

Blazing Crisis: Surge In Forest Fires Threatens Kashmir Ecosystem

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: In recent weeks, the valley has seen a significant rise in forest fire incidents prompting authorities to place men and machinery on high alert. At least 15 forest fire incidents were reported in

Climate Change Influence

Kashmir over the past fortnight, spanning across various regions including Karnah, Shopian, Kulgam, Ganderbal, Uri, Bandipora, Tral, Sopore, and Doda, among others.

Not confined to the valley, forest fires were also reported in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on January 6, subsequently spreading to the Indian side, leading to security forces

Human-Induced Threat

be on alert to thwart any potential infiltration attempts facilitated by the blaze.

The fire extended to the forest area along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. The UT is richly endowed with diverse forest resources crucial for preserving the local ecosystem and acting as catchments for

Cross-Border Impact

Himalayan Rivers. Forests play a pivotal role in soil conservation and water security, meeting the needs of the local population for timber, firewood, fodder, and other forest produce.

According to Srinagar-based independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, the surge in forest fire incidents and

Ecosystem Riches at Risk

Kashmir can be traced back to the prolonged absence of precipitation.

"Over the last 40 days, no active Western Disturbance has affected the region, resulting in a dry atmosphere. This extended dry spell has deprived the vegetation of essential moisture, leaving it highly susceptible to ignition," he explained.

Terrain Challenges

What triggers forest fire?

The officials and the environmental experts blame persistent dry spell in Kashmir as the main reason for the bush fire. However, concerns have been raised about the non-seriousness of the J&K forest department in protecting the | [More on P6](#)

EL NINO DRIES UP NW HIMALAYAS

Snowless Winters Spark Concerns Over Water Resources



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: High mountain passes with barely any snow, skiers hoping to slalom down white slopes disappointed and tourists calling off trips to hill destinations, the El Nino effect is playing out across the northwest Himalayas with an unusually dry winter and no immediate relief in the offing. According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), 2023 was the warmest-on-record year and the warming El Nino event is likely to further fuel the heat in 2024. The El Nino phenomenon occurs when sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are higher than average in the eastern tropical Pacific, and there is a simultaneous

weakening of trade winds. The absence of snowfall is not a one-time thing but affects the annual cycle of snow.

"If it continues longer, it can have a huge cascading effect on socio-economic benefits. If you don't get (enough) snow, you don't get replenishment of water, it will impact agriculture, your health and can, in turn, impact your economy," glaciologist and Himalayan researcher A N Dimri told PTI.

And so it is that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) which struggles with snow clearance operations in tough weather conditions to keep the strategically located 11,800 feet altitude Zojila Pass open has had it easier this year. "Zojila Pass | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Shivers with Sub-Zero Temperatures

Press Trust Of India

There was slight respite from the intense cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Monday but the minimum temperatures remained several degrees below the freezing point across the valley, owing to clear sky, Met officials said. Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, up from minus 5.6 degrees Celsius noted the previous night, the officials said. Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, while the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir noted | [More on P6](#)

Goal Is To Ensure That Govt. Schemes Reach All Eligible People: PM

New Delhi: Asserting that the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has not only become the journey of a government but of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said when the poor, farmers, women and youth are empowered, the nation will become powerful.

Addressing the Yatra in various parts of the country via video conferencing, the prime minister said that under earlier governments, the scope of discussions on agricultural policy was only limited to production and sale, neglecting the various issues faced by farmers daily.

"Our government has made all-out efforts to ease every difficulty of the farmers," Modi said.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Modi also talked about the transfer of at least Rs 30,000 to every farmer through PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, promotion

» VBSY proving to be boon for health of poor

» When poor, farmers, women, youth are empowered, country will become powerful

» Govt committed to development of citizens living in tribal areas

» Our government has made all-out efforts to ease every difficulty of the farmers

» 10 crore women have joined women self-help groups in the last 10 years

» More than Rs 7.5 lakh crore have been provided to the women.

» VBSY connected with about 11 crore people.

» Our government has made all-out efforts to ease every difficulty of the farmers



of cooperation in agriculture with organisations like

PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Society) and Farmers

HM's Jammu Visit Deferred Due To Bad Weather

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu on Tuesday has been deferred in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and forecast, officials said on Monday.

Shah was scheduled to visit the Union Territory to attend the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', a Central government programme, in Jammu and inaugurate projects worth Rs 1,379 crore, including E-buses and lay the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 2,348 crore.

The home minister was also scheduled to undertake a review of the security and development of Jammu and Kashmir and planned to travel to Dera Ki Gali in Poonch sector and



meet the families of the civilians killed recently in this area, said a home ministry official.

He was also scheduled to distribute appointment letters to several youths on compassionate ground in Jammu, the officials said.

"However, the visit is deferred in view of the prevailing inclement | [More on P6](#)

REPUBLIC DAY PREPARATIONS

Enhance Night Patrols to Curb Terrorist Movement: IGP Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, VK Birdi on Monday directed officers to intensify anti-terrorist operations and take stringent action against individuals or organizations supporting anti-national activities in the Union Territory.

Birdi passed these directions during a security review meeting held at the police control room (PCR) here,



a police spokesperson said. During the meeting, he

BIRDI EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE SECURITY FORCES and assured the public of their commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment, besides stressed the importance of community support in maintaining peace and security in the valley."

said, the participating officers briefed | [More on P6](#)

Two Detained For Questioning In Jammu

Two people were briefly detained for questioning in Jammu's Rangoor area on Monday as police here launched a drive to check activities of anti-national elements ahead of the Republic Day celebrations, officials said. Although there was no specific | [More on P6](#)

PCB Scientist Arrested For Accepting Bribe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) Monday trapped and arrested Dr. Bilquees Ara Siddiqui, Scientist-B of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Srinagar for demanding and accepting a bribe of 5,000.

In a statement, ACB said that it received a written complaint against Dr. Bilquees Ara, Scientist-B in the State Pollution Control Board for demanding bribes for issuance of 'Consent To Operate' (CTO) for a bakery unit located at Industrial Estate, Khunmoh.

"The complainant in his complaint alleged that he had applied for 'Consent To Operate' (CTO) from the Pollution Control Board in the month of Nov-2023. His application was pending with Dr. Bilquees (accused) who was unnecessarily delaying the matter. It was further | [More on P6](#)

DRUGS SEVER RELATIONSHIPS

Agony of Families Caught in the Grip of Addiction

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Fehmeeda (name changed), a cancer-stricken mother from Dalgate is battling not only her illness but also the harsh blows inflicted by her own son under the influence of drugs. In the dim glow of her tear-streaked face, Fehmeeda's eyes mirror the silent storms raging within.

"He doesn't give a damn about who I am, always remains high on drugs, goes insane, and beats and abuses me. I am battling with cancer and spend my monthly salary of Rs 9000 on my treatment. My son treats me badly rather than showing sympathy for his sick mother," Fehmeeda said in a video that went viral on social media.

Despite filing a report against my son at the concerned police station, she said that the authorities outrightly



refused to take any action, saying 'there was nothing they could do about a drug addict.'

"What happens if he murders me or injures me? Several accounts of sons in the valley killing their mothers have

surfaced over the years. Who will be responsible, if the police act as a mute spectator? He fractured my arm this morning and doused my back with scalding tea. To satisfy his drug craving, he also took

my phone and other belongings," she added.

Fehmeeda's heart-wrenching story is just one among the many "ticking time bombs" – chronic drug abusers – whose aggressive tendencies rupture the very fabric of familial bonds.

Experts claimed that drug abusers emotionally mistreat people around them since they put too much emphasis on drugs. Long-term substance abuse can lead to several mental illnesses such as bi-polar disorder or schizophrenia in victims, which can cause them to act violently against themselves or those around them, they added.

"The close family members are constantly at risk because the abuser may attack them under the severe influence of drugs, or may become violent out of a desire for money or craving for drugs," Dr Fazl-e-Roub, DM Addiction | [More on P6](#)

HC Upholds PSA Detention Of Accused In 2022 HSHS Blast

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a petition, challenging detention order under Public Safety Act against a 26-year-old youth, one of the accused in a grenade blast at Hari Singh High Street here in which two civilians were killed and 37 people including some security personnel injured on 6 March 2022.

The youth—Mohammad Bariq Magray (26), a resident of Khanyar Srinagar, has filed a petition through his friend against the PSA detention order (DMS/PSA/95/22) dated 30 August 2022.

Magray had claimed that he is a peace loving and law-abiding citizen of India and has never indulged in any activity which could be termed

as "prejudicial to the security of the State". He submitted that on 6 March 2022 some unknown persons hurled a hand grenade at Hari Singh High Street Srinagar, which claimed the life of two civilians and left thirty-seven other persons injured. Subsequently police had filed a case (FIR No. 18/2022) under

Sections 307, 302 IPC, 7/27 Indian Arms Act and 16, 23 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the Police Station Shaheed Gunj Srinagar.

On the basis of suspicion, Magray said that he was picked up and arrested in the FIR. He said that the competent Court of TADA/POTA at Srinagar granted him bail on 26th September last year.

On the other hand, the authorities stated that the order of detention | [More on P6](#)

4 Goods Stores Guttled In Chattabal Blaze

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least four goods stores were gutted in a massive blaze that broke out at Pinche Mandi area of Chattabal in Srinagar on Monday.

An official said the fire erupted in one of the stores used to stock clothes, merchandise, and various items earlier this morning.

Despite swift action to contain the fire, four stores were damaged, he said.

Moreover, Noor Alam, Incharge of the Fire and Emergency Department, Srinagar City, said the fire department received the distress call around 12:09 PM.

In response, four F&ES vehicles were promptly dispatched to extinguish the flames.

