بروز پیر وارکواس دارفانی سے رحلت کر گئی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس میں جگہ عطا فرمائے مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فائز خواتین 9 جنوری 2024 بروز منگلوار صبح کے گیارہ بجے (11:00) ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع جول نزدیکی اسلام آباد سیرنگ پورہ میں انجام دی جائے گی اور اس کے بعد تعزیتی مجلس کی اختتامی تقریب ہمارے گھر فرینڈس کالونی زکوہ سیرنگ پورہ میں منعقد ہوگی۔

سوگواران خاندان: [محمد اشرف وانی، مشتاق احمد، گلگوش محمد لطیف، گلگوش (برادران)، [زاہد احمد، بٹ، مدثر احمد، بابا، طیب احمد، زرگر (فرزندان نسبی)]

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject: Application of Ishfaq Majeed Mir S/o Abdul Majeed Mir R/o Brath Kala for issuance of DOB Certificate in favour of his daughter namely Rehmat Jaan born on 16-05-2020

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB . If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

Office Of The Deputy Director Estates Kashmir

E-mail:- ddestsgr@gmail.com

Tel / Fax:- 0194-2452435

Notice for Attendance Statement of Government Employees

Sub:- Attendance statement of government employees lodged in Pvt. Hotels / Guest Houses and JKTDC Hotels for the Winter Session 2023-2024 - required in connection with payment of catering charges to Hoteliers.

All the Drawing and Disbursing officers are requested to furnish Leave Statement / Tour Diary of employees for the month of **November and December, 2023** who are / were availing mess facilities in the hotels hired by the Estates Department and have remained out of their Head Quarters, whether on leave or tour enabling this office to make payment to the hoteliers in accordance with actual attendance of the inmates in their respective hotels after deducting the period outside station. The requisite information may kindly be furnished to this office by or before **15th January, 2024**.

In case no information is received by or before **15th January, 2024**, it will be presumed that no officer / official under your administrative control and availing Hotel / Mess facility has proceeded on leave and payment shall be released in favour of the hoteliers. The information may please be furnished to this office through a special messenger under proper acknowledgement or through E-mail:- ddestsgr@gmail.com

The matter may kindly be treated as most urgent.

Sd/- Deputy Director Estates
No. DDES/Pvt.hotel/2024/15-16
DIPK-14825/23 DATED:06-01-2024
Srinagar, Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Investigation Division PDC Bemina Srinagar

E-NIT No:- 08 of 2023-24

Date:- 05/01/2024

GIST of e-NIT. No:- 08 of 2023-24 Dated:- 05-01-2024

1. For and on behalf of the Managing Director JKPD; e-tenders in two cover system from registered Mechanical workshop holders/SSI Unit Holders/ Electrical/Mechanical Contractors having experience in installing machinery are invited for below mentioned work:

S. No	Particulars	Advert cost (In Rs)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Class of Contract	Time of completion	Bid submission start date	Bid submission end date	Date of Opening of technical bids
1.	Providing, installation of 02 post electro hydraulic lift along with accessories and various items for commissioning of workshop at Bemina Srinagar.	6.00	100/-	Registered Mechanical workshop holders/ SSI Unit Holders/ Contractors having experience in installing machinery	45 days	05-01-2024	27-01-2024	29-01-2024

Position of funds: Available

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-Nit portal website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule. The e-Nit GIST is also published on departmental website www.JKSPDC.nic.in.

2. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule time and date with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and no financial bids will be accepted on physical form.

No:- MID/PDC/Tech/1226-36
DIPK-NB-5123/23 Dated: 06-01-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer
MID PDC Bemina Sgr

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

CPO Chowk, Panjirthi, Jammu / Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar.

www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the Matric Level Posts – regarding.

NOTIFICATION

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), vide Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392) dated: 19-11-2023, issued the result/score-sheet of the candidates who appeared in the OMR based written examination held on 05-11-2023 for the following Matric Level posts:

S.No.	Notification No.	Item No.	Name of the Post	Department
1	01 of 2021	061	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
2	01 of 2021	074	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
3	01 of 2021	079	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
4	01 of 2021	083	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
5	01 of 2021	087	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
6	01 of 2021	099	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
7	01 of 2021	103	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
8	01 of 2021	106	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
9	05 of 2020	168	Assistant Mechanic	ARI and Training
10	07 of 2020	315	Electronic Mechanic	Skill Development
11	07 of 2020	325	Electronic Mechanic	Skill Development
12	05 of 2020	147	Fitter	Public Works (R&B)
13	04 of 2020	083	Greaser Washer	Transport
14	05 of 2020	167	Junior Electrician	ARI and Training
15	05 of 2020	166	Lathe Runner	ARI and Training
16	04 of 2022	081	Mechanic	Home
17	03 of 2021	604	Mistry	Forest, Ecology and Environment
18	06 of 2020	190	Plumber – II	Higher Education
19	01 of 2021	121	Screenman	Information
20	01 of 2021	126	Screenman	Information
21	01 of 2021	132	Screenman	Information
22	01 of 2021	136	Screenman	Information
23	01 of 2021	141	Screenman	Information
24	01 of 2021	154	Screenman	Information
25	01 of 2021	155	Screenman	Information
26	01 of 2021	157	Screenman	Information
27	01 of 2021	112	Tailor	Hospitality and Protocol
28	07 of 2020	311	Workshop Assistant	Skill Development
29	07 of 2020	320	Workshop Assistant	Skill Development

Accordingly, keeping in view the need and objective to fill all requisitioned vacancies, the candidates who are falling under the consideration zone for the aforementioned posts, given in **Annexure A** to this notification, are hereby called upon to appear physically before the designated Document Verification Committees of the Board for the verification/scrutiny of their documents/certificates **as per the schedule and venue indicated against each.**

Further, the multiple posts/items for which the candidates falling in consideration zone have been considered is annexed as **Annexure B** for convenience and reference of the candidates. In case, any item is missing in **Annexure B** against any candidates name/roll number, such candidates are advised to submit clubbing requests as per the format enclosed (**Annexure C**) from 10-01-2024 to 12-01-2024 at JKSSB, Central Office, CPO Chowk, Panjirthi, Jammu/JKSSB, Central Office, Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar. No representation in this regard shall be accepted after 12-01-2024.

The candidates are required to produce following documents/certificates in original, along-with **one set of self-attested copies**, before the designated Document Verification Committee(s):

- Copy of Online Application Forms.
- Two passport size recent colour photographs.
- One original photo ID Proof i.e. Aadhar card/Voter Card/Pan Card/Passport etc.
- D.O.B Certificate (10th Diploma/Marks card).
- Valid Category Certificate, if belongs to reserved categories.
- Domicile Certificate.
- 10+2 Marks Sheet / Diploma, if applicable.
- Prescribed Qualification/Certificates/Diploma as per Advertisement Notifications.
- Bonafide certificate on the format prescribed by the Board duly issued by the Controller/Registrar of the concerned Institute/Board in respect of candidates, who have obtained Diplomas outside the UT of J&K.
- Checklist sheet/form to be submitted by candidates at the time of their D.V. (**as per Annexure D**).
- The candidates must also submit their order of preferences for various items/posts (**as per Annexure E**) in offline mode to the document verification committees.

The candidates who fail to appear before the respective Document Verification Committee(s) on the scheduled date shall forfeit their right to selection.

Sd/-

(Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392)

DIPK-14804/23 Dated: 06-01-2024

After 3 Decades, Hymns Reverberate Hindu Temple In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: For the first time in the last three decades, the hymns and Bhajans reverberated with Anandeshwar Bhairav Mandir in Maisuma area of Srinagar where devotees commemorate the birth anniversary of Anandishwar by performing the Pooja.

During a special ceremony, the Pooja Havan ritual was performed, filling the peaceful surroundings with a strong sense of holiness and deep respect.

The Anandishwar Bhairav Mandir witnessed the resumption of Pooja Havan ritual after a lengthy interval of three decades.

The event unfolded on the eve of Anandishwar's birth anniversary, drawing devotees from far and wide to partake in the moment.

Sharing his elation, a care-taker from Mandir, said that after 32 years, they have reopened the revered Anandishwar Bhairav Mandir here in Maisuma. "This mandir is renowned as Anandish-

war Bharav or Bharav Mandir," he said, adding, that "we have extended invitations to more than 100 to 200 individuals today, as we celebrate its re-awakening after a hiatus of 32 years."

People who worship there and from the locality were happy about the revival of this special place, as they enjoyed being part of the important rituals that they had been waiting for, making it a big moment in the history of the temple.

"After 32 years, we reopened the temple here in Maisuma. We invited many people today, marking its opening once again after a long time," said Heera Lal Koul, a local resident.

Moreover, the evening witnessed a collective fervor and jubilation as devotees departed, carrying with them the blessings and sanctity garnered from this historic celebration, cherishing the rekindling of age-old traditions at the Anandishwar Bhairav Mandir—(KNO)



J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over sanction letters and benefits under various schemes to beneficiaries during Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Srinagar on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Major Drug Haul 765 Kits Of 'Abortifacient Drugs' Worth 3.5L Seized At Srinagar Airport

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: A large consignment of drugs worth 3.50 lakh rupees used to 'abort' fetuses illegally was seized at the Srinagar Airport on Saturday, officials said.

