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# **India to Become Developed Nation** in 25 Yrs: PM



**Observer News Service** 

Gujarat: Asserting that India was working on the goal of becoming a developed country in the next 25 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the upcoming 25 years were India's Amrit Kaal. Modi was speaking at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 in Gandhinagar on Wednesday.

He said, "In the recent past, India completed 75 years of independence. Now, India is working on its goal for the next 25 years. We have the goal of making it a developed country by the time it celebrates 100 years of independence. Therefore, these 25 years' dura-tion is India's Amrit Kaal."

Modi also said that this was the first Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in this Amrit Kaal and that made it more significant. "Representatives from more than 100 countries, who are participating in this Summit, are crucial partners in this

### **THE WORLD LOOKS AT INDIA AS A FRIEND** WHO CAN BE TRUSTED, **A PARTNER WHO BELIEVES** in people-centric development, a voice that believes in global good, a voice of the Global South, an engine of growth in the

global economy."

development journey of India." PM Modi also mentioned UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, who is attending the Summit, and said, "The participation of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed in this Summit, is a matter of great joy for us. His presence as the chief guest at Vibrant Gujarat Summit is a symbol of the ever-strengthening relations between India and UAE... Agreements have been signed | More on P6

# **Any Elections In J&K Unlikely Before LS Polls: Official**

**VOTE √** 

Press Trust Of India

have to either pass an ordinance

# **Poor And Underprivileged Have The First Right On Government Resources: LG**

Urges People To Assist Civil Admin, Police To Intensify Crackdown On Drug Supply Chain

#### **Observer News Service**

Jammu: Reiterating the commitment of his administration towards equitable and inclusive development and to ensure empowerment of all, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Wednesday that poor and underprivileged have the first right on government resources.

Participating in Block Diwas, a public outreach programme of J&K administration, at Bhalwal here, Sinha also said that the Jan-Bhagidari campaign to participatory strengthen governance is empowering citizens, generating awareness about responsibilities and ensuring accountability of officers in administration.

'We'll Soon

**Ecosystem** 

From J&K'

Finish Terror



He called upon every section of the society to take initiative with dedication and determination to make their panchayat clean, liveable, achieve 100% literacy rate,

and maintain green spaces and 100% saturation of all government schemes.

Employees Association of Kashmir at Abhinav Theatre here. On the occasion, he said, | More on P6

'The sense of commitment and duty among the citizens towards the society and their

sserting that peace and development has brought qualitative change in people's lives and standard of living, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Wednesday that terrorism is breathing its last breath and that his A Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinna said wednesday that terrorisin is breathing its last b the dreams of the common man, provide new heights of success to people's aspirations and every person needs to be empowered to contribute in developed India," Sinha said, while addressing an event organised by All Minority

respective panchayats will improve quality of life and pave the way to prosperity," the LG said.

He said the massive and historic participation of people in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and 100% saturation of all schemes will remove developmental imbalances and give a tremendous boost to the local economy. Sinha also reiterated the resolve of his administration towards equitable and inclusive development and to ensure empowerment of all.

"Poor and underprivileged have the first right on government resources. Efforts are being made towards promotion of Dogri and other regional languages, connecting remaining panchayats with roads, boosting | More on P6

Article 370 Abrogation **Review Petitions** 

# **Filed Against SC's Verdict Press Trust of India**

New Delhi: Several petitions were filed in the Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking review of its December 11 verdict upholding the revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The petitioners include the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Awami National Conference, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement. Muzaffar Shah of Awami National Conference said he has filed the petition seeking review of the verdict which held Article 370 was a temporary provision in the Constitution.

The review petition filed by Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association through advocate Dharmendra Kumar Sinha said the verdict has errors and there are sufficient grounds to review it. The petition said the verdict erroneously concluded that the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir lost its sovereignty after Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession (IOA) in 1947. "It is submitted that the con-

clusion suffers | More on P6

# **Kashmir Faces Decline** in Hajj Applications

**Aspirants Blame Financial Hurdles** 





Delhi

3,44,867

Srinagar

3,95,020

# **Protecting Public Life Our Key Responsibility: IGP**

**Orders Stringent Action Against Individuals** Found Involved In Anti-Peace Activities

## **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Calling for a stringent action against indi-viduals found involved in anti-peace activities, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V. K Birdi on Wednesday asked his officers to maintain vigil against suspicious elements providing any kind of support to terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The IGP passed these directions during his visit to the Police district Awantipora



where he inspected Police Station Tral and Police post Aripal and held a detailed interaction with the personnel, a police spokesperson said. Deputy Inspector | More or

Srinagar: Panchayat and municipal elections in Jammu and Kashmir are "extremely unlikely" to take place before the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as the Centre is vet to amend the law for extending reservation t o

Backward Other Classes (OBCs) in local bodies, a senior official said.

Although the Administrative Council headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has taken a decision for extending the benefit of reserva-

tion to OBCs in panchayats and municipal bodies, the Centre will

or bring a bill in Parliament for it. "It is extremely unlikely that the panchayat polls will be held before the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Besides amending the act, the quantum of reservation has also to be decided," State Election Commissioner B R Sharma said. Lok Sabha elections are due in April-May.

Sharma said the commission was performing its statutory duty of revising and updating the electoral rolls in the Union territory.