He said that they reached the spot and doused the flames, but by then, four stores were damaged.

Additionally, Khurshid Ahmad Mir, a local

The Fire erupted in one of the stores used to stock clothes, merchandise, and various items earlier this morning.

resident from the area, said they were not present at the place when the fire erupted, but they are thankful to the authorities for their swift action.

He said they have not estimated the damage yet, but the losses are in lakhs. The affected godown housed various goods, including clothes and other items.

Furthermore, he appealed to the authorities for financial assistance and urged them to intervene and provide support to those affected by the unfortunate incident.



District Admin Srinagar Bids Adieu To Outgoing DC Aijaz Asad

Accords Warm Welcome To Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din As DC Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Administration Srinagar Monday organized an impressive function here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to bid a warm farewell in the honor of former Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad who has been posted as Administrative Secretary, Planning & Monitoring Department and Civil Aviation Department.

On the occasion, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat who assumed the charge of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar was also accorded a warm welcome by the Officers and other Staff of the DC Office Srinagar.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar RTO Kashmir, Additional Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue,

SDMs, ACD, Tehsildars, all District & Sectoral Officers and Officials were present on the occasion.

While expressing their views on the occasion, all the Officers highlighted the contribution of outgoing DC Mohammad Aijaz as the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and unanimously lauded his efforts in shaping Developmental initiatives taken in Srinagar District and in measures to ensure a prompt and efficient public delivery system.

They also underscored his tireless efforts and measures taken in mitigation of Covid-19 pandemic, containment of drug menace, employment generation and infrastructure development.

They also thanked outgoing DC Mohammad Aijaz for bringing vibrancy in the Administration by showing keen interest in solving the public issues and guiding all the Officers of District Administration Srinagar. The Officers also enumerated the achievements made under his vibrant and dynamic guidance.

During the event, the District Administration Srinagar also accorded a warm welcome to Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on being posted as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.

On the occasion, outgoing DC, Mohammad Aijaz Asad in his address spoke at length about the team spirit and the improved work culture in the District Administration at all levels. He advised all the Officers to work with a missionary zeal, sincerity and dedication for the larger interest of the public. Mohammad Aijaz also appreciated the efforts of the Officers for their support and cooperation during his about 3 years stay as Deputy Commissioner to make all developmental initiatives a success. He also praised the devotion, dedication and professionalism shown by the Officer in his working.

During the event, the District Administration Srinagar also accorded a warm welcome to Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on being posted as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel Unit under the Name and Style "Elite Explorations Holidays" situated at Hafizbagh Mallabagh Srinagar opposite Jammu and Kashmir Bank ATM

Public Notice

I Owais Ahmad Sofi S/O Nazir Ahmad Sofi R/O Hafizbagh Mallabagh Srinagar intends to apply in the department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style "Elite Explorations Holidays" situated at Hafizbagh Mallabagh Srinagar opposite Jammu and Kashmir Bank ATM, under TOURISM TRADE ACT 1978/82/2011-12

Whereas, I will submit Resident Proof, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head, Visiting Card), Photograph of the unit (Indoor & Outdoor) and two Passports size photographs to the department of Tourism as per Prescribed Checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutional/Bank Organisation, etc for objection.

If anyone having objection should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, TRC Srinagar, Kashmir (Email id: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley, No Objection beyond a period of 07 days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 35/PHEP/Fresh OF 2023-24 Dated:- 08-01-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama invites e-tenders from reputed and successful Bidders / Firms / Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various water supply schemes of PHE Division Pulwama of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on <https://jktenders.gov.in> in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Table: 1.1 General Details

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1.	Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves Construction of Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs), Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Boundary walls, Protection Works etc. at various Water Supply schemes of Division Pulwama of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.	As per Table 1.3, Tender Fee Details	02% of the estimated cost	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama.
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Table 1.2: Critical Dates

i.	Publish Date	08-01-2024 at 4:00 PM
ii. <td>Document Download/sale start Date</td> <td>08-01-2024 at 4:00 PM</td>	Document Download/sale start Date	08-01-2024 at 4:00 PM
iii. <td>Bid submission Start date</td> <td>08-01-2024 at 4:00 PM</td>	Bid submission Start date	08-01-2024 at 4:00 PM
iv. <td>Bid submission end date</td> <td>15-01-2024 at 4:00 PM</td>	Bid submission end date	15-01-2024 at 4:00 PM
v. <td>Date and time of Bid opening</td> <td>16-01-2024 at 2:00 PM</td>	Date and time of Bid opening	16-01-2024 at 2:00 PM

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal <https://jktenders.gov.in>. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama.

4. Bids must be accompanied by bid security declaration/ EMD and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5&6 of the table 1.1; and shall be payable at Pulwama.

a. Bid Security for an amount as specified in Column 5 of the table 1.1 of the advertised cost of the work, in the shape of FDR/CDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama will have to be uploaded on the tender portal i.e. <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

b. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e-challan in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama. The bidder shall deposit tender fee as per table 1.3.

6. After opening of financial cover the successful bidder (L1) shall have to submit the hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents in the office of tender opening authority.

7. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in>

9. Queries by e mail if any should be made at atenpheyulwama@gmail.com.

Table 1.3: Tender Fee Details.

S.No	Tentative Cost of Tender	Tender Fee
1	For tenders Upto Rs. 5.00 Lakhs	Rs. 200/-
2	For tenders more than Rs. 5.00 Lakhs and upto 10.00 Lakhs	Rs. 500/-
3	For tenders more than Rs. 10.00 Lakhs and upto 50.00 Lakhs	Rs. 1000/-

4	For tenders more than Rs. 50.00 Lakhs and upto 1.00 Cr.	Rs. 2000/-
5	For tenders more than Rs.1.00 Cr. And upto 2.50 Cr	Rs. 3000/-
6	For tenders more than Rs.2.50 Cr and upto 5.00 Cr	Rs. 4000/-
7	For tenders more than Rs. 5.00 Cr and upto 10.00 Cr	Rs. 5000/-
8	For tenders more than Rs. 10.00 Cr and upto 20.00 Cr	Rs. 10000/-
9	Above Rs. 10.00 Cr	Rs. 20000/-

ANNEXURE I SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S. No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (PHE) Division	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Time for Completion (Days)	Class of Contractor	Tender Call
1.	Batnoor Shahooria	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS Batnoor Shahooria by way of Providing, Supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, retaining wall/drain/DG shed & allied works / Road restoration/Berm cuts incl. installation of 420 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	107.78	120	AAY	2nd
2.	NC Tengguna	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS NC Tengguna by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, Construction of Approach road to various structures/Restoration of roads, Construction of Anchor/Saddle blocks incl. installation of 116 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	80.05	120	AAY	2nd
3.	NC Wagam	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS NC Wagam by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, Construction of Approach road / Road Restoration and Anchor /saddle blocks incl. installation of 218 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	83.86	120	AAY	2nd
4.	Nundresh Colony Gabarpora	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS Nundresh Colony Gabarpora by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, Construction of Approach road & Anchor /saddle blocks incl. installation of 135 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	94.31	120	AAY	2nd
5.	Laribal Begumbagh	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS Laribal Begumbagh by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of 37000 Gallons Sump incl. Sluice Chamber, Construction of 02 No Pump House cum Operator Quarters, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, Construction of Intake works, & Anchor /saddle blocks & Restoration of roads, incl. installation of 122 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	137.51	120	AAY	2nd
6.	Rajab Colony Parigam	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS Rajab Colony Parigam by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of 40000 Gallons Service Reservoir incl. Sluice Chamber, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, Restoration of roads, Construction of Anchor & saddle blocks incl. installation of 342 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	90.39	120	AAY	2nd
7.	Chackpora	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS Chackpora by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, Construction of Approach road to various structures, Construction of Anchor & saddle blocks incl. installation of 136 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	55.81	120	AAY	2nd
8.	Khilani Gurd Moosa	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS Khilani Gurd Moosa by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE pipes / laying & fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, retaining wall/drain/DG shed & allied works, Development of premises incl. approach path and levelling dressing & Road restoration/Berm cuts incl. installation of 488 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	76.06	120	AAY	2nd
9.	Kisrigam	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS Kisrigam by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, retaining wall/drain & allied works & Road restoration/Berm cuts incl. installation of 558 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	164.49	120	AAY	2nd
10.	Niloora Pachtipora	Successful testing & Commissioning of WSS Niloora Pachtipora by way of Providing, supplying & Laying of HDPE Pipes / Laying & Fitting of G.I pipes, Construction of Pump House cum Operator Quarter, Construction of chain link fencing around structures, retaining wall/drain/DG shed & allied works, Development of premises incl. approach concrete path / levelling dressing & Road restoration/Berm cuts incl. installation of 418 FHTCs. (JJM)	Pulwama	124.12	120	AAY	2nd

No: PHEP/4515-31
DIPK-14881/23 Date: 08-01-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama

- 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

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 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

26 Jumada al-Sani
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	6 : 08
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	4: 00
Magrib	5:44
ISHA	7: 07