The seizure, according to the Assistant Drug Controller Kashmir, Nighat Jabeen, was made on a tip off about the illicit importation of drugs used for terminating fetuses "illegally" into the Kashmir valley.

Speaking to the media here, Jabeen said the shipment, worth Rs. 3.50 lakh, was sized at the Srinagar airport by the Drug Control Department Kashmir. She said the department seized several such consignments in the past as well.

"The drugs worth 3.5 lakh rupees used to terminate fetuses were seized at the Srinagar Airport by the joint team of Drug Control Kashmir and Excise Departments. A thorough investigation has been taken up to unmask those who pumped these drugs into Kashmir illegally," said Jabeen.

Elaborating, Jabeen said some individuals—who have not yet been identified—had actually ordered the 765 kits of Mifepristone Tablets and IP and Misoprostol IP using fictitious licenses.

"Their identity is being ascer-

tained as investigation into the instant case is on. We have seized many such consignments in past as well. Actually smugglers using licenses of bonafide pharmaceutical distributors carryout these illegal activities," she added.

These drugs, she said, are misused to abort fetuses. Smugglers either use fictitious licenses or misuse licenses of legitimate distributors to import these drugs into the valley.

Regarding online sale of drugs in Kashmir, she said the department forbids drug online sales in Kashmir and that they promptly take legal action upon becoming aware of any such incidence.

In response to another question on the role of drug dealers in distributing drugs used to abort fetuses, she replied, "Drug dealers and distributors have no involvement whatsoever in the process. Importing these pharmaceuticals into the valley is really encouraged by certain anonymous people using fictitious licenses or licenses of the bonafide pharmaceutical distributors.

"This timely intervention has prevented the illegal circulation of these sensitive medicines within the Union Territory," Deputy Drugs Controller, Kashmir said.

Abortifacient kits are prescription drugs requiring specialized medical supervision for safe and responsible use. Unauthorized possession and sale of these drugs pose serious health risks to women and undermine established medical protocols.

The seized consignment is currently under investigation, and efforts are underway to identify the sender and intended recipient. Legal action will be initiated against all parties involved, as per the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

"This operation highlights the effective collaboration between the Drug Control Department and the Excise Department in safeguarding public health from the dangers of illegal drug trafficking," Nighat Shah further emphasized.

"We remain committed to cracking down on such illegal activities and ensuring the safe and ethical distribution of all drugs within the Union Territory," she added.

The Drug Control Department urges the public to be vigilant and report any suspected instances of illegal drug activity to the nearest authorities. By working together, we can create a safer and healthier environment for all citizens.

98 Of 152 SSCL Projects Completed Till date

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least 98 projects under the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) have been completed in Srinagar so far while the authorities said seven pending projects have not been inaugurated yet.

CEO, SSCL and Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Aamir Khan as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said they planned a lot of work, and he is grateful that most of them have been successfully executed on the ground.

"Since 2020, we have completed approximately 98 projects. Among these, seven projects are ready for inauguration but haven't been inaugurated yet," he said.

He said, under the Smart City initiative, "we have many projects,

and by utilizing savings, we have included 20 to 30 more projects, such as Goni Khan Market Project, Jamia Masjid Project, Jehangir Chowk Project, and others."

"Of total 152 projects, 93 are completed, while seven projects await inauguration. Additionally, we have many ongoing projects, including in downtown areas like Pathar Masjid, Dalgate—Gowara road, and Karan Nagar—Darish Kadal stretch," the Commissioner added.

Highlighting crucial ongoing developments, he stated, "We are actively working on the riverfront view in downtown Srinagar, along with significant progress has been made in Batmaloo, Qamarwari road, and other areas. I anticipate that these projects will be completed by June," he said—KNO

Mohammad Ashraf Hakak Joins GMC Srinagar As Administrator

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mohammad Ashraf Hakak today joined as Administrator, Associated Hospitals Srinagar.

Meanwhile, in a grand joining ceremony held at Government Medical College, Srinagar, a prestigious assembly of key officials extended a warm welcome to Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, the newly appointed Administrator.

The gathering comprised including Dr. Waseem Qureshi, Reg-

istrar Academics; Yasmeena Jan, Personnel Officer; Sabreena, Chief Accounts Officer; Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Administrative Officer; Showkat Ahmad, Assistant Legal Remembrancer; Shabir Ahmad, Assistant Director Planning; Javed Ahmad Shah, Estates Cum Transport Officer and Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, Private Secretary to the Administrator.

Expressing their collective sentiments, the assembly lauded Hakak as not only an excellent professional but also a

dedicated civil servant. Their words resonated with hope and expectations for the new Administrator, emphasizing their anticipation for positive changes and advancements under his leadership.

The ceremony exuded optimism and unity as the distinguished officials articulated their aspirations, marking the beginning of a promising era at the GMC Srinagar.

Prof. Masood Tanveer, Principal/ Dean Govt. Medical College Srinagar also welcomed Hakak.

SMC Hosts Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra At Mujgund, Srinagar

Observer News Service

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

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

Additionally, free health check-ups, Aadhar card registrations, Ayushman card generation, and sign-ups for various government schemes were made available, ensuring easy access to vital services

for those in need.

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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Floriculture Officer District Srinagar Department of Floriculture Kashmir e.mail: fosrinagar123@gmail.com

GIST OF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE: 03 of 2023-24
DATED: 05/01/2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.6/- (Rupees six only) Revenue Stamps are invited through Registered/speed post/ Courier services/by hand from Registered Nurserymen/Flower Growers on the prescribed tender form for below mentioned job:

Name of work	Estimate quantity	Cost of tender document (Non-refundable)	Cost of Call Deposit Receipt pledged to Floriculture Officer District Srinagar	Last Date for issue of tender document	Last date for receipt of bids on prescribed tender form.
Supply of fresh Rose flower petals.	100 Kgs	Rs.100/-	Rs.800/-	12/01/2024 upto 4.00PM	15/01/2024 upto 4.00 PM

The tenders will be opened by the Local Purchase Committee on the same day or next working day convenient to committee. However, in case of any eventuality, the tender issue/receipt/opening date will be considered the next working day without any change of fixed time and venue.

The tenderer shall have to keep (Technical bid) containing Copy of Registration, PAN Card & Call Deposit Receipt in sealed envelop marked as "A".

The Financial bid duly filled in and pasted with Revenue Stamps worth Rs.6/- should be kept in separate Sealed Envelope marked as "B" and both technical bid envelope "A" and Financial Bid envelope "B" should be put together in large Envelope addressed to the Floriculture Officer, Pologround Park Srinagar

Sd/-

Mubashir Ahmed Wani
Floriculture Officer,
Department of Floriculture
District, Srinagar.

No: FOS/DOF/GS-NIT-03/2439
DIPK-14835/23
dated: 06-01-2024

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
24 Jumada al-Sani
1445

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 754 Pope Stefanus II arrives in Ponthion
- 1325 - Afonso IV succeeds Dionysius as King of Portugal
- 1558 - Calais, last English possession in France, retaken by French
- 1579 - England signs an offensive & defensive alliance with Netherland
- 1610 - Galileo Galilei discovers the first three moons of Jupiter: Io, Europa & Ganymede
- 1618 - Francis Bacon becomes Lord Chancellor of England
- 1622 - Germany & Transylvania sign Peace of Nikolsburg
- 1698 - Russian Tsar Peter the Great departs Netherlands for England
- 1790 - French Revolution: A major riot breaks out in Versailles as people demand lower bread prices
- 1822 - Liberia colonized by Americans
- 1904 - Marconi Co establishes "CQD" as 1st international radio distress signal
- 1915 - World War I: Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm approves strategic bombing of Britain, but forbids bombing London, fearing his relatives in the royal family might be killed
- 1922 - The Anglo-Irish Treaty is ratified by Dail Eireann by a 64-57 vote

From KO Archives

Delete Sindh Add Kashmir To 'Jan Gan Man'?

Supreme Court Serves Notice To Government On National Anthem

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Thursday sought the government's response to a petition seeking the deletion of the word "Sindh", now a part of Pakistan from India's national anthem and replace it with the word "Kashmir".

A bench comprising Chief Justice R. C. Lahoti and Judge G.P. Mathur issued notice to the government in response to public interest litigation filed by Sanjeev Bhatnagar, a scientist and speed skating champion who represented India in the Asian Games.

In September, the court while rejecting his plea had given the petitioner the liberty to draw the government's attention to this and then approach the court if no action was taken.

According to the petitioner, who is also an advocate, approached the court stating that the inclusion of the word Sindh in the national anthem was an infringement on the sovereignty of Pakistan.

The inclusion of the word in the anthem for the past 54 years had also hurt the feelings of over one billion people in India, he claimed.

Bhatnagar said the petition was being filed to avoid any future international dispute as such "flaws" in the anthem could bring dishonour and disrespect to the nation.