According to officials, besides the issues related to OBC reservation, the | More on P6

# **Auqib Javeed**

**T**ariq Ahmad, a retired government employee from North Kashmir's Bandipora district, harbored a strong desire to undertake the Hajj pilgrimage with his wife this year. The couple eagerly anticipated embarking on this spiritually enriching journey. However, upon inquiring

about the expenses involved in performing Hajj this year, they made the difficult decision to abandon their plans. "We were informed that the Hajj cost this year would be approximately 4.20 lakh per person, totaling 8.40 lakh for both of us. Additionally, we estimated around 1 lakh for personal expenses during our stay there. | More on P6

THE RICH CLASS WILL PREFER PRIVATE **OPERATORS BUT** the middle class is in trouble due to high borrowing, less savings and the impact of high inflation."

#### Indore Hyderabad Mumbai Bengaluru **Pay Bills Or Face Disconnection: MD KPDCL Observer News Service** Srinagar: Managing Director, 3,04,843 3,03,921 3,05,173 3,57,805

He further stated that smart

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mussarat Islam on Wednesday urged consumers to clear their outstanding balance on account of electricity dues, failing which KPDCL shall be left with no option but to further accelerate its disconnection drives as warranted under Section 56 of the Electricity Act.

meter consumers with arrears are being automatically disconnected if they do not pay their pending power bills.

Expressing serious concern over huge default figures in domestic, commercial and industrial categories, the MD stated that revenue realized on account of clearance of pending bills shall enable KPDCL to have enough resource availability for power | More on P6

# Mercury **Plummeted Again Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Mercury plummeted again in Kashmir Valley as Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.0°C on Wednesday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that the temperature was 3.1°C below normal for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year.

He said Srinagar saw minimum temperature of minus 2.4°C on the previous night.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 4.4°C against minus 2.6°C on the previous night, he said. The minimum temperature was 1.3°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the MeT official said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 6.3°C against minus 4.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 2.4°C against minus 1.2°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 1.6°C for the | More on P6

# Imran Khan Sought Midnight Call With PM Modi, ISI Tipped Off India On Al Qaeda Plot: Book

#### **KO Correspondent**

Srinagar: Right from Prime Minister Narendra Modi refusing a midnight call from his then Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan following 2019 Balakot crisis to Pakistan's ISI tipping off India on a specific Al Qaeda attack in Kashmir, a book by India's former High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria reveals previously undisclosed communications and actions between the two estranged nations during his stint in the neighbouring country.

The book titled 'Anger Management: The Troubled Diplomatic Relationship be-tween India and Pakistan,' lays out in great detail the incidents that took place in 2019, especially in the aftermath of the Pulwama bombing that killed 40 CRPF jawans and following the withdrawal of J&K's special status in August of that year. The relationship between India and Pakistan faced significant tension after India's airstrike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed training



camp in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, 2019. The action was in retaliation to the Pulwama attack.

The book also describes Bisaria's interactions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, and key members of the Indian establishment as they dealt with the multiple crises that took place during that time.

Bisaria details a "panic-stricken" midnight call from Khan to the PM Modi, seeking to avert a military crisis. He highlights Pakistan's concern over "credible intelligence" indicating nine

Indian missiles aimed at Pakistani territory after the Balakot strikes, emphasizing the efforts made to prevent an escalation.

"At around midnight, I got a call in Delhi from Pakistani High

Commissioner Sohail Mahmood, now in Islamabad, who said that PM Imran Khan was keen to talk to Prime Minister Modi. I checked upstairs and responded that our prime minister was not available at that hour, but in case Imran Khan had any urgent message to convey, he could, of course, convey it to me. I got no call back that night," Bisaria says in his book

Later that night, the US and UK envoys in Delhi told India's foreign secretary that Pakistan was "ready to de-escalate the situation, act on India's dossier, and to seriously address the issue of terrorism", Bisaria says in the book.

Bisaria noted Imran Khan's decision to release captured Indian pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman as a move towards de-escalation, attributing it to India's assertive diplomacy during the crisis.

The book also revealed India's willingness to send an aircraft to retrieve Varthaman, who was held captive by Pakistan after downing a | More on P6

# **CAT Quashes Selection Of A Doctor In GMC**

Appointment Made Against Satatutory Provisions, Advertisement 'Void': CAT

#### **M** Ahmad

#### Srinagar:

Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) on Wednesday quashed appointment of a lecturer in Government Medical College here, observing that the appointment made in contravention of statutory provisions or advertisement notice was invalid from the beginning. bench Α

D.S.Mahra Member (Judicial)and Prasant Kumar

(Member(Administrative)made the observations while allowing an application filed by one Dr. Mehnaz Habib of Barazulla Srinagar, challenging appointment of Dr R Jan as Lecturer Anesthesiology in Government Medical College Srinagar by the government on 1 June 2021

following the recommendations

Dr. Mehnaz Habib had challenged the recommendation by JKPSC as well as subsequent appointment, contending that Dr R Jan does not have

> of the advertisement notice and Rules applicable as she obtained the same from the Hospital recognized not by the Medical

(Now National Medical Commission) MCI/NMC). ...The private respondent (Dr R Jan) has submitted a certificate dated 20.09.2017 in the first instance in which it is certified by .....hospital that the private respondent has worked as Critical Care Trainee in the | More on P6

by the JKPSC.

the necessary teaching experience as required in terms

Council of India



# To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

fko

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board

CPO Chowk Panjtirthi, Jammu/Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.