This Day In History

- 475 - Byzantine Emperor Zeno is forced to flee his capital at Constantinople.
- 1296 - Earl Floris V signs accord with French King
- 1317 - Phillips V, the Tall, crowned king of France
- 1431 - Judges' investigations for the trial of Joan of Arc begin in Rouen, France, the seat of the English occupation government
- 1493 - 1st sight of manatees by Christopher Columbus
- 1558 - Geneva becomes independent from Berne canton, Switzerland
- 1718 - France declares war on Spain
- 1760 - Afghans defeat Marathas in battle of Barari Ghat
- 1792 - Russia & Turkey sign Peace of Jassy
- 1812 - Swedish Pomerania (Germany) seized by Napoleon
- 1862 - The first petroleum shipment (1,329 barrels) from the U.S. to Europe arrives at Victoria Docks, London, England aboard the Elizabeth Watts
- 1878 - Umberto I becomes King of Italy.
- 1879 - Kiriland Warbler discovered on Andros Island in Bahamas
- 1880 The Great Gale of 1880 devastates parts of Oregon and Washington with high wind and heavy snow
- 1894 - New England Telephone and Telegraph installs the first battery-operated telephone switchboard in Lexington, Massachusetts.
- 1912 - US Marines send troops to Honduras
- 1916 - The Ottoman Empire prevails in the Battle of Çanakkale, as the last British troops evacuated
- 1917 - World War I: the Battle of Rafa occurs near the Egyptian border with Palestine.
- 1930 - Albert Kahn Associates architectural firm become consulting architects for all industrial construction in the Soviet Union
- 1936 - Semi-automatic rifles adopted by US army
- 1942 - US Joint Chiefs of Staff created
- 1943 - Japanese government in Java limits sale & use of motorcars
- 1952 Karel Sys wins European heavyweight boxing title
- 1957 Karachayevo-Cherkess Autonomous Region reestablished in RSFSR
- 1960 - Building of Aswan dam in Egypt, begins
- 1968 - Surveyor 7 space probe soft lands on Moon
- 1969 - First trial flight of Concorde supersonic jetliner, Bristol, England
- 1969 - Prime Minister of Northern Ireland Terence O'Neill travels to London to meet Home Secretary James Callaghan and brief him on the growing violence in Northern Ireland
- 1973 - Luna 21 launched, to Moon
- 1975 - Australia beat England by 171 runs in 4th Test to regain Ashes
- 1986 - After losing a patent battle with Polaroid, Kodak must give up its instant camera business.
- 1987 - Chinese Vietnamese border fights, 1,500 killed
- 1990 - 64th US manned space mission STS 32 (Columbia 10) launches into orbit
- 1998 Anatoly Solovoy & Pavel Vinogradov spacewalk record 3 hrs 8 mins
- 2001 - Shenzhou 2, an unmanned Chinese spacecraft, is launched.
- 2001 - Apple announced iTunes at the Macworld Expo in San Francisco, for organizing and playing digital music and videos
- 2005 - The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, commonly known as the Naivasha Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement rebel group in Naivasha, Kenya.
- 2005 - Elections are held to replace Yasser Arafat as head of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He is succeeded by Rawhi Fattouh.
- 2005- The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement rebel group in Naivasha, Kenya.
- 2007- Apple Inc CEO Steve Jobs announces the iPhone

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 09-01-2024

Snowless Winter

This winter, plains in Kashmir have so far received no snow. The familiar, picturesque blanket of snow that usually swathes the Valley during the harsh Chilai Kalanis is absent, although high-altitude areas like Gulmarg have witnessed snowfall more than once. But it has been far less than in 2022. Data from the India Meteorological Department shows precipitation of 17.6 mm was recorded in Gulmarg in December 2023 compared with 255.2 mm in 2020, which is a significant drop.

The impact of this uncharacteristically snowless winter extends far beyond aesthetics. The intricate balance of nature in this region heavily depends on the timely replenishment of glaciers. The stark decline in snowfall translates to reduction in the glaciers' volume, a critical source for the Valley's rivers and streams. The depletion is a looming crisis for agriculture and horticulture, the lifeblood of Kashmir's economy.

Scientific voices resonate with concern, attributing this phenomenon to the creeping global climate change. Over the past few decades, the once-reliable snowfall has dwindled significantly. The evidence of glaciers retreating at an alarming rate, exemplified by the Kolahai glacier's unsettling retreat, starkly illustrates this grim reality.

While the complex nature of Kashmir's weather system is often cited as a contributing factor, meteorologists highlight the atypical behavior of the western disturbance—a critical source of precipitation—remaining stationed in the North, depriving the Valley of its much-needed snow.

The implications stretch beyond mere inconvenience. The ramifications touch every facet of life in Kashmir. Winter tourism is a critical source of revenue. Thankfully, however, tourism has so far not been impacted. In fact, throngs of visitors continue to arrive in the Valley. But less snowfall does have an impact. Skiing activities, a cherished attraction, are restricted to higher altitudes due to inadequate snow cover in lower regions.

The snowfall, however, is important not merely for tourism but as a lifeline for the glaciers which keep our rivers and streams flowing and agriculture fields irrigated. High-altitude areas retain their sub-zero temperatures, enabling the snow to endure throughout the year. Kashmir witnesses its heaviest snow during chilai kalan and the snowfall progressively reduces in February and March when spring sets in. This keeps glaciers replenished. Alarming, the experts fear a drastic reduction in snowfall by the century's end, and this can have horrific consequences not just for Kashmir but the region.

Here's hoping that snow does bless the plains in the remaining period of the winter. Snowfall is a boon for tourism and the Valley's economy. There's still time for snow as we are only halfway through chillai Kalan.

OTHER OPINION

A new high

On January 6 evening, a stream of commands transmitted by scientists and engineers of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) were translated by a computer onboard the Aditya-L1 spacecraft into manoeuvres that guided it into orbit around an imaginary point in space. Thus, Aditya-L1 reached its destination, around the L1 Lagrange point, from where it will have an unfettered view of the sun for its expected lifetime of five years. Aditya-L1 is an observatory-class solar mission that will study the sun with seven instruments: VELC, a coronagraph to study the uppermost layer of the sun's atmosphere; SUT, an ultraviolet imaging telescope; SoLEXS and HELIOS, to study solar flares and coronal mass ejections; ASPEX and PAPA, to study the solar wind and plasma; and a set of digital magnetometers to measure properties of the magnetic field around the spacecraft. ISRO picked the L1 Lagrange point — 1.5 million km from the earth in the earth-sun direction and one of five Lagrange points in the earth-sun system — because the gravitational influences of the two bodies interact such that a smaller body here will not experience a net tug towards either. So, Aditya-L1 can stay at L1 while expending little fuel. Its scientific mission will begin in a month or so, once its thrusters' emissions drift away.

As such, Aditya-L1 supplements India's storied history of observing the sun — dating back to the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory, which commenced operations in 1901 — by lofting it into space. It also follows the XPoSat mission, launched on January 1 to become only the world's second X-ray polarimetry satellite, and eight years after AstroSat, which reached several highs of its own. An important issue with such achievements is public perception. For example, while Aditya-L1 and AstroSat are big strides from India's point of view, they pale in comparison to the imaging abilities of the James Webb Space Telescope, which is operated by three space agencies. Yet, many continue to expect the Indian spacecraft to capture hi-res photographs of the cosmos and are disillusioned when it does not. This is not fair (setting aside the fact that not all instruments are imagers). ISRO can do more, too, by expanding its own and its collaborating institutes' public outreach efforts, such as by hosting open days focused on specific missions and commissioning science communication on new results at regular intervals. Everyone should be able to celebrate a new high, but especially the people at large, so ISRO should also consider including components on missions that feed public interest. All these efforts will require funds, but considering the love ISRO has been getting from the government of late, it may just be a matter of asking.

The Hindu

Are We All Victims of Digital Stress?

Dr. Osia Majid

“
Techno stress is indeed a prevalent issue in our modern society. The constant use of technology and our dependence on it can have a significant impact on our mental and emotional well-being. With the rise of smartphones, social media, and the always-on culture, it's no wonder that techno stress has become somewhat of an epidemic



Feature image (only for print): Photo for representational purposes only. Lisk Feng for NYT

In today's fast-paced technology-driven world, our constant interaction with digital devices and online platforms has become an integral part of our daily lives. While technology offers numerous benefits and conveniences, it also brings forth a new set of challenges. One such challenge is techno stress, which refers to the stress and negative emotions that can arise from our relationship with technology. Techno stress is indeed a prevalent issue in our modern society. The constant use of technology and our dependence on it can have a significant impact on our mental and emotional well-being. With the rise of smartphones, social media, and the always-on culture, it's no wonder that techno stress has become somewhat of an epidemic. You are aware of this epidemic, yet you ignore it. This modern-day epidemic, known as techno stress, silently infiltrates our lives, affecting our well-being and productivity. The addictive behaviour associated with this affliction often stems from a constant engagement with digital devices and technology. Ignoring the warning signs of techno stress only exacerbates its impact on mental health and exacerbates the challenges we face in our hyper-connected world. In the relentless pursuit of productivity and connectivity, we find ourselves tethered to screens, notifications, and the constant hum of technology. The very tools designed to simplify our lives often become sources of overwhelming pressure, leading to burnout and a pervasive sense of unease. The question then becomes not only how to recognize techno stress but, more importantly, how to break free from its grip. Understanding

the roots of techno stress is crucial for devising effective strategies to mitigate its effects. From incessant email notifications to the constant barrage of social media updates, the sources of techno stress are diverse and omnipresent. Ignoring this digital epidemic only perpetuates a cycle of dependency, hindering our ability to truly thrive in the age of technology.

To address techno stress, it's imperative to cultivate digital mindfulness and adopt healthier technology habits. This involves creating intentional boundaries between ourselves and our devices, incorporating regular digital detoxes, and fostering a mindful approach to technology use. As we navigate this digital landscape, let us not succumb to the addictive allure of constant connectivity but instead strive for a harmonious balance between the benefits of technology and the preservation of our mental well-being.

One of the main causes of techno stress is the constant need to stay connected. Social media, e-mails, and instant messaging platforms have made it challenging to disconnect from work and personal life. The incessant barrage of notifications, messages, and alerts can lead to feelings of anxiety and stress, even during off-hours.