He sought a direction for the deletion of the word Sindh from the anthem and its substitution with the word Kashmir. In response to his representation, the home ministry replied the anthem was adopted by the Constituent Assembly Jan 24, 1950. At that time, Sindh had become a part of Pakistan and therefore the assembly was conscious of this fact.

"The word Sindh refers not mere to the province of Sindh but also to the Sindh culture which is an inalienable part of the rich and diverse culture of India," the home ministry said.

"Moreover, the contribution of Sindh people in the making of modern India has been extremely noteworthy and cannot be overlooked. It may not therefore be appropriate to delete the word Sindh from the national anthem.

"Former deputy prime minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Advani is a member of the Sindh community.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 07 January, 2005)

The changes in the 19th century in Europe had not only led to the emergence of industrialization, but the process of rationalization overtook the socio-political landscapes as never seen before. Thereafter, the advent of sovereign states and the emergence of new laws gave rise to new dynamics of Colonialist-colonized dichotomy. In the 21st Century, Old laws became obsolete and new laws were framed however, there had always been some political and ideological interests behind the door. Some thinkers saw the law in a utilitarian framework while others found it in the brackets of 'habitual command' necessary to be followed. In the same vein, recently in India, the government claims to have streamlined the criminal major laws in the country by replacing the existing Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and The Evidence Act with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA). This act has started another debate in the context of colonialist-colonized framework. The legal intellectuals and experts present dissimilar viewpoints on the same, while some welcomed the new criminal law as post-colonial and Indianized in essence, others presented them as variegated pictures with patches or re-colonizing laws in modern attire. Common people, usually unfamiliar with legal technicalities although exhibited a silent approach against these laws so far, but the driver community has sent shockwaves to the entire country by calling strikes and colossal protests against the new hit-and-run law introduced by section 106(2) of the BNS. Truck, Bus, and Taxi drivers believe that the new hit-and-run law is more draconian and stringent as it would discriminately victimize the drivers.

Understanding this law and dispelling the fear
Section 106 of the BNS provides punishment for a death caused by a rash or negligent act. While subsection 1 provides the punishment of imprisonment of up to 5 years and a fine, on the other side section 106 (2) provides enhanced imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine in the case where a person after causing death by rash and negligent driving escapes the place of occurrence without informing the police or magistrate. Widely known as hit-and-run law this provision has replaced earlier Penal law which provided imprisonment of up to 2 years for causing the death of any person by rash or negligent act. The offence was bailable under the old law but the new criminal law BNS has made this offence more severe by making it non-bailable and imposing stringent punishment. Though this law is still to come into force, it has caught



Hit-and-Run Law A Good Law or Not?

Waseem Khaliq and Showkat Ahmad Mir

the attention of drivers throughout the country. Believing it as discriminatory and unreasonable drivers apprehend that this law is likely to be misused against them, thus victimizing them even without their being any fault. This fear constrained them to call strikes and hold long demonstrations against the hit-and-run law. The enhanced punishment under section 106 (2) is not attracted where the driver informs the police or magistrate about the occurrence, in that case, section 106(1) applies which provides a punishment of up to 5 years with a fine only. The enhanced punishment is not applicable even in non-serious accidental cases, where no death is caused. However, the drivers apprehend that people around the occurrence place respond to the accidents impulsively and are adverse to them, which may even cause physical and mental torture. This apprehension though justifiable cannot be an excuse to get a free hand for an act which is itself an offence.

Why the strict hit-and-run law is needed
Stringent punishment for serious accident cases can be viewed as a

“ The hit-and-run law in its present form is susceptible to ambiguities and interpretational conjuncture. There seems an absence of reasonable nexus between the gravity of failure to inform authorities and the severity of punishment provided for it. Escaping without reporting cannot be taken as grave as the substantive offence of causing death by rash and negligent driving, thus mere failure to inform the police should hardly warrant a fine or imprisonment of up to a few months

markable move by the Centre because the old laws did not provide adequate punishment for the offence of death by rash and negligent driving. Law

Commission in its 234th report had recommended 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for the offence of causing death by rash/reckless driving. In the same report, the commission also recommended a minimum imprisonment of 2 years for causing death by driving under the influence of liquor. A report titled 'Road Accidents in India-2022' released by the Ministry Of Road Transport and Highways shows a huge surge in the number of accidental fatalities in 2022. Over 1.5 lac people died and around 4.5 lac suffered injuries due to accidents. The major causes of such accidents were rash/negligent driving, driving under the influence of alcohol/ intoxicating drugs, over speeding, driving on the wrong side/ lane of the road, jumping a red light and using of mobile phone while driving. Hit-and-run law in its present form may prove to be a golden law in combating the terror of reckless driving. It exhibits a deterrent approach towards carelessness and negligent driving, which in turn would check the menace of hit-and-run cases. It will boost the speedier investigation of serious accident cases, identification and apprehension of the accused as well as immediate as-

sistance to the victim. Furthermore, it aids Section 134(2) of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2019 which imposes a duty on the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident to report the circumstances of occurrence to the nearest police station.

Challenges surrounding this law

The hit-and-run law in its present form is susceptible to ambiguities and interpretational conjuncture. There seems an absence of reasonable nexus between the gravity of failure to inform authorities and the severity of punishment provided for it. Escaping without reporting cannot be taken as grave as the substantive offence of causing death by rash and negligent driving, thus mere failure to inform the police should hardly warrant a fine or imprisonment of up to a few months. The provision would be subjected to multiple interpretations. It stipulates information to concerned authorities after the accident, but how? Is the driver supposed to go to the police station or the magistrate in person and inform them about the occurrence or mere telecommunication or other instant modes of communication will suffice? In the latter case to escape the enhanced punishment, the accused would just hit a call to police about the occurrence and leave the spot, thus defeating the purpose of this provision. Again expecting the Instant information to police after the accident by the accused is obscure for the reason that the person's mental health at the time accident is affected severely. The aftershock and mental trauma to the Accused at the occurrence should have been taken into contemplation by the legislature and limited time say 12 or 24 hours should have been allowed him to inform the police station or a magistrate. Furthermore, the driver is bound to inform the police or magistrate before leaving the spot only where death is caused. What if a person survives and only grievous hurt or simple hurt is caused? He can flee the spot without informing the authorities. This shows a huge discrepancy in the law which makes it subject to reconsideration.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Waseem Khaliq has studied Law at Aligarh Muslim University and works as Advocate in J&K. and Showkat Ahmad Mir is a Research Associate in the ICSSR research project at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh. They can be contacted at: Waseemkhaliquk89@gmail.com, showkat.cuhp@gmail.com

A Slightly Rosier Picture

There could be a marginally downward bias to the first advance GDP estimate of 7.3% for FY24. Actual growth could tilt towards 7%.

Madan Sabnavis

The first advance estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) for FY24 needs to be interpreted with caution. With nine months in the year having passed and official data existing for the months up to November, taking a call on the full year is based on extrapolations. In fact, since the value added numbers for some sectors like manufacturing are based on the first two quarters information, there also is the assumption of persistence of trends, which may not always hold. Therefore the growth rate of 7.3% for the year should be seen more as a forecast rather than an estimate.

The question then would be: Is there any value in bringing out such information? In fact, towards the end of February, the second advance estimates will be brought out by the government. This would be more data-driven than extrapolation, and could be different from what has been projected this time.

There would be information for two more months, taking it closer to the mark. The answer is that such an estimate is required not from the academic standpoint but for drawing up the Union Budget. Ever since the Budget has been moved to February 1, having some estimate of GDP in absolute terms has become imperative for the finance ministry.

The Budget is based on an assumption of growth in the GDP as all tax revenues are juxtaposed against this number. While a projection for FY25 can be based on the ministry's conjecture—which normally tends to be conservative, the base for FY24 needs to be there. This is where this advance estimate fits in. It also means that the Budget is based on two GDP numbers in nominal

“ The trade, transport, communications, hotels, etc, segment has slowed down to 6.3%, which is more due to the high-base syndrome (its growth was 14% last year). This is one segment that still sees vestiges of the pent-up demand, with people spending a lot of money in all these segments.

terms which are forecasts rather than true numbers. Hence, even though this number will change, there is some value to this number as there has to be an indicative number.

Prima facie, one could have expected a high GDP growth number, and hence, 7.3% does not come as a surprise as it is higher than the RBI forecast of 7%. This had to happen as the first two quarters registered growth of 7.8% and 7.6%, and any extrapolation would mean replication of the same—which, in turn, provides an upward bias to the estimate. It is also not surprising that most of the growth rates look healthy as they gel with the official numbers released for various sectors till November, which is the latest data available on

most indicators.

Manufacturing is to grow by 6.5%, and, here, the bulk is accounted for the organised sector where profit-and-loss (P&L) accounts of companies are used. For the unorganised sector, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is used, which has also been high due to the base effect.

Mining has grown by 8.1% and

money in all these segments.

Ideally, a higher number would have been expected as the buoyancy remains even today if one goes by the proxies used. The finance and real estate segment has grown by 8.9%, which is in line with the high growth in deposits and credit in the banking system. The government sector has shown stability, at 7.7%, which in alignment with

the accounts released till November.