Written Examination for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Cyber Forensics), Home Department,

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the Written Examination for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Cyber Forensics), Home Department, UT Cadre advertised vide

Any candidate having objection(s) to the answer key, may submit his/her objection(s)/representation(s) in respect of such question(s) on prescribed format/proforma annexed herewith as Annexure "B"

along with the documentary proof/evidence substantiating the claim (hard copies only) and a fee of Rs. 200/- (in the form of demand draft) per question (refundable in case of genuine/correct represen-

In case, the objection is found correct, the Answer Key will be revised accordingly in respect of all candidates. No candidate will be informed about the acceptance/non-acceptance of his/her objection

The objections/representations can be submitted in offline mode only, in the office of JKSSB, CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/JKSSB, Zamzam Building, Rambagh, Srinagar on three working days starting

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

I have lost 12th class Provisional Certificate under

Regd No; N17382000007, Roll no 37122260 Session

2020 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the

same if anybody having any objection in this regard

he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the

Govt Girls Higher Secondary Shopian within a period

of seven days from the date of publication of this no-

tice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sabreena Jan

held on 09-01-2024 - Provisional Answer key regarding.

Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022, under Item No. 49 on 09th January, 2024.

tation/objection) in favour of the Accounts Officer, J&K Services Selection Board.

D/o Farooz Ahmad Wani

R/o Bongam Shopian

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate for my Daughter namely Saliga Jaan . If anybody has any object tion in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the Tehsildar Kreeri within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmad Alaie F/o Saliga Jaan R/o Wadipora Payeen kri

Subject:

individually.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

I Gh Nabi Sheikh. S/o. Gh Mohammad Sheikh. R/o Pattan. Lam ex service man from Indian Army i have lost my passioner discharge book in Pattan market area i have applied for duplicate one if any body have any complaints regarding this may please contact issuing authority with in a period of 7 day's after this period no complaint shall be accepted.

Gh Nabi Sheikh. S/o. Gh Mohammad Sheikh. R/o. Pattan. Mobile No. 9622757286.

days. After the stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Notice l Syed Mohammad Yaseen Qadri R/o 690 KVA Dagga Kadal Srinagar want to transfer my Electricity Connection From Syee Mohammad Yaseen Qadri R/o 690 KVA Dagga Kadal Srinagar (bearing Consumer Id: 0204040023062) To Parveena Akhtar W/o Mohammad Ismail Dar R/o joghwon amda kadal,Srinagar 190011. Anyong having any objection regarding the same may approach Subdivision Office Hawal within

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

KASHMIR OBSERVER 9

Srinagar | Thursday | 11-01-2024

I have changed my name from Mohammad Usman Bhat to Mohammad Usman in future I will be known as Mohammad Usman. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Usman S/o Tanveer Ahmad Bhat R/o Hyderpora Srinagar

# Notice

I Mushtaq Ah Gojri R/o Kulgam Palapora

nj

Budgam have lost my all document for my

Pajio Auto somewhere bearing Auto No JKO4D

6352 . Now I want to its duplicate. Regard this,

if anybody is having any objection may file the

same to the Concerned Office within a week

after that no objection will be submitted.

### **Public Notice**

It is informed to general public that I am appling for Registration of Pesticides shop license under style/title MIRZ NORTH END Kakuthal Tehsil Kreeri Distt Baramulla at Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar, if anybody is having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Office of The Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within the period of 7days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

MOHAMMAD ARIF MIR S/O GHULAM AHMAD MIR KRI R/O KAKUTHAL KREERI BARAMULLA

#### No.: JKSSB-COEOEXAM(UT)/100/2023-03 (7362014)

DIPK-15019/23 Dated::-10.01.2024

from 10-01-2024, during office hours only. The Board shall not entertain any such representations/objections after the expiry of the stipulated period or through any other mode.

## ANNEXURE-"A"

Provisional Answer Key of the Written Examination for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer, Cyber Forensics, conducted on 09-01-2024.

Text Booklet Question No.	Series A	Series B	Series C	Series D
QL	Α	В	A	В
Q2	D	С	С	С
Q3	В	В	A	В
Q4	D	В	A	A
Q5	С	Α	В	Α
Q6	С	D	D	D
Q7	В	С	D	С
Q8	В	В	A	D
Q9	С	В	С	Α
Q10	В	D	В	Α
Q11	С	Α	С	D
Q12	С	D	A	Α
Q13	D	D	В	С
Q14	Α	В	С	Α
Q15	С	D	A	В
Q16	Α	D	В	В
Q17	В	D	С	В
Q18	D	D	В	D
Q19	D	Α	A	D
Q20	В	Α	D	Α
Q21	В	В	D	Α
Q22	D	D	A	Α
Q23	С	Α	A	С
Q24	Α	С	В	С
	-		-	-

Q72	Α	Α	С	D
Q73	В	С	D	D
Q74	С	Α	Α	В
Q75	Α	В	с	D
Q76	В	В	Α	D
Q77	С	В	В	D
Q78	В	D	D	D
Q79	Α	D	D	Α
Q80	D	Α	В	Α
Q81	D	Α	В	В
Q82	Α	Α	D	D
Q83	Α	С	С	Α
Q84	В	С	Α	С
Q85	В	D	D	Α
Q86	С	Α	Α	С
Q87	С	С	В	Α
Q88	С	Α	С	Α
Q89	С	В	Α	В
Q90	В	Α	В	В
Q91	В	Α	В	Α
Q92	С	D	С	С
Q93	В	В	В	Α
Q94	Α	D	В	Α
Q95	Α	С	Α	В
Q96	D	С	D	D
Q97	С	В	С	D
Q98	D	В	В	Α
Q99	Α	С	В	С
Q100	Α	В	D	В
0101	n	r	٨	c

Sd/ (Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS

### From Office of the Advocate Jahangir A. Bhat

In the case of Abid Hussain Payer S/o shamsuddin Payer R/o Sonthipora Kralpora

V/s

Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

(Caveators)

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

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her D.O.B and 10th marks certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-Roll No: 2515415

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate DOB AND Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules. anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 14PKAM- 4003745 be treated as "CANCELLED")

Class 10th Year & Session 2014- Annual Private Registration: N12341430125 Name : Shufufta Akhtar Father's Name: Mohd Jaffar Tantray Mother's Name : Haleema

Residenc:- Ichahma Beerwah Budgam

Date of Birth:- 20-02-1998



# Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

The Provisional Answer Key of the question paper (Series A, B, C, D) for the above said examination is provided at Annexure "A" to this notice for the information of the candidates.