Another cause of techno stress is the pressure to keep up with technology. As technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, individuals are often required to learn new systems and processes quickly, leading to feelings of overwhelm and frustration. The fear of missing out on the latest trends or falling behind can also contribute to stress and anxiety. The constant use of devices can lead to eyestrain,

headaches, and neck and back pain. The blue light emitted by screens can also disrupt sleep patterns, leading to fatigue, irritability and sleep disturbances. The expectation to always be available and responsive can create feelings of pressure and overwhelm. The need to constantly check emails, messages, and social media notifications can lead to a sense of being constantly "on" and make it difficult to disconnect and relax which can be mentally exhausting. Another aspect of techno stress is the information overload that comes with the digital age. We are bombarded with an overwhelming amount of information from various sources, and it can be difficult to filter through it all. This can lead to feelings of being overwhelmed, anxious, cognitive overload and exhaustion.

Techno stress is a prevalent issue that affects individuals in their daily lives. The constant use of technology can lead to physical and mental health issues, as well as feelings of overwhelm and burnout. By establishing healthy boundaries and practicing effective time management strategies, individuals can reduce their techno stress and improve their overall well-being. Regularly cleaning up digital spaces by organizing files, deleting unnecessary apps, decluttering the inbox and a clean and organized digital environment can help reduce stress and improve productivity.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a researcher and can be reached at osiamajid2@gmail.com



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Climate Change is Real

OVER the years climate change has become a defining crisis threatening the survival of human life. It has brought terrible implications in every part of the planet earth. According to the United Nations, the extraction of coal, oil, and gas releases billions of tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere every year. Also, human activity is producing record-high levels of greenhouse gas emissions, with no indications of slowing down in the future. The impacts of climate change need special attention and efforts are needed in negotiating the global climate change crisis that can help in the preservation of the earth and its environment. Ever since man

set his foot on the path of research and discovery he left hardly anything untouched.

The way new branches of knowledge and information are growing can be described as no less than a miracle. The objects or tasks which were considered impossible and unattainable stand conquered. However this exploration has put the earth at stake and our environment well. It is as well. The deterioration is going on continuously and has now not only put our own survival in danger but the fate of the earth itself is in jeopardy. The ever increasing dependability on the non renewable resources of irreparable reserves of energy has done an irreparable damage to our envi-

ronment. The gases emanating from them have depleted the ozone layer and also increased the presence of the harmful gases.

The need of the hour is to make people aware about their role and contribution they can make towards the protection of earth. It is an important issue confronted by the people all over the world. Not only should our efforts be at national and global level, but more importantly at local level, because the problem is all pervasive. It isn't too late to come forward and do something. As already mentioned it is a global phenomenon which requires the efforts of each one of us and thereby foster a change in the whole world.

Perhaps there is an important role which can be played by the student community in sensitizing the society about this grave issue confronting planet earth. Climate change and environmental degradation are two pressing challenges that humanity is facing today.

Unless sincere efforts are not put in place to counter the climate crises; organizing seminars and framing global climate change agreements are less likely to help the cause. All the nations across the globe should take concrete steps to curb the serious impacts of climate change on human society.

Shahid Ul Islam

Protect Your Bones

An Orthopaedic Doctor's Prescription for a Safe Winter

In anticipation of snowfall and freezing temperatures causing icy conditions on roads, noted Orthopaedician **Dr. Fiaz Dar** warns against running or taking shortcuts, emphasizing the potential for serious injuries. Dr. Dar, expressing a cautious stance on Traditional Bone Setting (TBS), notes the risk of inadvertently worsening injuries, which can result in complications and potential long-term disabilities due to the lack of standardized training and adherence to modern medical principles. In a comprehensive interview with **Farooq Shah**, Dr. Dar delves into various aspects of bone health.



Consuming a diet abundant in empty calories, processed foods, and high-fat meals, coupled with a low intake of green leafy vegetables, heightens the risk of various health problems, including issues related to bones and joints. Adopting a balanced diet that includes ample fibre, proteins, minerals, and vitamins can significantly decrease the occurrence of skeletal-related ailments



Farooq Shah

Excerpts

If we pay a casual visit to the Bone and Joint Hospital, there is a substantial uptick of bone-related accidents during the winter months. What factors are responsible for such a sudden escalation of bone-related issues?

Various orthopaedic issues tend to increase during winter, primarily due to slips and falls on icy surfaces such as steps, porches, and sidewalks, resulting in ankle, wrist, hip, and back fractures. Snow-covered roads decrease friction and vehicle manoeuvrability, elevating the risk of road accidents, exacerbated by poor visibility and reduced daylight. Shovelling ice to clear roads commonly leads to back strains and disc problems. Winter's low physical activity, atmospheric pressure changes, and reduced sunlight contribute to a rise in arthritis cases. Insufficient Vitamin D from reduced sunshine and intake further increases bone and joint ailments.

As an orthopaedic attending to patients daily, what are the prevailing bone-related challenges frequently encountered by the Kashmiri population, and are there distinct factors contributing to these issues?

In my clinical experience, bone-related issues among the general Kashmiri population align with global patterns, but conditions like Knee Osteoarthritis and Osteoporosis appear to be more prevalent. This heightened occurrence can be attributed to cultural practices such as sitting cross-legged and a notably low intake of calcium and minerals, particularly among females.

Are there specific factors that render females more susceptible to spine damage, and what proactive measures can be undertaken to mitigate these risks?

Females are generally more susceptible to orthopaedic conditions like some fractures and arthritis-related ailments. The cause seems to be low bone mineral density seen in this group because of hormonal changes seen after menopause. Arthritis related ailments seem to be immune mediated and genetic factors are believed to be the most likely factor of this disease being

more common in females, I think proper diet, good in calcium and minerals, adequate amount of vitamin D3 and good physical activity seem to be the way forward to deal with osteoporosis. In addition hormone replacement therapy and some medications used in post-menopausal women have brought a dramatic decline in osteoporosis seen in this population.

In what ways does an improper diet contribute to bone health issues, and what dietary guidelines do you propose to enhance and preserve skeletal well-being?

Consuming a diet abundant in empty calories, processed foods, and high-fat meals, coupled with a low intake of green leafy vegetables, heightens the risk of various health problems, including issues related to bones and joints. Adopting a balanced diet that includes ample fibre, proteins, minerals, and vitamins can significantly decrease the occurrence of skeletal-related ailments. Regular, brief exercises each day also prove beneficial in reducing orthopaedic-related issues.

How significant is weight management in preventing orthopaedic complications, and what advice would you offer to individuals grappling with concerns related to weight and joint health?

The consensus is widespread that the increased burden on the skeletal system observed in the obese population changes body mechanics, adversely impacting joint function. Obesity stands out as a primary risk factor for the onset and advancement of joint-related issues, particularly in weight-bearing joints such as the knee, hip, and ankle. Obesity

is believed to induce a chronic, low-grade pro-inflammatory state, contributing to heightened joint pain. Addressing obesity in orthopaedics requires a multidisciplinary approach. Regular physical activity for a few minutes each day and adherence to a well-balanced, healthy diet have demonstrated significant efficacy in managing orthopaedic issues related to obesity.

Could you elaborate on the consequences of calcium deficiency on bone health and outline practical steps for addressing and preventing such deficiencies?

Calcium is a crucial mineral within the body, playing a key role in the formation of robust bones and teeth. Its significance extends to the proper functioning of the heart and other muscles. Insufficient calcium intake elevates the risk of disorders like osteoporosis, osteopenia, and other conditions related to calcium deficiency. Inadequate calcium in children may hinder their full growth potential.

Ensuring the recommended daily calcium intake is essential, achievable through dietary sources, supplements, or vitamins. Women, in particular, should prioritize increased calcium intake earlier than men, with meeting the necessary calcium requirements becoming especially crucial as women approach menopause.

For the elderly population, what are the prevalent bone-related issues such as deterioration, desiccation, orthopraxis, and osteoarthritis, and what strategies can be employed to manage these conditions effectively?

As individuals age, their joints

undergo the aging process, leading to a condition known as Osteoarthritis. The advancement of this ailment can be effectively decelerated through appropriate physical exercises and weight control. Additionally, the adequate consumption of calcium, minerals, and vitamins plays a supplementary role in reducing the occurrence and progression of such conditions.

What proactive strategies would you advise to forestall the onset of osteoarthritis, particularly in populations exposed to challenging environmental conditions?

Osteoarthritis is a condition affecting the cartilage in joints and can be addressed through preventive measures and early treatment. The disease typically begins to manifest over a span of 10 to 15 years, impacting daily activities and work capabilities. Unfortunately, healthcare providers often delay intervention until joint degeneration necessitates hip or knee replacement. Alternatively, osteoarthritis should be regarded as a chronic ailment where preventive and comprehensive early care align with established practices for other chronic diseases. Modifiable risk factors like joint injury, obesity, and impaired muscle function can be targeted through primary and secondary preventive strategies. Choosing interventions that are likely to be acceptable to the patient is essential for optimizing adherence and persistence with the treatment regimen.

How does regular exercise contribute to maintaining robust bone health, and could you suggest specific exercises tailored for individuals residing in hilly terrains?

Bone, as a living tissue, exhibits a strengthening and densifying response to physical activity. Exercise enhances the generation of cells constituting bone tissue. Weight-bearing exercises, specifically advantageous for fostering robust bones, exert stress on the skeletal system. Examples of such exercises encompass walking, jogging, running, and stair climbing. Additionally, weight-bearing exercises offer benefits in strength training, incorporating the use of weights and resistance bands.

In terms of spine health, how does posture impact overall well-being, and what practical tips can be offered to ensure good posture and prevent spine-related complications?