The only disappointment—and this bears out in the real world—is agriculture, which is to slow down to 1.8%. In fact, this was to grow by 3-3.5%, but the kharif output has disappointed and it does look like that rabi harvest would also be lower this year as the sowing in wheat and chana are lagging. This can be attributed to the less-than-normal monsoon and the low reservoir levels seen at present.

The investment scene, as indicated by the gross fixed capital formation rate, needs to also be looked at with caution as it has increased from 29.2% to 29.8%.

But other proxies such as growth in bank credit to large industry or bond issues (which are basically by finance

companies) do not support the theory that investment is booming. It can be assumed that this has come out of higher government capex, with the states not fully supporting this trend. It is possible that there could be some moderation going forward.

As the GDP data is based on extrapolations, an interesting feature which emerges is that consumption in nominal terms has grown by 8.7%, which is less than the GST collections rate for first nine months that was in double digits (11.7%). This can see some upward movement when the final numbers are out as the two should move together once the economies of better compliance are exhausted.

On the whole, it does look like that there could be downward bias to the estimate and growth will tilt towards the 7% number. There is likely to be a slow-down in corporate profits growth and affect segments where these proxies are used. But this will be a good base for the government to use when planning the Budget and estimating the revenues to be garnered.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

My Tryst With Chestnut Trees

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

In the sanctuary of my abode, cocooned beneath a cozy blanket with the gentle embrace of a room heater, I delved into the pages of a book. Suddenly, the symphony of solitude was interrupted by the melodious hum of my phone. Retrieving it from my pocket, I discovered a call from my dear friend Adil Rehman, beckoning me to join him with a swift promise. I ventured towards an orchard where we used to meet. As I approached the designated meeting point, a captivating scene unfolded before me—a cluster of exuberant children besieging a majestic chestnut tree. The chestnuts are the deciduous trees of the genus *Castanea*. They fervently pelted pebbles at the treasure-laden branches, where the “Punjab Gaer,” or chestnuts, hung. Encased within prickly husks, these chestnuts were delicately gathered by some children, each cradling nature’s bounty in their laps. Witnessing this nostalgic tableau, memories of my own youthful escapades flooded back. I reminisced about the two chestnut trees that graced my village, a rarity in the precincts of district Ganderbal. The lore persisted that these venerable chestnut trees were planted by Haji Ghulam rasool of Habbakadal Srinagar, a legacy enduring for at least seven decades. As per the wisdom passed down by the elders of my native village, there was a time when a playground graced the landscape, a gathering place for children from the surrounding area. In those early days, the roots of the two chestnut trees were planted. However, the passage of time ushered in change, transforming the terrain into an orchard adorned with apple and various plum trees. Eventually, the orchard changed hands, finding a new proprietor in Nowshera Srinagar. The custodianship of the garden transitioned to the capable hands of the “Gujjars,” who not only tended to their cattle but also nurtured the flourishing orchard.



Holly Stapleton/Grist

These twin chestnut arbors grace the roadside, standing as silent sentinels. Interestingly, the custodians of the adjacent orchard never voiced objections to the seasonal tradition of gathering the coveted chestnuts, fondly known as “Punjab Gaer.” In my personal contemplation, these chestnut trees were nothing short of a benevolent offering to the entire village. As autumn unfolded its vibrant hues and the chill of winter lingered, the bountiful fruits adorned the branches, drawing

AS AUTUMN UNFOLDED ITS VIBRANT HUES AND THE CHILL OF WINTER LINGERED, THE BOUNTIFUL FRUITS ADORNED THE BRANCHES, DRAWING CHILDREN LIKE MAGNETS. This communal treasure was freely accessible, existing within the public domain, devoid of any prohibitions imposed by the orchard’s watchful guardians

children like magnets. This communal treasure was freely accessible, existing within the public domain, devoid of any prohibitions imposed by the orchard’s watchful guardians. The recollection remains vivid –

with Gowhar by my side, we would frequent the orchard, eagerly assessing the ripening of chestnuts. Patiently awaiting the perfect moment, we watched as the trees transformed. However, one fateful year, our anticipation led to disappointment – the branches bore no fruit for us as they were plucked by other children of our village and we had to wait for one year. Usually it bore fruits during the departure of the “Bakerwals” to Jammu, leaving their dormant kitchens by the orchard, where they typically cooked on traditional “Daanbur.” Undeterred, we ventured to open the chestnuts nestled in spiky husks, gathering straws to ignite the “Daanbur.” The crackling sound of chestnuts bursting into a flavorful blaze was a joyous symphony. Anyone traversing the road couldn’t resist joining our endeavor, captivated by the enchanting taste of chestnut. Little ones, especially, were fervent followers, drawn into the allure of those mesmerizing chestnuts. Regrettably, a few years ago, the guardian of that cherished shop axed the branches of those two chestnut trees. The intrusion of children, throwing pebbles, irked the new custodians. Today, the once abundant and delectable chestnuts have dwindled both in quality and quantity, a poignant reflection of changing times and the altered custodianship of that precious orchard. The shifting sands of time and the evolving nature of people serve as a stark reminder. There’s a looming apprehension that the hands of progress might fell those venerable trees in the future. Yet, the indelible memories woven with those trees persist, eternally fresh in our minds, akin to a conversation held just yesterday. May the yet unborn generation savor the essence of those chestnuts, cultivating a connection with the past that transcends the passage of time.

The author is a Columnist. He tweets @peermohdamin

PARENTING WITH EMPATHY

How to foster intelligence in kids

Tanya Mehra

Parenting is a journey filled with joy, challenges, and responsibilities. As parents, we strive to raise our children to become intelligent, compassionate, and successful individuals. One powerful approach to nurturing a child’s development is through parenting with empathy.

In this article, we will explore the significance of empathy in parenting and discuss effective strategies to foster intelligence in kids. By embracing empathy and implementing these techniques, you can create a nurturing environment that stimulates your child’s intellectual growth and emotional well-being.

Parenting with empathy – A key to success

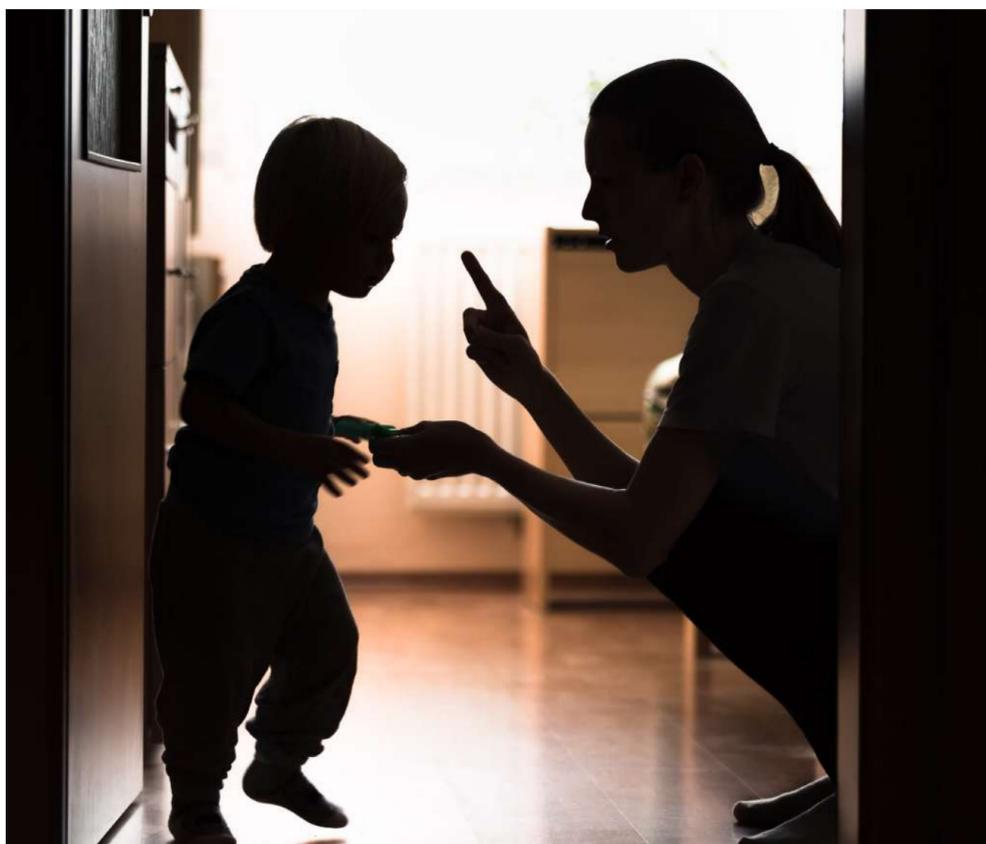
Parenting with empathy involves understanding and sharing the feelings of your child. It goes beyond mere sympathy and allows you to connect with their experiences on a deeper level. By cultivating empathy, you can establish a strong emotional bond with your child, fostering trust, security, and open communication. This emotional connection serves as the foundation for developing intelligence, resilience, and self-esteem in children.