Q25	D	A	B	D
Q26	Α	С	С	Α
Q27	В	Α	С	C
Q28	С	Α	С	Α
Q29	А	В	С	В
Q30	В	B	B	A
Q31	B	A	B	A
Q32	C	C	C	D
	C	A	B	
Q33				B
Q34	В	A	A	D
Q35	Α	В	A	C
Q36	D	D	D	c
Q37	C	D	C	В
Q38	В	Α	D	В
Q39	В	С	A	С
Q40	D	В	Α	В
Q41	Α	С	D	C
Q42	D	Α	Α	С
Q43	D	В	С	D
Q44	B	C	A	A
Q45	D	A	В	C
Q46	D	B	B	A
Q47	D	C	B	B
Q48	D	B	D	D
Q49	A		D	D
Q50	A	A D	A	B
Q51	B	D	A	B
Q52	D	Α	Α	D
Q53	Α	Α	С	C
Q54	С	В	С	A
Q55	Α	В	D	D
Q56	С	С	A	Α
Q57	Α	С	С	В
Q58	Α	С	Α	С
Q59	В	С	В	Α
Q60	В	В	Α	В
Q61	Α	В	Α	В
Q62	С	С	D	C
Q63	Α	В	В	В
Q64	A	A	D	B
Q65	В	A	C	A
Q66	D	D	C	D
Q67	D	C	B	C
Q68	A	D	B	B
Q69	С	Α	С	B
Q70	B	A	В	D
Q71	С	D	С	Α

QIUU	A	D	U	D	_
Q101	D	С	Α	С	
Q102	Α	С	D	Α	
Q103	С	D	D	В	
Q104	Α	Α	В	С	
Q105	В	С	D	Α	
Q106	В	Α	D	В	
Q107	В	В	D	С	
Q108	D	D	D	В	
Q109	D	D	Α	Α	
Q110	Α	В	Α	D	
QIII	Α	В	В	D	
Q112	Α	D	D	Α	
Q113	С	С	Α	Α	
Q114	С	Α	С	В	
Q115	D	D	Α	В	
Q116	Α	Α	С	С	
Q117	С	В	Α	С	
Q118	Α	С	Α	С	
Q119	В	Α	В	С	
Q120	Α	В	В	В	
	ANI	NEXURE-"I	J&K Servic	lehalSJwma) J Under Secre tes Selection Bo	etary
sistant Scientific Officer	ngobiection(s) to Answer ; Cvber Forensics held on FORMS FOR SEPARATE Q	09-01-2024.	Written Examination	for the post of As-	
Name of the Applicant Exam Name : Advertisement No(s). Application No(s).	: 				

Dated BMG	Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.
	دفترنا ئب بخصيلدار كريري/ كلنتره
ظفر محمد بٹ ساکنہ برزوچھن	خواست منجانب ستحبدل مجيد بٹ ولد
نجق پسر خودساحل احمد بٹ وعا <b>مرمج</b> ید	بمرادحصول RBA سرگفییٹ
إدآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام	اشتهاربمر
ن سائل دفتر ہذامیں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت بواری	امله مندرجه عنوان الصدر ميں درخوست
،ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل	قهه سےرپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نفوالات
زىرىب- كنبەكى سالانە <b>آمدنى 180000</b> روپ	
	ے ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتل
عمر 40سال مزدوری	
38سال گھریلوکام	يله بيگم زوجه
15 سال زيرتعليم	ساحل احمد بٹ پسر
13سال	ىرمجيد يسر
ہنہیں بتلایا گیاہے سڑ ٹھیکیٹ زیر بحث اجرء	السيح علاوه كوئي بهمى افراد كمب
لى عذر يااعتراض بوتووه ا پناً عذر يااعتر اض ساتھ يوم	۔ <u>نے</u> میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کوکو ک
جدرکوئی عذریااعتراض قابلِ قبول نہں ہوگاہ۔	ے اندر پیش کریں۔میعاد گزرنے کے ب
kre نائىتخصىلدار	

ينوان: درخواست ازجانب عاشق حسين زهطو ولدغلام رسول ژهطو ساكنه موتی محلّه خورد مير بحری ل سرينگر بغرض اجرائي پيدائش سرڻفيک اشتهار بمرادا گاہی ہرخاص وعام عاملہ مندرجہ عنان الصدر میں سائل کا درخواست ہے جس میں سائل اظہار کرتا ہے کہ اُسکا تاریخ پیدائش 15-04-1977 بےاورتا حال کوئی پیدائش ٹرنشکنیٹ حاصل نہیں کی ہے سائل DOB مرتفکیٹ حاصل رنے کا خواہاں ہےاں سلسلے میں رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ سے بھی طلب کیا گیا ہے جو کہ فصل ہے کا غذات دفتر مذامیں زیر کاردائی ہے کاغذات پر مذید کاردائی کرنے سے ہرخاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار هذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا شخاص کوکوئی عذر کیا اعتر اض ہوتو ہوسات دن کے اندرا ندرد فتر هذا میں پیش کر ئیں بعد ىز رنے معیاد کوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب بحصيلدار ننديور

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Details of the Objection

Note: Application for each question/answer shall be made on separate page in the given format, otherwise the

Resource Material (copy to be enclosed)

Remarks

Signature of the Candidate

Roll No. Date of Exam **Exam Centre Division** (Jammu/Kashmir) Correspondence Address Contact /Mobile No. Demand Draft No. date

Candidates Account No. (16 digit) & IFSC Code:

Correct Answer/Option as per candidate:

first question entered in the format shall only be considered.