We've likely all been advised to stand or sit up straight at some point. While it may have seemed somewhat bothersome in the moment, the guidance was surely given with good intent. The fact is, posture does matter for back health. Maintaining good posture is crucial for the health of many structures in the back and spine by keeping them properly aligned. Correct posture, along with adequate back support, helps reduce the incidence of back and neck pain. For a healthy back, it's important to keep the chin parallel to the floor, with knees and feet facing straight ahead. Ideally, a straight line should be drawable from the earlobes through the shoulders, back, hips, and knees, extending all the way to the middle of the fingers.

Why do certain individuals experience heightened joint pain during cold weather, and what measures can be adopted to alleviate discomfort and maintain joint functionality?

In my practice, I frequently encounter patients who report stiffness, aches, and pains, particularly when the weather changes, especially in the winter months. However, I acknowledge that these effects are not universal. The Bone & Joint pains during winter appear to lack a singular explanation. One theory suggests a correlation with the drop in barometric pressure, causing the expansion of tendons, muscles, and other soft tissues, leading to increased pain. Additionally, adverse weather conditions can influence an individual's mood, with a tendency to feel more depressed in cloudy

and cold weather compared to a normal sunny day. To mitigate these risks, individuals are advised to dress in layers for warmth, engage in muscle and bone-strengthening exercises, and maintain a healthy weight. Staying active indoors, ensuring a good night's sleep, following a nutritious diet, and maintaining a positive outlook are also recommended strategies.

Considering the heightened risk of falls on icy roads, what specific precautions can individuals take to minimize the likelihood of slipping and sustaining injuries, especially when the snow freezes?

Consider your route to the destination and allocate some extra time for travel. Avoid running and taking shortcuts over areas with snow or ice. Choose suitable footwear, steering clear of heeled shoes. Utilize handrails whenever available. Take small steps to maintain your centre of balance. Refrain from carrying heavy shopping bags. Keep both hands free for balance instead of placing them in your pockets. Ensure the path is clear of debris to minimize risks.

Bone setters with questionable qualifications claim expertise in addressing bone-related problems. To what degree is it prudent to seek their aid for conditions like fractures, dislocated joints, or sprained ankles?

Our observational study underscores the need for educational and social awareness to convey potential risks associated with traditional bone setting. Rather than outright criticism, there's a call to educate and encourage bone setters to follow basic fracture management principles. Proposals include integrating Traditional Bone Setting (TBS) into primary health care, offering basic training for safe splint application, and encouraging their role as orthopaedic assistants in rural trauma departments through programs designed by medical regulatory bodies.

Having said that, TBS may inadvertently exacerbate injuries, leading to complications that render individuals temporarily or even permanently handicapped. The lack of standardized training and adherence to modern medical principles can contribute to adverse outcomes.

THE BONE & JOINT PAINS DURING WINTER APPEAR TO LACK A SINGULAR EXPLANATION. ONE THEORY SUGGESTS A CORRELATION WITH THE DROP IN BAROMETRIC PRESSURE, CAUSING THE EXPANSION OF TENDONS, MUSCLES, AND OTHER SOFT TISSUES, leading to increased pain. Additionally, adverse weather conditions can influence an individual's mood, with a tendency to feel more depressed in cloudy and cold weather compared to a normal sunny day

Blazing Crisis: Surge

forest from jungle smugglers and other miscreants, leading to the outbreak of such incidents. Shabir Ahmad, a lawyer from Srinagar, underscored that human activity remains a key driver of the forest fires, particularly due to the uncontrolled cutting of trees to produce charcoal during the dry season. This practice often leads to incomplete extinguishing of fires, ultimately resulting in forest fires.

"This could be prevented by the government but who facilitates them into the forests. It needs to be investigated," Shabir said.

"The valley's forests boast abundant flora and fauna, including valuable medicinal plants. Any fire incident would bring catastrophic consequences to this biodiversity hotspot," he added.

Irfan Rasool, Chief Conservator of Forests, North Circle, acknowledged the traditional occurrence of forest fires during the autumn season but highlighted the elevated incidence during winters in alignment with the ongoing dry spell.

"The department has mobilized forest protection forces to address these incidents. The locals are also helping us," he said.

However, Irfan argues that fire has been an integral part of the functioning of numerous forest ecosystems since decades. He said that forests are classified into two parts—Northern and Southern part, and most of the fire incidents are reported in the southern part of forests.

"The northern part of the forest, rich with forest crops, is shaded from direct sunlight, preventing damage. However, the southern part, being drier, is more susceptible to forest fires," he elaborated.

Notably, the forest incidents were reported just a week after the Forest Survey of India's (FSI) alarm predicting forest fires across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Forest Survey of India holds a pivotal role in monitoring and evaluating the nation's forest reserves.

A concern

Forest fires are recognized as one of the most serious environmental hazards causing huge damage to forest fauna and flora, including soil inhabitants.

Forest fire incidences can also adversely affect human health. Forest fires release huge amounts of pollutants such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide and organic compounds.

Experts say that the particulate matter has potentially detrimental health effects as they penetrate deep into the human lungs causing respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Lately, forest fires in Kashmir have become a recurring issue that raises concerns about environmental conservation and ecological balance. According to official data, the UT has reported around 1700 forest fires for the last six-years.

The officials of the forest department maintain that most of the fire incidents occurred due to manmade activities, where least fire incidents have occurred by nature.

Roshan Jaggi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force in UT told Kashmir Observer that they have put forest protection forces on alert and measures are being taken to stop the forest fire.

However sources from the forest department told Kashmir Observer the department lacks a good infrastructure to tackle forest fire and many forest guards got injured while dozing off the fire.

Rasool, acknowledged that the dozing-off of the fire is challenging but maintained that their men are experienced enough to tackle any forest fire, even though the terrain is tough.

"They have fire extinguishers, hand equipment have made fire rings to control the fire," Rasool added.

Dr. Akhlaq Amin Wani, Professor and Head, Division of Natural Resource Management, Faculty of Forestry SKUAST-K argues that increase in human settlements near the forests is the main reason for the spike in forest fires.

"The fire chances remain high in those areas falling in vulnerable zones, where the accessibility of the human is high," he added.

Notably, in 2021, the Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing in a study highlighted that with global changes in climate taking place, factors such as low and irregular winter precipitation, dry autumn and spring seasons create an environment conducive for the forest fires to take place.

The report titled as "Forest Fire Vulnerability of Jammu and Kashmir" mapped and defined the actual incidence of fire reported during 2012-2018.

In the study area total numbers of forest fire incidents reported were 4392 during the period under study, (2002-2018) in 6795 compartments. The total numbers of 30 forest divisions comprising 102 ranges.

The study analyzed that in the Jammu region, three divisions are highly vulnerable namely Jammu, Nowshera and Reasi, showing the highest number of fire incidents.

In Kashmir region, division Bandipora shows highest numbers of forest fire incidences.

Snowless Winters

connects Kashmir with Ladakh and is important

for maintaining the supply chain logistics for the troops posted in forward areas in Ladakh. Generally, it has a minimum of 30-40 feet of snow around this time but there is barely six-seven feet of snow now," said Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry, former BRO director general.

"It is possible the pass will remain open for traffic for a week more because of less snow," he said.

The picture is no different in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. In Kashmir, popular tourist destinations such as Gulmarg and Pahalgam have received almost no snow while the hills have below-average snowfall disappointing tourists and locals in equal measure.

"Bizarre dry winters so far over hills due to prolonged dry spell & nothing major expected from upcoming Western Disturbance on 9-10th Jan," amateur meteorologist 'Weatherman Shubham' posted on X on Saturday along with a photo of Kedarnath temple and surroundings sans any snow.

The unusually long dry spell has meant that places that would ideally have a minimum of four-to-six feet thick snow by now hardly have any snow. After the initial winter precipitation in November, and at some places in the first few days of December, there has been no precipitation at all.

Attributing it to the absence of Western Disturbances (WDs), the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said almost no major snowfall is likely till mid-January with even the expected January 9-10 WD not likely to help much.

WDs are a series of cyclonic storms that originate in India's west (and therefore, western) at far-away Mediterranean region.

Though the northwest plains, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi-NCR, have seen their share of foggy 'cold' and 'severe cold' days, there have been no 'cold wave' conditions yet.

"Since December, there has been no active WD over northwest India... this resulted in less than normal precipitation," explained IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

Temperatures, he added, are above normal during the El Nino period. "But more than that, the absence of WDs meant that there was no clouding and that led to increased temperatures (in the higher reaches of the Himalayas)."

According to an April 2015 study "Western Disturbances: A review" published in the Review of Geophysics, WD snowfall in December, January, and February is the dominant precipitation input to establish and sustain regional snowpack, replenishing regional water resources.

Spring melt is the major source of runoff to northern Indian rivers and can be linked to important hydrologic processes from aquifer recharge to flash floods, it said.

Drawing a connection between WDs and El Nino, climate scientist Raghu Murtugudde from the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay said, "WDs have had a trend for a while, so the low precipitation is consistent with that (trend). During an El Nino, the cold winds come from the northwest and the cold temperature remains over northern and north-central India. This means, dry cold winds and thus less precipitation."

Elaborating on the "trend," he said, "The WDs have been decreasing and bringing less precipitation for a couple of decades. That means, there will be more years with below-normal precipitation than years with above-normal precipitation. El Nino exacerbated this."

Glaciologist Dimri also spoke about a distinct pattern shift in WDs over the last few years. "One, there has been a decrease in WDs, then, there has been decreased precipitation, and third, most importantly, precipitation has changed from solid to liquid, which means, there is rain in winters instead of snowfall."

The replenishment of water sources for the southern Himalayan region will bear the brunt. "The water system will collapse. We are drifting towards living in a dryer system," he warned.