The power of active listening

One of the fundamental aspects of parenting with empathy is active listening. When you truly listen to your child, you validate their emotions and demonstrate your genuine interest in their thoughts and feelings. By maintaining eye contact, using non-verbal cues, and providing undivided attention, you create a safe space for your child to express themselves freely. This practice not only enhances your understanding of their needs but also nurtures their self-expression and self-confidence.

Encouraging Emotional Intelligence

Emotional intelligence is a vital skill that empowers children to recognize, understand, and manage their emotions effectively. By encouraging emotional intelligence, parents can help their kids develop the essential life skills needed to navigate through various challenges. To foster emotional intelligence in your child, consider the following strategies:



- ▶ **Label and Acknowledge Emotions:** Teach your child to identify and label different emotions. By acknowledging their feelings, you validate their experiences and teach them to express themselves in a healthy manner.
- ▶ **Teach Problem-Solving Skills:** Encourage your child to find solutions to their problems rather than providing immediate answers. This promotes critical thinking, creativity, and independence.

- ▶ **Promote Empathy:** Help your child understand the feelings and perspectives of others. Engage in discussions about empathy, kindness, and compassion to instill these values in their daily interactions.
- ▶ **Model Emotional Regulation:** Be a role model for emotional regulation by managing your own emotions effectively. Show your child healthy coping mechanisms and problem-solving strategies.

The role of play in cognitive development

Play is an essential component of a child’s cognitive development. It provides opportunities for creativity, problem-solving, and exploration. By engaging in play activities with your child, you can facilitate their intellectual growth while strengthening your bond. Consider incorporating the following play-based activities into your parenting routine:

- ▶ **Pretend play:** Encourage your child to engage in imaginative play, such as pretending to be a

doctor, chef, or astronaut. This type of play promotes creativity, social skills, and cognitive flexibility.

- ▶ **Building blocks:** Provide your child with building blocks or construction sets. These activities enhance spatial awareness, problem-solving skills, and fine motor development.
- ▶ **Puzzles and board games:** Engage in puzzles and board games that challenge your child’s thinking and problem-solving abilities. These activities promote cognitive skills, strategic thinking, and perseverance.
- ▶ **Sensory play:** Sensory play involves activities that stimulate a child’s senses, such as touch, sight, smell, and sound. Providing sensory experiences through materials like sand, water, playdough, or sensory bins filled with rice or beans can enhance a child’s cognitive development. It helps them explore different textures, develop hand-eye coordination, and improve their ability to problem-solve and think creatively.
- ▶ **Artistic expression:** Encouraging children to engage in various art forms, such as drawing, painting, or sculpting, can contribute significantly to their cognitive development. Art activities promote fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness. They also encourage self-expression, imagination, and the ability to think outside the box.
- ▶ **Memory games:** Engaging children in memory games can have a positive impact on their cognitive abilities. Memory games involve the recall and recognition of information, which strengthens memory skills and improves concentration. Games like matching cards or recalling sequences of objects or events can enhance a child’s cognitive processing, attention span, and problem-solving skills.

The article was originally published by TOI

Sheetal Nanda leads public outreach programme at Banihal

BANIHAL, JANUARY 06: Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare department, Sheetal Nanda led a comprehensive public outreach programme here today to establish a direct dialogue between officials and the local residents.

During the outreach programme, the Commissioner Secretary held elaborative interactions with the locals and listened to their issues and grievances.

The public during the interaction, raised several issues before the Commissioner Secretary ranging from better infrastructure like approach roads to Khari railway station, internal road enhancements, and the establishment of a maternity hospital in Banihal. Issues like need for more teachers and a comprehensive plan for youth involved in infrastructure projects were also brought into the notice of Commissioner Secretary.

While interacting with the public, Sheetal Nanda assured them an unwavering support from the government. She addressed each demand patiently while emphasizing on the potential benefits of centrally sponsored schemes on the public.

Encouraging active participation, Nanda highlighted the significance of utilizing schemes like Anganwadi Centers,

marriage assistance schemes, Jeevan Jyoti Beema, Holistic Agriculture Development, PMEGP, and skill development initiative for overall development of the region.

During the programme, the Commissioner Secretary explored stalls set up by various government departments showcasing various schemes as well as the rich local produce and handicrafts.

While inspecting the stalls, Sheetal Nanda recognized and appreciated the skills of Banihal's youth and the commendable contribution of women in handicrafts.

She also acknowledged the commendable efforts of district administration and asked them for further improvement in public service delivery.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary reiterated the commitment to addressing public concerns, announcing regular fortnightly outreach programmes in Banihal for continuous communication with general public.

Expressing gratitude, PO ICDS, Ramban, Jahangir Hashmi highlighted the success of the Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, which reached 70,000 people in 40 days, issuing Ayushman Cards and supporting agriculture through KCC cards.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology and CEO, JAKEDA and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

In the onset of this meeting the Chief Secretary emphasised upon making a robust strategy for time bound delivery of the same without any fail. He made out that the solar energy is clean and less expensive so it is in the fitness of things to adopt and exploit its potential in the UT as much as possible.

He advised for holding

CS assesses preparedness for full solarization of government buildings till 2025



JAMMU, JANUARY 6: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to assess the preparedness of the UT for saturation of rooftop solar power plants on all the government buildings by December, 2025 here as per the target fixed by Prime Minister in the recently concluded CS Conference at New Delhi.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology and CEO, JAKEDA and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

In the onset of this meeting the Chief Secretary emphasised upon making a robust strategy for time bound delivery of the same without any fail. He made out that the solar energy is clean and less expensive so it is in the fitness of things to adopt and exploit its potential in the UT as much as possible.

He advised for holding

meetings with the biggest players available in the market like those of NHPC, NTPC or SECI for tapping the potential and studying the feasibility and potential of each government building here in the UT.

Dulloo asked for conducting a day long workshop with such players and apprising them about your interest before them about this solarization mission here. He further gave out that besides providing the requisite revolving fund to the JAKEDA for this task the government is also open to extend subsidy to the agencies implementing this programme in the UT.

He advised the department to prepare a model contract and DPR for each district after carrying out survey of identified buildings in next couple of weeks. He told them to watch for the successful precedences left by other States/UTs in the country. He also stressed on seeking technical assistance

from any reputed organisation in order to have a clear roadmap for achieving this goal.

In his presentation the Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Saurabh Bhagat revealed that the UT government offices has 22494 registrations to their names across the districts of J&K with a sanctioned load of about 486 MW. It was given out that nearly 1900 buildings had already been solarized either by JAKEDA or other departments with a cumulative capacity of 27.61 MW till now.

Moreover it was revealed that approximately 300 MW could be added by installing these rooftop solar power plants in remaining 20,000 buildings. It was added that each of the department has to provide the information like list of their buildings along with sanctioned connected load, shadow free rooftop space, geo-coordinates and other relevant details about such structures here.

Three Leading Coaching Centers in Srinagar Join Forces to Form EMERGE

Three leading coaching centers of J&K decided to merge to form a single platform for the students of the valley. The three coaching centers which collaborated are KIE, HOPE CLASSES and MISSION-E. The new Institute will be called EMERGE with different brand and logo which will be launched in coming days.

Taking their long history of producing the toppers in NEET and JEE into the account the administration of these coaching centers reaffirmed their faith that they will continue to grow beyond the students' expectations.

Talking on the occasion as chief guest, president CCAK, G N VAAR said that sustenance of the local Institutes has become a necessity in the present scenario. He emphasised on the educators to provide the quality education at par with the national Institutes.

Chairman Hope Classes Dr

Sajad Ahmad Lone earlier welcomed the guests and students to the function. He said that these three top Institutes have given hundreds of doctors and engineers to society.

Director Mission-E Mr Shahnawaz Ahmad said that the local Institutes has been at the forefront in serving the down-trodden students of the valley. He said that every Institute has taught hundreds of students for free who were deserving but were not able to afford the fee.

CEO Aspire Institute speaking on the occasion said that it was a dream come true to bring all the top Institutes under one banner. He assured that the best of the best will be provided to the students in terms of facilities like management, academics, online resources etc. He said that EMERGE plans to expand its branches to the other parts of the country within next four years.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Nation Is Proud

government to promote equitable and inclusive development, the LG said that under the leadership of the PM, the welfare schemes and rapid development in all sectors have transformed the lives of the poorest of the poor.

"PM Narendra Modi ji has empowered and enabled common man to stand on their own feet for sustainable income and quality living," Sinha while addressing the function said.

LG said that the UT Administration is always committed to serve the people with complete dedication and to resolve their issues promptly.

Sinha administered the 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge to officials and the citizens. He visited the stalls put up by different departments and handed over the sanction letters and benefits to beneficiaries under various schemes.

Beneficiaries also shared their experiences and success stories on the occasion.

IGP Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; DIG CKR Srinagar, Sujit Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz; CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited, Athar Aamir Khan; senior officers of police and civil administration and people in large number were present.

No Death Of

"Under the dynamic leadership of Athar Amir, Srinagar has witnessed a huge transformation in the past two years. Today, we can say that Srinagar has emerged as one of the best cities in the country."