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_-01-2024

**Ouestion No. & Series** 



# KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Thursday | 11-01-2024

# Nizam Colony, Srinagar Residents Protest Water Scarcity

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Nizam Colony in Saida Kadal area of Srinagar expressed their anguish against the Jal Shakti department for failing to ensure adequate water supply to them.

The aggrieved residents, chanting slogans, gathered in the area to highlight the ongoing water scarcity issue, which according to them has severely affected their daily lives for an extended period.

"We have been facing

an acute water shortage for the past six months now, and despite numerous complaints and pleas to the authorities, there has been no concrete action to resolve this pressing matter," one of the locals said.

"The authorities need to understand the severity of our situation and take immediate steps to ensure adequate water supply," said Basit, a local student from the area.

Moreover, when contacted, officials from Jal Shakti said the issue will be resolved soon.

# DC Srinagar Holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp At Darbagh-Syedpora

#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Darbagh-Syedpora area in Harwan Block of the District under weekly Block Diwas to bring Administration at the door steps of people for an on-spot resolution of their developmental issues.

The Public Grievance Redressal Camp was among others attended by Local DDC and BDC members including Shabir Ahmad Reshi and Haji Ali Mohammad, besides other public representatives and a large gathering of people from the area.

On the occasion, people from Syedpora, Fakir Gujri, Danihama, Mulnar, Gandthal, Theed and other adjoining areas of Harwan Block Welcomed Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat with warm greetings for being posted as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.

The People and public representatives apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the issues confronting them besides their developmental demands including development of playfield, restoration of road stretch at Sarab Bagh, establishment of Girls Higher Secondary School, Skill Development Centre and Fruit Mandi in the area, providing ATM facility and Transport services for local population, completion of Chand pora-Darbagh road, saturation of beneficiaries under PMAY scheme and other issues. The Deputy Commissioner after giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, sought on the spot response from the concerned

### Inspects Developmental Works In Harwan Block

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today undertook an onsite visit to various panchayat Halqas of Harwan Block of the District and inspected several developmental works.

The DC accompanied by the Officers inspected the proposed site for development of a playground for which over 70 kanals of land has been allotted at Darbagh.

While inspecting the an article articl

at the earliest. The DC also took onsite appraisal of the works being carried out on development of spring (Amrit Sarovar) at Syedpora area at an estimated cost of Rs 1.66 lakh.

Similarly, the DC inspected the ongoing works on the construction of Health cum Nutrition Centre being executed at a cost of Rs 24 lakhs under Aspirational Block Development program (ABDP).

District Officers present in the Grievance Redressal Camp. He also assured them that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be looked into on priority. The DC also gave on the spot directions to the Officers of line Departments for time bound redressal of the public issues.



Stary canines take a nap at newly refurbished Lal Chowk, with no one taking notice of the huge presence of dogs in the major commercial hub of the city. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

# Old City's Mughal-Era Kalai Dying From Prolonged Neglect

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The historic Mughalera Kalai, a structure nestled in downtown Srinagar, is confronting decay owing to the prolonged neglect. Constructed during the

reign of Emperor Akbar, this colossal wall surrounding a hill has weathered the test of time, symbolizing centuries of rich heritage.

Locals from Kathi Darwaaza and Makhdoom Sahab Srinagar area said that standing as a testament to the architectural brilliance of its era, the Kalai has been a silent witness to the passage of history.

However, years of negligence have taken a toll on this magnificent edifice, prompting concerns among locals regarding its gradual deterioration, they said.

They added that the community, cognizant of the Kalai's significance as an integral part of Srinagar's cultural legacy, is raising alarms, urging immediate attention and preservation measures from concerned authorities.

"The Kalai, a historical wall in downtown Srinagar, is in a dilapidated condition, with many parts on the verge of collapse and deteriorating contact," said a local resident.

Hilal Ahmad Sofi, a member of the Welfare Coordination Committee and a local resident, said, "We would like to request the authorities to take proactive steps to safeguard and restore the Kalai to its glory."

Mushtaq Beigh, Deputy Director of Archaeology department, when contacted, said, that the project is already underway for restoration under the District Condition Implementation Committee.

He added, under the revival of heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, they have included this project and have also prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR).

"In phase-II, work on the Kalai will commence, and the second phase might start in April, as we already have many ongoing projects and after the end of phase-I, the work on the second phase will be started." he added.

# Commissioner SMC/ VC, SDA Chairs Introductory Meeting with Officers Of SDA

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr Owais Ahmad who is also holding additional charge of Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority (V.C SDA) today convened an introductory meeting with the officers of the

Azadi <sub>Ka</sub>

goals, and strategic priorities for fostering sustainable urban development in the region.