On average, India receives four to six intense WDs each month between December and March. Except for a one-off event, December had no WD and there is no sign of it till mid-January.

"The unknown thing is that the El Nino pattern is different this year because of a strong superimposition of El Nino and global warming. This happened back in 2009, which too was a dry year," Murtugudde said.

Murtugudde was a co-author in a January 2012 study, "Is a global warming signature emerging in the tropical Pacific?" published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. It demonstrated that the unprecedented basin-wide warming in the Tropical Pacific (TP) during the year 2009 was associated with an increasing global warming trend in the TP SSTs.

Kashmir Shivers

a minimum temperature of 4 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, slightly down from the previous night, they said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.1 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 5 degrees Celsius, they added.

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.

A thin layer of ice formed on the surface of the Dal Lake here on Monday and other water bodies in Kashmir due to the intense cold wave that is gripping the region, the officials said.

People who live in houseboats in 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.

No snowfall was noted in most of the 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.

Goal Is To Ensure

resolution of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed Bharat) and the saturation of schemes coverage.

Earlier, Modi also interacted with beneficiaries of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra via video conferencing as they hailed the government initiatives.

Thousands of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra beneficiaries from across the country along with Union ministers, MPs, MLAs and local-level representatives joined the event.

Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister Modi noted that the Yatra completed 50 days recently and has connected with about 11 crore people.

"Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra has become not only the journey of the government but also the journey of the country," he said.

"Modi ki guarantee wali gaadi' is reaching every nook and corner of the country. The poor people who spent their lives waiting to get the benefits of government schemes are seeing a meaningful change today."

"The government is reaching the doorsteps of the beneficiaries and proactively providing the benefits," the prime minister said.

Along with the vehicle of 'Modi ki guarantee', government officers and people's representatives are reaching the people, he added.

PM Modi highlighted the struggle of the poor, youth, women and farmers over many generations.

"Our government wants the present and future generations to not have to live the life that the earlier generation lived. We want to get a large population of the country out of the struggle for small daily needs," Modi said.

"Therefore, we are focusing on the future of the poor, farmers, women and youth. For us, these are the four biggest castes of the country. When the poor, farmers, women and youth are empowered, the country will become powerful," he said.

Since the Yatra began, 12 lakh new applications for Ujjwala connections were received along with lakhs of applications for Suraksha Bima Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, PM SVANidhi, Modi said.

Underlining the impact of the Yatra, the prime minister said health checkups for more than two crore people have been carried out so far including one crore TB checkups and 22 lakh sickle cell checkups.

The doctors are reaching the doorsteps of the poor, Dalits, deprived and the tribals which was considered a challenge by the previous governments, Modi said.

He also highlighted Ayushman Yojna which provides health insurance worth Rs 5 lakhs, free dialysis for the poor and low-cost medicines at Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

"Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs built across the country have become huge health centres for villages and the poor," he added.

Modi also highlighted the government's impact on women empowerment in the country and mentioned the availability of loans through the Mudra Yojna, women playing the roles of Bank Mitras, Pashu Sakhis and Asha workers.

He pointed out that 10 crore women have joined women self-help groups in the last 10 years, where more than Rs 7.5 lakh crore have been provided to them.

Due to this, Modi said, many sisters have become 'Lakhpati Didi' over the years.

Touching upon its success, the prime minister talked about the government's campaign to further increase the number of 'Lakhpati Didis' by two crore.

"We must perform our duties to make India a developed country," Modi asserted.

Night Curfew

(BSF) suggested the imposition of a daily night curfew on a one kilometre-long strip from the IB, enabling them to perform their duties more effectively, the order said.

"It is felt by the district administration that it is expedient that the movement of people in border

areas is regulated so that there is better area domination by BSF in border areas and nefarious designs of forces inimical to Indian security are subdued," the DM said in the order.

In case movement is necessary, the person or persons are required to produce their respective ID cards to BSF and police authorities, Sharma said.

"Any person found violating the aforementioned order shall be dealt with in accordance with law. Since it is not possible to serve the order individually, it is being issued ex-parte," the order read.

"This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from the date of its issuance, if not withdrawn or rescinded earlier," it added.

HM's Jammu

weather conditions and forecast," they said. Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina also confirmed the same.

"Just been intimated that due to the uncertain weather conditions prevailing in the region, tomorrow's (9th January) visit of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Sh. @AmitShah Ji to Jammu stands cancelled," he said in a post on X.

The terrorists ambushed two army vehicles, killing five soldiers and injuring two others, at Poonch on December 21 last year.

The bodies of three civilians were found a day later in the Poonch district, not far from the spot of the day before the incident, sparking outrage.

Enhance Night

IGP Kashmir about the overall security scenario and the security measures being adopted to counter the challenges. He said that discussions encompassed various facets, including intelligence gathering, threat assessments, emergency response protocols in view of VIP Visits and upcoming events like R-Day functions.

The IGP Kashmir, the spokesperson said, actively engaged with the officers, delving into discussions about initiatives aimed at maintaining law and order, as well as anti-terrorist operations within the valley.

Highlighting the importance of continued efforts and coordination among different forces on the ground, he said, Birdi stressed upon strengthening collaboration between different law enforcement agencies for seamless information sharing and joint operations besides, exploring innovative technologies to augment existing security infrastructure and response capabilities.

"He urged officers to intensify anti-terrorist operations and take stringent action against individuals or organizations supporting anti-national activities. Besides, directed them to enhance joint patrolling especially during the night hours to prevent any terrorist movement," the spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, the IGP Kashmir emphasized the importance of precision and coordination, outlining strategic measures to address potential challenges and uphold the highest standards of security.

"Birdi expressed confidence in the preparedness of the security forces and assured the public of their commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment, besides stressed the importance of community support in maintaining peace and security in the valley," he added.

The meeting was attended by DD IB Nitin Tiwari-IPS, DIG CCR Srinagar Sujit Kumar, DIG SSB Srinagar Imtiaz Ismail Parray, DIG IR Kashmir Abdul Qayoom, SSP Srinagar Ashish Mishra, SSP PCR Shoket Hussain Shah, SSP Traffic City Srinagar Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, SSP Security Kashmir Sheikh Faisal and SP PC Srinagar Iftikhar Talib. DIG NKR Vivek Gupta & DIG SKR Rayees Mohammad Bhat-IPS alongwith district SSPs/PDs attended the meeting virtually. Besides, officers from Army, BSF, CRPF, CISF and SB also participated.

Two Detained

input about the movement of suspected persons, the drive is being carried out to ensure area domination and eliminate any terror threat, they said, adding that one of those detained used to be a terrorist aide.

Two people were picked up for questioning in the Rangoor area and later let off, the officials said. Security forces are keeping a tight vigil in the entire region given the recent attempts at infiltration from across the border, they added.

The officials said security forces have also strengthened checkpoints along vital installations and roads and intensified checking and frisking.

The border grid has also been strengthened and night-patrolling stepped up to maintain a close vigil to thwart any attempt by anti-national elements to disturb peace ahead of Republic Day, they said.

PCB Scientist

alleged that on 6th of this month, the complainant visited the accused at the PCB office and requested her to process his case. She demanded 20,000 as a bribe from the complainant for the issuance of CTO. However, after negotiation, the amount was settled as 5,000," reads the statement.

The anti-graft agency said that the complainant chose not to pay a bribe and instead approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau to take legal action against the accused public servant as provided under the law. On receipt of the complaint, a Case FIR No. 02/2024 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered with PS ACB Srinagar and an investigation was taken up.

"During an investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of 5,000 from the complainant. The money was recovered from the accused on the spot. The accused has been identified as Dr. Bilquees Ara Siddiqui daughter of Gulam Nabi, a resident of Sarnal (Gulshan Abad) Anantnag, working in the Pollution Control Board as Scientist-B," the statement said, adding that a further investigation into the case is going on.

Agony of Families

Medicine Faculty, Institute of Mental health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) told Kashmir Observer.

Parents, spouses, and kids may be affected by the negative impacts of drug addiction, he added, since they may witness a loved one suffer from drug side effects or lose control when high.

Dr. Shaheen Shora, Consultant Psychiatrist and Medical Lead, Hertfordshire University while speaking to Kashmir Observer also said the aggression and violence is common among the people misusing drugs. Over the years, several incidents of drug-addicted children violently abusing their parents have been reported in Kashmir.

In March last year, a drug addict son, accused of killing his mother in a cold-blooded murder of his mother, was arrested in Sopore town of Baramulla district in north Kashmir.

Since October 2022, there have been three instances of sons killing their mothers in Kashmir. On December 22, 2021, a man assaulted his family members and neighbors with a wooden log, killing three people—including his mother—and wounding seven more in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

A boy hailing from Kehribal area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district killed his mother in October 2021 with intention of robbing his deceased mother's money.

Following the murder, the suspect concocted a lie with his friend in order to confuse the public and the authorities into believing him that his relatives had committed the murder.

According to Dr. Fazl, family members may have physical and mental health problems as a result of their relative's addicted behavior.

"Tensions run high and conflict becomes the norm. Without appropriate treatment, addiction can destroy your home, work and family life," he said.

He said the drug users' aggressive behavior may have a negative impact on their family and relatives if appropriate action is not taken promptly. As such, he added, the police cannot act as a mute spectator and watch idly while this happens.

"Police can refer drug abuse victims to rehab centers for treatment instead of putting them in custody, which would allow the victim to recover and his family members to feel relieved," he added.

HC Upholds

was "necessitated due to constant involvement of the petitioner (Magrey) in the subversive activities calculated to undermine the security of the State."

The authorities said all safeguards laid down in Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India and Section 13 of the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978, were adhered to while taking Magrey under preventive detention.