He said the massive and first of its kind year celebration at Lal Chowk to welcome the year 2024 and the festivities till late night is indication of positive change in people's lives and restoration of Kashmir's ancient glory

MBBS Student

discovering his body police had taken the body for postmortem and will be handed over to the Indian Embassy soon.

The shocking news has devastated Arsalan's family, prompting a desperate plea for assistance to repatriate his body to Kashmir.

The family is appealing for swift aid to expedite the repatriation process, ensuring that Arsalan's final rites can be performed in his hometown. The grieving family is also urging immediate communication with the embassy and the university in Iran to navigate the necessary procedures efficiently.

Jammu & Kashmir Students Association has also urged the Ministry of External Affairs and Lieutenant Governor led administration to facilitate the repatriation of the mortal remains of the deceased student.

"We have taken up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs and the office of LG Manoj Sinha for early repatriation of the mortal remains to bring some solace to the bereaved family," Nasir Khuehami, spokesperson of the association said.

"We hope that the mortal remains will be brought back anytime in the next two days," he added.

The district administration Baramulla has also sought intervention from LG to facilitate early repatriation of the mortal remains of the student.

Water Bodies Freeze

previous night's minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, they said.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.9 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 5.4 degrees Celsius.

People who live in houseboats at Dal Lake had a tough time breaking the layer of ice over the water body to reach its banks. Water in pipes also froze in several parts of the

Kashmir valley.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December.

There has been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir, while the upper reaches of the valley have received lesser than usual amounts of snow. The meteorological department has forecast mainly dry weather till January 12.

Punjab Brothers

A case was registered against the accused in 2020 following a complaint about embezzlement of Rs 1.64 crore out of the revenue collected as water charges in the city division, he added.

The police earlier arrested Nikhil Gandral, the then cashier at the Jal Shakti office here, and Inderpal Singh of Jammu and chargesheeted them in the case in March 2020.

According to officials, the revenue collected by the sub-divisional staff was deposited at the division headquarters with the accused cashier for its further remittance into the government treasury.

However, the cashier siphoned off Rs 1.64 crore and revealed that he had given the money to bookie Jatin, on the assurance that he would get double the amount in return, they said.

NIA Attaches

related to drone-dropping of weapons and money by a Pakistan-based module operating in J&K, the agency said.

The kingpin in the case, Faisal Muneer, was earlier arrested and charge-sheeted by the NIA, which found him to be involved in receiving weapon consignments sent from across the border by Sajjad Gul alias Hamza, the statement said.

The NIA said that after receiving the weapons, Muneer used to deliver them in Srinagar

to Ganaie, who further distributed them to active cadres or terrorists of the TRF to carry out targeted killings to spread terror.

"The accused were also engaged in radicalising, motivating and instigating vulnerable youth to join TRF or LeT and other terror outfits in Kashmir.

"Besides arms and ammunition, NIA investigators had recovered several incriminating materials, including chats about terror funds, from the mobile phones of the accused persons," the agency said.

The NIA has established that the accused had been carrying out terrorist activities for a long time, thereby threatening the security, integrity and sovereignty of India, it added.

The agency had taken over the case initially registered by the Chanapora police station in May 2022 and re-registered it at the NIA's Jammu branch office on June 18, 2022.

The NIA intends to intensify its efforts to dismantle all terror networks and demolish their support infrastructure by attaching and seizing their properties in the coming days, the statement said.

What Steps

schemes and programmes that can support the intervention, funding sources, mitigation potential, indicators and measure outcomes are indicated.

The sectoral action plan focuses on power, energy and habitat sector, sustainable transport, agriculture and green spaces, and waste management as the key sectors for Srinagar city. The resilience interventions included in the action plan are informed by the baseline sectoral GHG emissions and identified climate vulnerabilities.

The team recommended a number of suggestions to save the city from Nature's wrath. The key intervention that needs to be taken, according to the researchers, include scaling

up Renewable Energy (RE) generation by promoting rooftop and ground mounted installations of solar power plants (SPP) at households, institutions, government buildings, commercial buildings etc in the city.

It also suggested encouraging faster penetration of the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) and UJALA Scheme (Domestic Efficient Lighting Program), that will ensure all lighting fixtures are replaced with energy-efficient LED bulbs, tube lights and fans at domestic, public buildings and streetlights.

The report also recommended replacing Diesel gensets in residential, commercial, institutional sectors with solar powered or other storage options.

It further says that the government needs wide-scale adoption of Electric Vehicles (EV) by increasing share in private passenger vehicles (cars and 2 wheelers), public transport (buses, mini-buses), intermediate public transport (3 wheelers, e-rickshaws), delivery service fleets, vehicle fleets owned by government departments etc:

"Establish widespread EV charging infrastructure (at strategic locations such as commercial hubs, public parking, airport, railway station etc.) free/subsidized parking spaces," the report suggested.

The report further noted that a strong Public Transport (PT) and Intermediate Public Transport (IPT) network in the city would discourage use of private vehicles and help curb Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and traffic congestion. It focused on enhancing green cover by increasing trees outside forest and green spaces through measures such as setting up of urban parks, floating gardens etc.

"These steps will reduce GHG emissions, improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion and improve public health," the experts recommended.

Aes Kaeshir

Kashmir Observer in collaboration with King's College London Radio brings you a series of Podcasts on Life and Times of Kashmiri Disapora in the West.

KASHMIR OBSERVER



KO PODCAST

J&K Blossoms: Le Figaro Chronicles The Enchanting Transformation Of Kashmir

SRINAGAR: In a striking turn of events, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) experienced an unprecedented surge in tourism in 2023, welcoming a record-breaking 2 crore tourists. This surge, the highest in 77 years, is indicative of the positive transformation within the Union Territory over the past four years, resulting in increased employment opportunities and a thriving hotel industry. The cinematic allure of the region attracted over

100 film shoots in the last year alone, shining a spotlight on its captivating landscapes.

Recently, the renowned French newspaper, Le Figaro, presented a grand report on the evolving charm of Kashmir, describing it as a "Forgotten paradise" timidly opening up to foreign travelers after decades of conflict. The piece, by Bérénice Debras, portrays Srinagar as a haven of peace in the foothills of the Himalayas. The narrative unfolds at 5:30



in the morning on Dal Lake, where the day breaks in a veil

of mist. The boat gracefully glides across the tranquil waters, surrounded by a serene silence. Time seemingly holds its breath, and birds whisper softly. The floating market comes to life as vegetable sellers engage in negotiations from one boat to another. The century-old tradition remains unchanged, with the aroma of traditional Kashmiri khawa wafting from a mobile samovar, providing an authentic experience.

A charismatic character, Mr. Wonderful Flowerman, takes center stage in the Le Figaro report. Draped in a pink sweater and a multicolored shirt, he embodies the essence of a Bollywood character. Negotiations for a bouquet at a 'golden price' lead to a unique condition – a visit to Mr. Wonderful Flowerman's father's floating gardens where the plants are cultivated. The journey to an islet on Nigeen Lake unveils the patriarch's lament for the

end of the season, accompanied by a glimpse into his daughters' papier-mâché box painting in a rickety wooden cabin.

As the Le Figaro report concludes, it beautifully captures J&K's journey from a conflict-ridden past to a blossoming present. The once-forgotten paradise is portrayed as reclaiming its position on the world stage, signifying a renewed era of enchantment and allure.

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

INDIA Bloc Will Discuss Seat-Sharing In J&K, Ladakh: Cong

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The opposition INDIA alliance partners will discuss seat-sharing in Jammu and Kashmir for the Lok Sabha elections when the polls are announced, senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir said on Saturday.

The people of J-K and Ladakh are ready to give all six seats to the INDIA alliance, said Mir, who is the Congress

general secretary in-charge for Jharkhand and West Bengal.

"There are six Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The INDIA alliance will sit together and decide on it," he told reporters in Anantnag.

"We are waiting for the elections, and the people of this region are ready to bring a change in Delhi and elect a strong, pro-people government that represents people under the Constitution," Mir said.

Chairman DDC Budgam Calls On LG Sinha



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairman District Development Council, Budgam called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Saturday.

A delegation of J&K General Line Teachers Forum called on

the Lt Governor and expressed gratitude to the UT Administration for upgradation and modernisation of school education system.

Later, a delegation of former Broadcast Assistants, All India Radio Srinagar also called on the LG.

Couple, Child Die As SUV Falls Into Reasi Gorge

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A couple and their three-month-old child died on Saturday when their SUV veered off the road and fell into a 400-foot-deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, police said.

One person sustained serious injuries in the incident, they said.

Around 12:45 pm, a Bolero Camper that was on its way to Chassana from Tulli fell into the gorge near the Zero Point, killing three people on the spot and leaving one injured, said

Station House Officer, Chassana, Suman Singh.

The vehicle was reduced to a mangled heap of metal and rescuers had a tough time recovering the bodies, he said.

The deceased have been identified as Zahid Ahmad (27) of Balmatkote village of Mahore, his wife Sayra Akhter (26) and their three-month-old baby, Singh said.