During the meeting, the Vice Chairman emphasized the pivotal role of SDA in shaping the city's urban landscape and highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts to realize the objectives set forth by the Smart City initiative. The discussions focused on aligning the SDA's activities with the overarching goal of enhancing livability, promoting economic growth, and preserving the cultural heritage of Srinagar

tural heritage of Srinagar. The chair underscored the need for a holistic and integrated approach to urban planning, encouraging the officers to leverage innovative solutions and best practices to address urban chal-



# This Day In History

- 1055 Theodora is crowned Empress of the Byzantine Empire.
- 1158 Vladislav II of Bohemia becomes king
- 1599 Jacob van Neck's fleet leaves Bantam, Java in modern day Indonesia with 1 million pounds of pepper and cloves and a further half a ship full of nutmeg, mace and cinnamon
- 1693 Mt Etna in Sicily erupts with estimated 7.4 magnitude, most power Italian earthquake, killing around about 60,000
- 1787 Titania & Oberon, moons of Uranus, discovered by William Herschel.
- 1838 1st public demonstration of telegraph message sent using dots & dashes at Speedwell Ironworks, Morristown, New Jersey by Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail.
- 1861 Mexico City captured by Juarez (Lib) in War of Reform
- 1861 Alabama secedes from the Union (US Civil War)
- 1865 Battle of Beverly, West Virginia, Confederate forces attack Union post.
- 1879 Zulu war against British colonial rule in South Africa begins.
- 1923 French & Belgian troops occupy Ruhr to collect reparations.
- 1924 A republic is proclaimed in Greece; King George II is deposed and Eleutherios Venizelo is named Prime Minister of the Greek National Assembly.

# Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal

Address: Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal-191201 Tel. No.: 0194-2416909 Fax:-0194-2416135 email:-ganderbal.ceo@gmail.com

Subject:- Publication of Tentative Seniority list of Junior Librarian. NOTIFICATION

On the basis of service particulars of Junior Librarian received from concerned DDO the tentative seniority list of Junior Librarian is hereby framed and is uploaded on the website of this office (www.ceoganderbal.in) and also on official What's app. Group of this office for information of the concerned. The notification in this regard is also published in the local leading news papers through information department for its wide publicity. The Junior Librarian as listed in Annexure to this notification are hereby directed to verify his/her particulars reflected in the tentative seniority list. Any variation in the particulars, if detected by any of the official, he/ she shall submit his/her objection along with documentary evidence before the DDO as well as this office duly recommended by the concerned DDO and such claim should reach to this office within fifteen (15) days from the date of publishing of this notification.

However after expiry of stipulated period of 15 days, the DDO shall return the tentative seniority list of Junior Librarian of their institutions respectively alongwith the following certificates:-

1. Certificate to the effect that all the particulars of their respective employee(s) is/are correct.

2. That No employee has been left out from the tentative seniority list.

3. Certificate to the extent that the official has not acquired any higher qualification during service without permission of the competent authority accept the qualification shown in column titled as "Present Qualification" in the Annexure.

4. The Officials who have enhanced the qualification during service detailed in column titled as "Present Qualification" in the Annexure, shall submit the permission of the competent authority supported by leave account statement.

5. That the official is holding genuine appointment on substantive post.

(Muzamil Akhtar) Chief Education Officer Ganderbal

No:- CEO/Gbl/Estt-I/NT/37/283-88 DIPK-15002/23 Dated:- 10/01/2024 Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) to outline the vision, on alignwith the and sustainable development.



#### Sr. DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-26.01.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

	etc. Manual paym ation logon to ww		nd draft, Banker Cheo	que, Deposit recei	ots, FDF	R etc. are not allowed. For more	
	Tender	Туре	Tendering Section		Bidding System		
Open		Works		Single Bid System			
	Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Startin	ig Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		
	04.01.2024		12.01.2	024		26.01.2024/15:00 Hrs	
S.No.	Tender No.		Deta	tails of Tender			
1.	361-2023-24- ADEN-1-FZR	Misc. P.Way Wors ADEN-I/FZR for th		e in the section o	f SSE/F	P.Way/KKP in the jurisdiction of	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer		Period of Completion	
	33,2	21,754.35/-	66,400/-	60 Days		09 Months	
	Similar nature	of work :- "NIL"					
2.	<ol> <li>362-2023-24- ADEN-1-FZR Misc. P.Way Wors for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P.Way/MKS in the jurisdiction of I/FZR for the year 2023-24.</li> </ol>						
	Advertis	ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	fer	Period of Completion	
	33,2	1,938.12/-	66,400/-	60 Days		09 Months	
	Similar nature	of work :- "NIL"					
3.	363-2023-24- ADEN-1-FZR	Misc. P.Way Wors ADEN-I/FZR for th		e in the section o	f SSE/P	Way/MQF in the jurisdiction of	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Validity of Offer		Period of Completion	
	33,2	21,704.38/-	66,400/-	60 Days		09 Months	
	Similar nature	of work :- "NIL"		-			
4.	364-2023-24- ADEN-1-FZR	encasing pipe K-7		ia M.S. Heavy Dut		hrough 700 mm internal dia D.I. pipe under the Railway Track at	
	Advertis	ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer		Period of Completion	
	24,1	19,906.52/-	48,400/-	60 Days		04 Months	
	Similar nature	of work :- "NIL".					
5.	365-2023-24- ADEN-2-FZR	-			-	rough 1600 mm dia M.S. heavy -6 on JUC - FZR section under	
	Advertis	ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Of	fer	Period of Completion	
		31,940.44/-	1,61,600/-	60 Days		04 Months	
	Similar nature cable/pipe line e		uction of bridge with	pipe & Box pushi	ng techr	nique/Crossing of under ground	
6.	367-2023-24- ADEN-2-FZR	Cess repair at var ADEN-2/FZR.	ious locations of high	embankment on	FZP-FI	KA section in the jurisdiction of	
	Advertise	ed Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer		Period of Completion	
	1,62,	,08,258.87/-	2,31,100/-	60 Days 10 Months		10 Months	
	Similar nature of work :- "Any Civil Engineering work involving earth work in banks/cuttings".						

 Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 361, 362, 363 & 364

 2023-24-ADEN-I-FZR & 365 & 367-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR Date: 04.01.2024
 103/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

- 1942 Japan conquers Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.
- 1943 US & Britain relinquish extraterritorial rights in China.
- 1959 Hanif Mohammad completes 499 runs for Karachi, then 1st class cricket world record.
- 1964 Panama ends diplomatic relations with US.
- 1972 East-Pakistan becomes independent state of Bangladesh
- 1978- Soyuz 27 links with Salyut 6 & Soyuz 26 (1st time 3 spacecraft link)
- 1984- NASA space shuttle STS 41-B moves to launch pad
- 1989-140 nations agree to ban chemical weapons (poison gas, etc)
- 1990- 200,000 demand return of Lithuania's independence
- 1991- Soviets storm buildings in Vilnius to block Lithuania independence
- 1992- Algeria's President Chadli announces his resignation
- 1993- British Airways ends one of the longest libel actions in its history
- 1993- Independent presidential candidate Ross Perot publicly returns to politics
- 1994- Hyderabad score 6 for 944 against Andhra Pradesh in Ranji Trophy
- 1994- Irish government announces end of a 20-year broadcasting ban on IRA
- 1996- Haiti becomes a member of the Berne Convention copyright treaty
- 1996- Space Shuttle STS 72 (Endeavour 10), launches into space
- 1997- Telstar 401 Satellite Fails
- 2003- Washington right wing Jaromír Jágr scores his 10th career hat-trick and adds 4 assists for 7 points and his 1,200th NHL point in a 12-2 win against Florida; Jágr has 20+ goals in each of his 13 NHL seasons
- 2013- 29 people are killed and 12 are injured after a bus veers off a mountain road in Doti, Nepal
- 2013- 46 people are killed and 12 are missing after a landslide buries a village in the Yunnan province, China
- 2016- FIFA Ballon d'Or: Barcelona forward Lionel Messi wins his record 5th award with 41.33% of the votes; American midfielder Carli Lloyd is Women's World Player of the Year
- 2018- In China's first significant #MeToo moment Beihang University in Beijing fires a professor for sexual misconduct
- 2018 US President Donald Trump causes worldwide controversy when it is reported he called African countries "shitholes" during immigration meeting

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# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Thursday | 11-01-2024

# **Election Year**

ith general elections due to be held in May-June, there is talk that Panchayat and Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir's are likely to follow the exercise. The tenure of nearly 4,900 village panchayats concluded on Tuesday, leaving rural areas without elected grassroots representatives. However, the District Development Councils, established through direct elections in 2020, remain active. As for the Assembly elections, the Supreme Court's deadline of September 2024 has added a timeline to this process. Logistical and security assessments for these elections are expected during the Election Commission's visit to the region as part of its Lok Sabha polls review. In parallel, the State Election Commission has announced a special summary revision of electoral rolls for Panchayat elections to include newly eligible voters. The final electoral rolls for panchayats are slated for publication on February 26. This should normally pave the way for the poll process in the union territory.

The last Assembly elections date back to 2014, which makes for a prolonged absence of a democratic governance in the UT. J&K has not had an elected government since June 2018 when Governor's rule was imposed after the PDP-led coalition government lost its majority following the withdrawal of support by the BJP. Subsequently, on August 5, 2019, New Delhi abrogated Article 370 that granted J&K special status under India's constitution. Since then the Lieutenant Governor has taken over from the Governor. Though the period has witnessed all-round development and ushering in of normalcy, the democratic void has had definite implications for governance, representation, and the holistic involvement of diverse voices in decisionmaking processes. The delay in Assembly elections prolongs the absence of a locally accountable government, which does impact the implementation of policies tailored to address the unique challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir. Like the rest of the country, the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a democratic government for voicing their grievances and aspirations through elected representatives who can engage in legislative processes and policymaking.

The Election Commission's upcoming visit to the region offers an opportune moment to assess the logistical and security requisites for holding Assembly elections. Mobilizing election workers, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and ensuring adequate security arrangements necessitate strategic planning, which must align with the Supreme Court's deadline. The union government has also promised the Supreme Court that it is serious about holding Assembly elections in the UT in near future. Things will certainly become clearer in the weeks and months to come.

#### OTHER OPINON

# K-shaped questions

# Cool as Fire, Hot as Ice **J&K Weather Recap 2023** A Year of Extremes and Lessons for 2024



(The data is based on the analysis of wind patterns and forecasts provided by Global Forecast System (GFS) weather model, produced by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP).

#### Faizan Arif

o, 2024 has kicked off with this never-ending dry spell since December. Water springs are practically on vacation. No snow in the hills, and good luck figuring out if it's Autumn or Winter temperatures are the only clue.

And 2023? The year was a meteorological rollercoaster stuck on repeat! From record-breaking rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir to searing heatwaves rewriting temperature norms, the climate script was far from ordinary. The Union Territory experienced an unsteady rainfall pattern, with some areas grappling with intense downpours while others faced the challenges of drought.