"Having heard the learned counsel for the parties and perused the material on record, I am of the considered opinion that the detention of the petitioner (Magrey) ordered by the Detaining Authority in terms impugned Order, is completely in consonance with law," a bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar said, "The activities the petitioner (Magrey) has been indulging in, have the definite potential of undermining the Security of the State." Subsequently the court dismissed the plea.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No: 020202003536 From Ali Mohd Wani S/o Gh Nabi to Mohammad Ayyub Parray S/o Mohammad Sddiqque Parray R/o Bagi Sunder Payeen Near Tanga Adda Chowk Chattabal Srinagar. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned of the Electric Division 3rd KPDC, Shireen bagh Srinagar PPD office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Ayyub Parray
S/o Mohammad Sddiqque Parray
R/o Bagi Sunder Payeen Near Tanga Adda
Chowk Chattabal Srinagar

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.



KO PODCAST

KASHMIR
OBSERVER



"Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: Transforming Rural Jammu and Kashmir Through Inclusive Development"

In the picturesque Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, embodied by the iconic Modi ki Guarantee wali Gadi, has become a symbol of transformative change and inclusive development. Despite navigating through the unforgiving sub-zero temperatures and harsh conditions in the valley, the Yatra continues to receive a resounding welcome, reflecting the commendable enthusiasm of the people in rural areas.

At the heart of this journey is the Viksit Rath, playing a pivotal

role in delivering on-the-spot services to the rural communities of Jammu and Kashmir. The Yatra's main objective revolves around the saturation of government schemes, ensuring that the benefits of these initiatives reach every corner of rural life. Thus far, more than 3.5 million people have actively participated in the Yatra, underscoring the widespread engagement and support for the government's developmental endeavors.

One of the noteworthy achievements during the Yatra is the successful saturation of the Ayushman Card in more



than 3560 Gram Panchayats. The Ayushman Card provides free health insurance coverage up to ₹5 lakh, offering a lifeline to individuals in need of medical treatment. This milestone signifies a crucial step towards ensuring that quality healthcare becomes accessible to all, addressing one of the fundamental

needs of rural communities. In tandem with healthcare achievements, over 3576 Gram Panchayats declared themselves ODF Plus during the Yatra. Achieving Open Defecation Free Plus status is a testament to the success of sanitation initiatives, emphasizing the importance of clean and hygienic living environments in rural areas.

Furthermore, the Yatra has witnessed remarkable progress in the digitization of land records. More than 3568 Gram Panchayats have achieved 100 percent digitization of land records, marking a major mile-

stone in streamlining administrative processes and ensuring transparency in land transactions. This achievement not only facilitates efficient governance but also empowers rural communities by securing their land rights through digitization.

The success of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra lies not only in numbers but in the tangible impact it has on the lives of the people it reaches. By focusing on the saturation of government schemes, the Yatra is fostering a sense of inclusivity and equity, ensuring that the benefits of development are distributed equitably among the diverse communities of Jammu and Kashmir.

In conclusion, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra stands as a beacon of hope and progress in rural Jammu and Kashmir. Beyond the challenges of harsh weather conditions, the Yatra has catalyzed positive changes, ranging from improved healthcare access to advancements in sanitation and digitization. As it continues on its transformative path, the Yatra reaffirms the government's commitment to inclusive development, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape and lives of the people it serves.

Police To Verify Tenants, Domestic Helpers; Workers In Samba

Observer News Service

SAMBA: Over two weeks ahead of the Republic Day celebrations, the administration here on Monday ordered police verification of tenants, domestic helpers, construction workers and employees working in business units and industries within the district.

District Magistrate, Samba Abhishek Sharma, in exercise of the powers vested under section 144 Cr.P.C. has ordered all landlord(s), landowner(s) owner(s) of properties, owner(s) of business establishment, attorney holder(s), person(s) in charge of properties in any capacity (hereafter called as owners) located in jurisdiction of district Samba, to mandatory disclose details of outsiders working in Industries/ construction companies/ business establishments/ domestic helpers/ tenants (commercial and agricultural) after proper police verification, an official spokesperson said Monday.

The order further said that all owners shall after the issuance of this order and within ten days of letting/ sub-letting/ renting out his/her premises/ house / business establishment or part thereof to any tenant(s) as per the prescribed Declaration Form, to be signed by both the owner(s) and the tenant(s), to the concerned Police Station, either in person or by registered post addressed to the concerned Station House Officer (SHO).

"The owners who have already let / sub-let/ rented out their house(s) / business establish-

Bovine Transportation Out Of District Banned

SAMBA: District Magistrate, Samba, Abhishek Sharma, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 144 Cr.P.C. imposed restriction on transportation of bovine animals such as Cow, Ox, Calf, Buffalo etc. except with the prior permission from this office.

Since it is not possible to serve the order individually, it is being issued ex-parte. Senior Superintendent of police Samba shall ensure strict implementation of this order. Any person found violating this order shall be dealt with in accordance with law.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of Sixty days from the date of its issuance, if not withdrawn/rescinded earlier.

ishment or part(s) thereof to any tenant(s) on any date prior to the Issuance of this order, shall within ten days after the issuance of this order, submit without fail the detailed particulars of the outsider(s) working in Industries/ construction companies/business establishment / domestic helpers/tenants (commercial and agricultural) as per the declaration form to the concerned Police Station," the order reads.

The order further clarified that the individuals relating to all arrangements of letting or sub-letting the property like Paying Guest, Tenants (Commercial and Agricultural) etc. shall also be covered by this order.

Winged Visitors Turn Jammu's Gharana Wetland Into 'Bird-Watching Paradise'

Press Trust Of India

GHARANA (R S PURA): In a spectacular annual phenomenon, thousands of migratory birds, ranging from the bar-headed geese to egrets, have descended upon the Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve near the International Border in Jammu in the outskirts of Jammu capital city.

The wetland, located approximately 35 kilometres from Jammu, has become a 'haven for bird enthusiasts' as over 6,000-bar-headed geese and various other species from the northern hemisphere migrate to the region during winter annually.

"Every year, over 6,000 migratory birds of many species, the majority of them bar-headed geese, arrive at the Gharana Wetland. This year so far over 3,000 to 4,000 such birds have arrived here from the northern hemisphere. Their number is expected to increase," Simple Singh, in-charge at Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve (GWCR), told PTL. He said the number of migratory birds at this winter habitat increases every year.

"The department of wildlife is making all arrangements here for visitors. Schools undertake visits to the Gharana with their students," Singh added. Hundreds of people, mostly students and photography enthusiasts, throng the wetland during the winter to have a glimpse of the migratory birds.

"It is an ideal place for wildlife photography as you get the opportunity to shoot over 300 species of migratory birds, particularly Sibe-



rian cranes," Asvina, a student of Institute of Music and Fine Arts said. "I love to photograph birds, animals and nature. I am very happy to be here as it is a paradise for bird lovers," Asvina said.

Similarly, Jammu University student Sakshi goes on to say that coming here is an opportunity to learn about various aspects of nature and birds.

"A good footfall of visitors was seen here. It has provided us an opportunity to come close to nature and shoot and learn about various aspects of photography," she said.

The GWCR surrounded by wetlands of Makwal, Kukdian, Abdulian and Pargwal, has more than 170 residents living in the Gharana village and is home to migratory bird species such as bar-headed geese, gadwalls, common teal, purple swamp hens, Indian moorhens, black-winged stilts, cormorants, egrets and green shanks flock during the winter, officials said.

Rohit Kumar of Punjab's Gurdaspur said, "I am astonished to

see such a large number of bird species here. My maternal uncle had told me about migratory birds flying to Gharana so we came here to watch them," he said.

The wetland, which is located on the Indo-Pak border, has witnessed a rise in footfall with efforts in place to protect the avian guests. Fencing and other necessary construction work are being done to protect migratory birds and their winter habitat, the officials said.

"Several species of migratory birds, such as the Siberian crane, come here from abroad. We were happy to see various beautiful migratory birds coming here and flying in this area. They don't know about international borders. For them, this is a border-less world," Sidharth Kumar, a member of Farmers Produce Organisation (FPO), said.

Gharana, situated along the Central Asian Flyway, holds international recognition as an Important Bird Area (IBA), declared by BirdLife International (UK) and the Bombay Natural History Society.

MD J&K Bank Launches Soft POS, Premium Debit Cards

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Adding further convenience to the digital banking, payments for the people, J&K Bank on Monday unveiled its two new digital products.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash today launched the Bank's Soft POS and Premium Debit Cards (with Platinum & World variants) at the Zonal Headquarters (Jammu) in presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers



along with Divisional and Zonal Heads besides many senior officials of the bank.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO appreciated the management and workforce of the Bank for their efforts to continuously enhance customer experience

through new digital offerings. He said, "I feel pleased to see the continuous evolution of our digital offerings which are not only competitive in features and pricing but compare well with the industry in terms of delivery and customer-experience."

4 More NCC Units To Be Raised In J&K, Ladakh

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal to raise four more National Cadet Corps (NCC) units in the twin Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The approval includes one Mixed (Boys & Girls) Army Battalion each at Udhampur (J&K), Kupwara (J&K) and Kargil (Ladakh), and one Air Squadron at Udhampur (J&K), an official spokesperson said.

Resultantly, he said, in addition to the existing 27,870 cadets, the strength in J&K and Ladakh will increase by 12,860, which is a 46.1% rise.