Irfan Ahmad, a resident of Deval village of Mahore, was injured. He has been admitted to a hospital, where his condition is stated to be critical, the SHO said.

J&K Leaders Question Decision To Lease Out Electricity To Rajasthan

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Party leaders in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday questioned the administration's decision to lease out electricity from the Rattle Power Project in Kishtwar to Rajasthan, pointing out that the Union Territory is itself facing a "severe power crisis".

Rattle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL), a joint venture between the NHPC Limited and JKSPDC, has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited for 850 MW sourcing from the project in Kishtwar.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said supplying electricity to Rajasthan from the Rattle Project would "rob" the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"At a time when J&K is facing a severe power crisis never witnessed before our hydro electric resources are being outsourced to other states. Yet another decision that will rob people of basic amenities with an intention to collectively punish the inhabitants of J&K," the PDP chief posted on X.

The agreement has been

signed for off-take of power for a period of 40 years from the Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the project and as per power allocation to be notified by the Union Ministry of Power.

The PPA was signed in Jaipur on January 3 in the presence of senior officers of the RHPCL and Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited.

Meanwhile, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said the decision to lease out electricity to Rajasthan was puzzling.

"At a time when the entire Jammu and Kashmir is facing an acute electricity crisis, especially in its rural areas, the reported leasing out of electricity from Rattle Power Project Kishtwar to Rajasthan is quite puzzling," Bukhari said in a post on X.

He said the J-K administration should come clear on the facts.

"The J&K administration has off and on come on record claiming that it has been buying the power supply from other states to meet the demands in the Union Territory, while at the same time leasing out its own supply to another state is beyond comprehension. Urge the J&K admin to come clear on the facts," Bukhari's post added.



PARTICIPANTS LISTENING KEENLY to the speech of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha (not in the picture) during Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Srinagar on Saturday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

20000 Govt Buildings In J&K To Get Solar Power

Chief Secretary Asks JAKEDA To Prepare A Model Contract, DPR For Each District

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired a meeting to assess the preparedness of the Union Territory for saturation of rooftop solar power plants on all the government buildings by December, 2025 here as per the target fixed by Prime Minister in the recently concluded CS Conference at New Delhi.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology and CEO, JAKEDA and other senior officers of the concerned departments, an official spokesperson said.

In the onset of this meeting, he said, the Chief Secretary emphasised upon making a robust strategy for time bound delivery of the same without any fail. Dulloo, he said, made out that the solar energy is clean and less expensive so it is in the fitness of things to adopt and exploit its potential in the UT as much as possible.

"He advised for holding meetings with the biggest players available in the market like those of NHPC, NTPC or SECI for tapping the potential and studying the feasibility and potential of each government building here in the UT,"



the spokesperson said.

Dulloo, he said, asked for conducting a day long workshop with such players and apprising them about your interest before them about this solarization mission here. He further gave out that besides providing the requisite revolving fund to the JAKEDA for this task the government is also open to extend subsidy to the agencies implementing this programme in the UT.

According to the spokesperson, the Chief Secretary advised the department to prepare a model contract and DPR for each district after carrying out survey of identified buildings in next couple of weeks.

Dulloo, he said, told the officials to watch for the successful precedences left by other States/UTs in the country.

"He also stressed on seeking technical assistance from any reputed organisation in order to have a clear roadmap for

achieving this goal," he added.

The spokesperson said that in his presentation the Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Saurobh Bhagat revealed that the UT government offices has 22494 registrations to their names across the districts of J&K with a sanctioned load of about 486 MW.

He said that it was given out that nearly 1900 buildings had already been solarized either by JAKEDA or other departments with a cumulative capacity of 27.61 MW till now.

"Moreover it was revealed that approximately 300 MW could be added by installing these rooftop solar power plants in remaining 20,000 buildings. It was added that each of the department has to provide the information like list of their buildings along with sanctioned connected load, shadow free rooftop space, geo-coordinates and other relevant details about such structures here," the spokesperson said.

DC Budgam Presides Over Mega Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Program

Distributes Sanction Letters, Keys And Financial Incentives Amongst Eligible Beneficiaries

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Mega Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), program was on Saturday conducted at Sports Stadium Budgam.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo presided over the program, inspected beneficiary camps installed by various departments to showcase their products and raise awareness generation regarding different schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC appreciated all concerned officers and officials for successfully conducting Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), program across all 296 panchayats and for its enthusiastic ongoing conduct in urban areas of the district.

The mega VBSY function witnessed impressive gathering from all local wards of Town Budgam.

After holding flower cer-

emony of the VBSY Van and Izbard ceremony, the DC also participated in Sankalp pledge on the occasion.

The DC felicitated some achievers for their exemplary work in different fields and distributed sanction letters, cheques and keys to beneficiaries under different welfare schemes.

Deliberating on the ongoing developmental activities and successful conduct of VBSY across the district, the DC said that it is the committed objective of the district administration to accelerate developmental projects visibly on the ground.

He said that under the direction of LG, the District administration is committed to ensure all major infrastructural projects are completed in the shortest possible time.

He said among other major projects, various PHCs were

dedicated to public, installation of Mobile Network towers at tourist places and various other uncovered areas, work on PRIs Accommodation at Sheikhpora, Integrated Lavatory, Wuzukhana complex at along with two public Parks at Charar-i-Sharief have been completed, work on New Bus Terminal, Chadooria is in progress and likely to be completed by first half of this year, work on State of the Art New District Hospital Budgam at Reshipora and establishment of Cluster University in Budgam is a key focus area of the district administration.

He also appreciated concerned for timely construction of access infrastructure to Bharava Cave of Shri Abhinav Gupt ji at Beerwah which he said has become as a major tourist attraction and has opened up employment opportunities for locals of Beerwah.

Prolonged Dry Spell Triggers Bushfires Across Kashmir

Govt Says Forest Personnel Activated; Absence Of WDs Attributed To Forest Fire

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid the persistent dry spell in Kashmir, fire incidents have been reported at multiple forest areas across the Valley so far while the government has claimed to have initiated action and activated the forest personnel in this regard.

According to reports, a bushfire broke out at multiple places across Kashmir in the last few days.

The bushfire has broke out in Karanu area of Karnah, Devpora

Keng, the current surge in forest fires can be attributed to the absence of active Western Disturbances.

"The continuous dry spell spanning over a month has significantly reduced moisture levels in the vegetation and other areas, rendering the forests highly susceptible to ignition," he said.

The crucial role of Western Disturbances in bringing moisture to the region has been absent, exacerbating the dry conditions, he said.



in South Kashmir's Shopian, Wurangore in Manzgam area of Kulgam, Kangan in Ganderbal, Salamabad in Uri, Sumlar in north Kashmir's Bandipora, Nagawadi in Tral, Rampora Rajpora in Sopore, Kuntwara Range in Doda among other places.

The fire incidents in these places have been reported in the past three days.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Khan said that the bushfire is the outcome of the persistent dry spell in Kashmir. "Such incidents have been witnessed in the past as well," he said.

According to an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, said that the reports of fire have been received from three places and the further necessary action was initiated in this regard.

"The persistent dry spell has led to the forest fire. We have already activated the forest personnel to deal with such incidents. We have received the reports from three places and immediate steps were taken," he said.

Pertinently, December 2023 unfolded as the most arid month of the year for the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, recording a deficit of 79% and 100%, respectively.

J&K Bank Conducts DLRC Meet In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To review the performance of Banks under Annual District Credit Plan (ACP 2023-24) for the quarter ending September 2023, J&K Bank convened a District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting that was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir (IAS).

The meeting was also attended by AGM RBI Sanjeev Sharma, LDM Ganderbal, Shabir A Dar DDM NABARD Junaid Hakim, RSETI Director and district coordinators of banks, government departments and other developmental agencies.

LDM Shabir A Dar informed the house that banks operating in the district have disbursed an amount of Rs 420.43 Cr in priority sector against the annual target of Rs 654.44 Cr registering an achievement of 64% and Rs 315.05 Cr in non-priority sector against the annual target of Rs 224.62 Cr recording 140% achievement.

Shopkeeper Arrested For Sexually Harassing Minor

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A minor girl was allegedly harassed by a fair shop dealer in Sumbal area of North Kashmir Bandipora district.

Police Post Nowgam received an application from the father of minor girl that she had gone for fingerprint formalities at the house of Fair Prince Shop Dealer in Sumbal area, where the dealer took the

advantage and allegedly sexually assaulted her, reports said.

Meanwhile police have taken cognizance and in this connection, case FIR No. 03/2024 U/S POCOA Act has been registered in Police station Sumbal.

A senior police officer told news agency Kashmir Scroll said that the accused has been held and further investigation has been taken up.(KS)

Kashmir Observer's Top Sports Stories Of 2023

Australia Win 2023 ODI World Cup

Australia won the Cricket World Cup for a record-extending sixth time in November, ending India's dominant run in its home tournament with a six-wicket victory in a low-scoring final on the back of Travis Head's 137.

A heavily pro-Indian crowd inside the 132,000-capacity Narendra Modi Stadium was silenced as Head combined with Marnus Labuschagne (58 not out) in a 192-run partnership to chase down the target of 241.