"Currently, the Directorate has two Group Headquarters, with a total of 10 NCC Units, covering all the three geographical regions. The expansion will boost the morale of the youth in the region, who will contribute significantly to nation building," the spokesperson said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER ANANTNAG
Ph./Fax: 01932-464427 Email: dio.angkmr@gmail.com

SHORT TERM QUOTATION
Short term quotation affixed with Revenue stamps of Rs.5/- are invited from the registered dealers for supply of Professional Cultural PAS equipments on hiring basis for a period of 04 days along with a qualified service technician.
The tenders should reach to this office within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.
No: DIC/A-256 /2024
Dated: -08-01-2024

DIPK-14882-23
DT: 08/01/2024
District Information Officer
Anantnag

JAMMU & KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION LJHP GANTAMULLA BIA
Email: xeneljhp@gmail.com

CANCELLATION NOTICE
Due to poor response E-NIT No. 27 of 2023-24 dated 15-12-2023 issued vide this office No. GD/UHP/2041-47 dated: 15-12-2023 for Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Spillway Gate No 7 at Barrage. (Complete Job) (ID: 2023_SPDC_240301_1) is hereby cancelled and fresh tender shall floated shortly.

Executive Engineer
Generation Division LJHP
Gantamulla, Baramulla

No. GD/LJHP/2196-2201
Dated: 06.01.2024
DIPK-NB-5161-23
DT: 08/01/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

Invitation of Open Tender through E-Procurement system
Assist. Material Manager, N. Railway, ET/Store Depot/Ludhiana for and on behalf of President of India, Invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the given below item.

S.No.	Open Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender opening date
01.	70235178B	DG Set 250 KVA Capacity: 250 KVA with AMF panel as per attached PCEE/NR specification.	01 Nos.	02.02.2024

NOTE- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class-III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act-2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.
Tender Notice No.: 003/2023-24 Date: 02.02.2024 82/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Estate Department
Zonal Office Srinagar
Website: www.jkbank.com

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from owners of premises for outright purchase/ on lease basis for housing its Branch at Brein, Nishat, Srinagar

Carpet Area of Premises	Location
Approximately 1500-2500 Sft	In the vicinity of erstwhile Branch Brein, Nishat, Srinagar.

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers at Estates Deptt Zonal Office Srinagar, M.A Road Srinagar by or before 31-01-2024.

The tender documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office mentioned above during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from 10-01-2024

The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.
Note: Only those parties having valid commercial permission of the offered premises need to apply.

Ref: jkb/zo sgr/Est/24-
Dated: 05-01-2024
Sd/-
Zonal Head

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir; India
CIN: L65110JK19385G000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E: info@jkbank.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-5144-23
DT: 08/01/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender
Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 31.01.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money# (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
511D-TRD-FZR-2023-24	Strengthening of earthing arrangement by replacement of overaged earthing system at various Traction Sub Stations and Switching Stations in Sahnawal-Amritsar section over Firpozur division	83.11,251.00/-	NIL	Upto 31.01.2024, 15:00 Hrs.	1.66,200/-	12 Months	31.01.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
523A-TRD-FZR-2023-24	Attention to minor defects and replacement of defective parts in various Tower Wagons over Firpozur division	14,58,099.00/-	NIL	Upto 31.01.2024, 15:00 Hrs.	29,200/-	06 Months	31.01.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No.: 511D & 523A-TRD-FZR-2023-24 Dated: 08.01.2024 72/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SRINAGAR SMART CITY LIMITED
(A J&K Government Undertaking)
1st Floor, Budshah Building, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K
Email: -srinagarocl@gmail.com | CIN: U07200JK2017SGC010107

No: SSCL/CEO/23-24/8187
Date: 04 /01/2024

INTERVIEW NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of all applicants who have applied for the post of General Manager (Public Transport Operations) Srinagar Smart City Limited on contractual basis in response to the Advertisement No.03 SSCL of 2023; Dated: 11-08-2023 issued by this office that the following applicant has been shortlisted on the basis of minimum eligible criteria for interview which shall be held on 11/01/2024 (Thursday), at the office of the CEO Srinagar Smart City Ltd. ("SSCL"), Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K at 02:00 pm, by the selection/interview committee constituted by Srinagar Smart City Limited for the purpose:

List of Applicant who have Qualified minimum Eligible Criteria for the Post of General Manager (Public Transport Operations) and are Shortlisted for interview:

S. No	Name	Parentage	Address
1	Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma	Mr. Late Sh Dwarka Nath Sharma	New Delhi

NOTE:

- The applicant shall bring along their original academic/professional qualification certificates along with their experience certificates.
- The candidate is also required to produce a self-attested photocopy of each document/ Certificate along with two passport size photographs at the time of verification of documents.
- The candidate is advised to treat this notification as call letter for verification of documents and interview/ on the said date at the venue mentioned above and no separate call letter shall be issued.
- No T.A./D.A shall be paid for attending the interview/test.
- In case any mistake is detected in the selection process, SSCL reserves the right to modify/ withdraw / cancel any communication made to the candidates.
- In case of any change is done in the date, time and venue of the test; it shall be updated on the website of Srinagar Smart City. Therefore the applicants are advised to visit our website regularly i.e.; www.srinagarsmartcity.in regularly for further updates.

Sd/= Additional Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), Srinagar Smart City Limited
DIPK-NB-5147-23
DT: 08/01/2024



Rohit, Kohli Get Final Shot At T20 Glory, But...

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The selectors have clearly gone for the status quo rather than addressing the elephant in the room by picking Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for their first T20 series in 14 months. Will it have a bearing on India's chances in another T20 World Cup? Only time can tell.

Having endured a heart-break in the previous two editions of the T20 World Cup, the two greats of the game can't be faulted for wanting a final shot at glory in the format. But the same can't be said about the selectors, who picked a fresh bunch of players to take the team forward since the crushing semifinal loss to England in November 2022.

Now that Rohit and Kohli have been picked for the home series against Afghanistan beginning on January 11, it is a given that the famed duo will be a part of India's squad for the ICC showpiece in the US and Caribbean in June.

It also means that India,



who have been guilty of playing conservative cricket at the top of the order, are also back to square one as far as their planning for the T20 mega event is concerned.

The two superstars played a massive role in taking India to the ODI World Cup final but can they step up to the demands of the shortest format where one needs to go after the bowlers from ball one? Rohit, who did not

score tons of runs in the recently held ODI showpiece but yet managed to make a compelling impact with his high risk game, will most likely carry on in the same vein when the Afghanistan series begins in Mohali.

On the other hand, Kohli's game is tailor-made for the 50-over format but he has also managed to maintain more than a decent strike rate of 137.96 over 148 T20s. Rohit strikes at almost 140

in T20s but he too will need to bat at a higher clip to keep up with the fast changing demands of the modern game.

In contrast, their teammate and world's best T20 batter, Suryakumar Yadav, bats at a 170 plus strike rate.

The likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad showed promise in the opportunities they got in the absence of senior players but there is no substitute to experience at an ICC event.

Selection Trials For Cycle Polo Nationals On Jan 10

Observer News Service

10, 2024, at 11:00 AM.

SRINAGAR: The J&K Cycle Polo Association announced Monday that it will be conducting selection trials for the upcoming 20th Sub-Junior and 26th Junior Girls National Cycle Polo Championship 2023-24 to be held at Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

The selection trials will be held at Gindun Ground, Raj Bagh on Wednesday, January

"Eligible players from affiliated districts units and interested players are asked to come along with two passport size photograph, Aadhaar Card Xerox, age proof and Physical Fitness Certificate for the trials," the J&K Cycle Polo Association said in a statement.

"For more information please contact 7006294963, 7006919285," it added.

J&K-HP Ranji Match Drawn Due To Bad Light

Observer News Service

35.3 overs on Day 1 after

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's cricket team has started its 2024 Ranji Trophy campaign with a draw against Himachal Pradesh, after bad light curtailed the game to only 65.3 overs in four days at the JKCA Hostel Ground in Jammu.

J&K was bowled out for a humiliating 100 runs in

Himachal Pradesh won the toss and decided to bowl first. In reply, HP had reached 120/1 in 30 overs on Day 2 when bad light stopped play.

HP earned three points from the game due to the first innings lead, while J&K was awarded one point.

J&K next play Delhi on January 12.

Subject: - Notice for inviting tenders for Anticancer Drugs and other related supportive drugs etc.

TENDER NOTICE

- Sealed tenders in two cover bid system affixed with **Rs.10/-** Revenue Stamps are invited for and on behalf of **Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir** from Manufacturers/Firms/Companies/Stockists/Authorised distributors for one year W.e.f. date of approval of rate contract which must reach this office by or before **26-01-2024** for the following groups

2. Group-A Anticancer Drugs	Annexure A
3. Group-B Colostomy / Urostomy / ilosetomy Bags	Annexure B
4. Group-C Surgical Items / Supportive Drugs	Annexure C
- The tenders should be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit for **Group "A"** of **Rs. 1.00 lac**, for **Group "B"** **Rs, 60,000/-** & for **Group "C"** **Rs, 10,000/-** in shape of CDR/FDR to be drawn on any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Cancer Society of Kashmir. Without which tenders shall not be entertained.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir 4-Bagh Islam Colony Lalnagar Chanapora.
- Tenders should invariably be submitted in two Bid System containing two parts as detailed below:-

Part I -----	Techno Commercial Bid in separate sealed cover
Part II -----	Price Bid/Financial Bid for all groups in another sealed cover.

Both sealed covers to be put in outer cover.
- Detailed tender notice along with list of drugs can be had from **CSK office** against the cash payment of **Rs, 500/-** each on all working days from **10:00 Am to 04:00 Pm.**
- Authorised distributor shall enclose copy of authorisation letter of the concerned company.
- CSK** reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/tenders without assigning any reason thereof. On acceptance of tender and its communication to the successful tenderer, the same shall be binding upon the successful tenderer with immediate effect.

**General Secretary
Cancer Society of Kashmir.**

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



0.495 cm