Australia was wobbling on 47-3 after seven overs but Head and Labuschagne dug in to help their country regain its status as the king of one-day international cricket, adding to its 50-over world titles in 1987, 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2015.

Head was dismissed off what proved to be the next-to-last ball of the match, caught in the deep while attempting to hit a title-clinching boundary.



In came Glenn Maxwell and he ran two off his first ball, securing a victory that prompted fireworks above the world's largest cricket venue.

The Indians won all 10 of their matches before the final and were seeking a third trophy in their fourth appearance in a title match that brought a country of 1.4 billion people to a vir-

tual standstill. They were outplayed in every department by Australia, though, restricted to 240 all out on a slow pitch after losing the toss with only Virat Kohli (54) and Lokesh Rahul (66) making half-centuries.

Head became only the fifth player to score a century in a men's World Cup final – and third Australian after Ricky Ponting and

Adam Gilchrist – and delivered a significant moment in India's innings when taking a diving catch running back from cover to remove captain Rohit Sharma (47).

Australia finished the tournament with a run of nine straight wins, after starting with back-to-back defeats to India and South Africa.

India Demolish Sri Lanka To Lift Asia Cup 2023 Title

Mohammed Siraj conjured a magical spell of seam and swing bowling with magnificent figures of 6 for 21 as India crushed Sri Lanka by 10 wickets to lift the Asia Cup title after a gap of five years.

This was India's eighth Asia Cup title and also their biggest victory (263 balls) in ODIs in terms of balls remaining.

Siraj's astonishing effort saw defending champions Sri Lanka getting bundled out for 50. India did not bat an eyelid in the chase, as Shubman Gill (27) and Ishan Kishan (23) did the job in just 6.1 overs.

This was India's first title in a multi-nation event after their triumph in the Asia Cup 2018, and in a way, it also exorcised the ghost of India's 54 all out against Lanka in the Coca Cola Champions Trophy at Sharjah in 2000.

The match at Premadasa, forever, will be remembered for the way Siraj reduced the Lankan top-order to mere puppets of his sorcery.

Perhaps, he was des-



tinued to have a day like this, said the Hyderabad.

"Jitna naseeb mein hota hai wahi milta, aaj mera naseeb tha (You get what's in our destiny, today it was my destiny)," Siraj summed up the mood while talking to broadcasters in the mid-innings break.

It all started with Lanka electing to bat first after winning the toss, despite

heavily overcast conditions.

The match started 40 minutes after the scheduled 3 PM beginning, but a storm of a different kind was awaiting Sri Lanka a peak Siraj.

His spell ensured that Lanka batted just 15.2 overs, and this was also their lowest ODI total against India.

The pacer became only

the fourth bowler in ODI history to take four wickets in an over, and he matched former Lankan pacer Chaminda Vaas as the fastest to a five-wicket haul in one-dayers in just 16 deliveries.

Siraj also obliterated the best ODI figures against Sri Lanka, previously held by Pakistan pace legend Waqar Younis 6 for 26 at Sharjah in 1990.

Downtown Heroes Clinch Srinagar Premier League



Downtown Heroes FC emerged triumphant in the Srinagar Premier League 2023, playing 20 matches for 18 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw.

The Heroes' Premier Division win broke JK Bank FC's dominance in the league, making this victory a momentous occasion for Srinagar football.

Downtown's Heroes emerged first, JK Bank second and STFC Natipora third. The league was sponsored by New JK Roadways in collaboration with J&K Sports Council. The award ceremony

is yet to be conducted.

The Heroes also participated in the prestigious Durand Cup this year, showcasing their talent on a broader stage.

Downtown Heroes' dedication to both community engagement and competitive success sets them apart in the football realm, fostering a legacy that goes beyond the pitch.

That's a significant milestone for J&K football with DFA Srinagar conducting 220 matches in which each team got 21 matches to play in round robin format.

Real Kashmir Thrills Srinagar With Win In I-League Opener

Real Kashmir FC kick started their campaign on a winning note in the I-League 2023-24 opener, defeating Rajasthan United FC by two goals at a jam-packed TRC ground in Srinagar.

The victory of the Real Kashmir FC holds special significance for Jammu and Kashmir, as most of the players in the squad are homegrown talent. Six of them found their place in the starting 11.

Both the teams failed to score any goal in the first half but the Real Kashmir FC maintained their relentless pressure on the visiting team and managed two



goals in the second half – first by Wayne Vaz followed by Shaheer Shaheen.

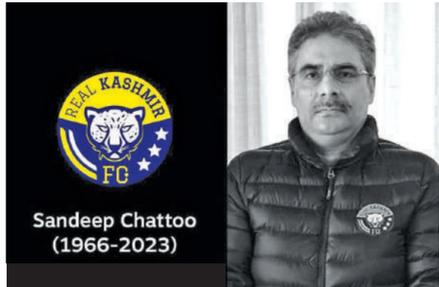
Since Saturday morning, passion was high as locals came out in large

numbers to support Real Kashmir FC, and their 2-0 win was an opportunity to celebrate. Some foreigners had also come to watch the match.

Real Kashmir Family Mourn Death Of Owner

In a shocking news for Srinagar and J&K's football fraternity, prominent businessman and Real Kashmir owner Sandeep Chattoo died of a heart attack in New Delhi on December 31.

According to the family, he experienced chest pain in the afternoon, following which he was swiftly taken to a hospital in Gurugram, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.



Sandeep Chattoo (1966-2023)

J&K Sqay Team Claims 9 Gold At 37th National Games



J&K Sqay Team emerged as a dominant force at the 37th National Games in Goa, secured an impressive haul of nine gold, five silver and five bronze medals, etching a historic achievement for

the region.

From an initial position of 20th in the medal tally, Jammu and Kashmir catapulted to the 12th spot, a remarkable feat fueled by the outstanding achievements of Sqay Team.

The list of gold medalists include Sania Manzoor, Aqsa Showkat, Disha Pandit, Shagupta Mehraj, Faizan Ayoub, Aman Naqashbandi, Arsalan Mehraj, Sheikh Hashim, Irfan Rangrez.

J&K Clinch 67th National School Games In Football

J&K football reached new heights after winning the 67th National School Games in Srinagar.

The team played Kerala in the semis, winning 7-6 on penalties at Polo Ground.

The final was played under lights at TRC Synthetic Turf. J&K scripted history by securing their first-ever NSG Football championship, defeating CISCE 1-0. Aditya Mahajan from J&K was named "Player of the



Match", while Owais Ayoub of J&K was the "Player of the Tournament".

Srinagar also hosted the games in Volleyball, with J&K finishing third.

Manchester City Complete Historic Treble With CL Win



Manchester City were crowned UEFA Champions League winners after a 1-0 win over Inter Milan in Istanbul.

Rodrigo's goal secured the victory on a glorious night for the football club that saw scenes of jubilation among the City supporters inside the Ataturk Stadium and across the world.

The victory over Inter

completes a historic treble for Man City, after winning the Premier League and FA Cup.

It is only the tenth occasion a European team has won a treble, with City joining Celtic (1967), Ajax (1972), PSV Eindhoven (1988), Manchester United (1999), Barcelona (2009 and 2015), Inter Milan (2010) and Bayern Munich (2013 and 2020).

Ronaldo Makes Saudi Debut After Big-Money Move

Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo made a winning start to life in the Saudi Pro League as he led Al Nassr to a 1-0 victory over Ettifaq in his first match, despite failing to score.

Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, is the all-time Champions League top-scorer, collecting five titles along the way, and has won seven domestic championships with Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus.

Ronaldo also holds the record for international goals with Portugal, with whom he won Euro 2016.

Media reports have claimed the Portugal star could be earning up to \$200 million a year from the deal, which would make him the highest-paid soccer player in history.



Novak Djokovic Achieves Legendary Status In 2023



Novak Djokovic, at 36, owned 2023 as his year, ending World No. 1 for a record-extending eighth time and officially became the first man to win 24 Grand Slam titles. He has tied Margaret Court for the most ever of any player in any era.

In 2023, Djokovic surpassed Rafael Nadal by winning three Grand Slams, giving him a total of 24 Major trophies. The Ser-

bian came near to winning a calendar slam but was stopped by Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz at Wimbledon. Only two men have ever won a calendar slam: Don Budge in 1938 and Rod Laver in 1962 and 1969.

Djokovic won his 40th ATP Masters title as he bagged the Paris Masters crown. Nadal holds the second position in the list with 36 victories, while Roger Federer has 28.

LeBron James Crowned NBA All-Time Leading Scorer

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to become the NBA's all-time leading scorer in February, setting the new mark with a fade-away jumpshot late in the third quarter of a home game against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"King James", who entered the game needing 36 points to break Abdul-Jabbar's

record of 38,387, sent the sold-out crowd into a frenzy when the ball splashed through the net, raising his arms in triumph as his team mates embraced him.

Lakers great Abdul-Jabbar, who took the title from Wilt Chamberlain with his signature skyhook on April 5, 1984, sat court-side at Tuesday's game and stood to applaud James after the record was broken.