In essence, the weather narrative of 2023 in Jammu and Kashmir is a tale of contrasts and extremes. It underscores the vulnerability of region to the impacts of climate change and the importance of adaptive measures.

This article explores the weather dynamics of 2023, offering a monthly breakdown of rainfall and shedding light on the impact of Western Disturbances. It identifies key temperature and rainfall records, presenting a concise overview of the extraordinary climatic events that unfolded in the region.

#### **Rainfall Metrics: Jammu and** Kashmir experiences 7% deficit rainfall in 2023

Beginning with a 42% excess in January and concluding with a substantial 79% shortage in December, Jammu and Kashmir faced an overall 7% deficit in rainfall throughout 2023. The region received only 1146.6 mm of rainfall, contrasting with the usual 1232.3 mm. Negative departures from normal were observed in 13 districts, while 5 districts experienced positive departures. The total rainfall data for Kishtwar and Poonch districts was unavailable due to the non-functionality of Automatic Weather Stations since June and September, respectively.

Shopian displayed the most sub-

and July at +35%. Conversely, December recorded the most substantial deficit at -79%, with February following closely at -69%. The data shows that March had a negative departure of -48%, while April showed a positive departure of +14%. May, June, and November experienced departures of +24%, +8%, and +10%, respectively, while August and September witnessed deficits of -29% and -18%, based on departures from normal rainfall levels.

Ladakh Union Territory experienced a 65% surplus in rainfall. The recorded rainfall of 84.0 mm surpassed the usual 50.9 mm. Kargil saw

(The data is based on analysis of data obtained from India Meteorological Department.)



District-Wise Annual 2023 Rainfall 
 1056.9
 1375.0
 2207.9
 1407.0
 1578.2

 1188.4
 1468.4
 2189.0
 1043.5
 1632.2
 70.0 48.3 45% 0.0 129.5 59.3 84.0 50.9

a substantial 118% surplus, while grees Celsius. On the same day, Qa-Leh observed a 45% surplus in comzigund recorded its second-highest parison to their respective normal maximum temperature in June in rainfall levels. 33 years, hitting 34.2 degrees Celsius.

minimum temperature of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, marking the secondlowest temperature recorded in January in the past five years. Moving to February 12, Gulmarg reported a minimum temperature of minus 13.5 degrees Celsius, standing as the second-lowest February temperature in a decade for Gulmarg. On February 11, Jammu recorded its lowest February temperature in the last 11 years, at 3.6 degrees Celsius.

As summer approached, temperature records continued to tumble. On June 23, Srinagar experienced its hottest June day in 18 years, with temperatures peaking at 35.0 de-

24-hour rainfall in July since 2005, reaching 125.1 mm. Reasi district was hit by a cloudburst on July 19, a cloudburst hit Reasi, impacting the Katra station. Katra station, located in Reasi, recorded 315.4 mm of rainfall in just 24 hours, breaking all previous records set in July. In the 30-hour period, the total rainfall reached 413.6 mm. Srinagar experienced its wettest July in at least the last 131 years,

at 40.2 mm.

recording 187.2 mm of rainfall. Qazigund witnessed its wettest July since 1996 with a total rainfall of 197.7 mm. Pahalgam reported its second-highest all-time rainfall at 225.5 mm, while Gulmarg recorded its highest July rainfall in the last 13 years, at 144.8 mm.

sius. On the same day, Qazigund and

Kokernag recorded their highest-ever

maximum temperatures in Septem-

ber, reaching 33.2 and 32.0 degrees

On May 8, Qazigund and Koker-

nag recorded their highest 24-hour

rainfall in May since 2010, measuring

49.8 mm and 62.2 mm, respectively.

Additionally, Banihal experienced

its highest 24-hour rainfall since 2013

296.0 mm of rainfall within 24 hours

in Kathua on July 9. Simultaneous-

ly, Bhaderwah marked its highest

Kathua witnessed a whopping

4. Extreme Rainfall Records:

Celsius, respectively.

The record-breaking rainfall and searing heatwaves witnessed in 2023 highlight the growing threat posed by extreme weather events. These temperature anomalies can have severe implications for human health, agriculture, and natural ecosystems. The juxtaposition of intense rainfall and extreme heat emphasizes the complexity of climate interactions and the cascading effects they can have on the environment.

As we are into the new year, the lessons learned from the meteorological events of the last year are invaluable. The imperative to adapt to a changing climate becomes apparent, and the importance of proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events becomes necessary. This includes implementing resilient infrastructure, developing sustainable water management strategies, and enhancing community preparedness for both flooding and drought conditions. Policymakers, communities, and stakeholders must collaborate to build resilience and enhance preparedness for the inevitable challenges posed by a changing climate.

+141%, followed by January at +42%, On January 5, Srinagar logged a

BI, State Bank of India, SBI report, Express View on SBI report, editorial, Indian express, opinion news, indian express editorial The SBI report suffers from some fundamental flaws. If the government has been forced to extend the scheme of subsidised food grain to 800 million Indians, does it not suggest deep economic distress?

A new research report by the State Bank of India (SBI) seeks to "debunk" claims of India's "K-shaped" economic recovery and asserts that the repeated use of the phrase is "flawed, prejudiced, ill-concocted and fanning interests of select quarters to whom India's remarkable ascendance... is quite unpalatable". A K-shaped recovery essentially suggests that there has been a stark difference in the way different sectors of the economy recovered after the pandemic. It indicates that while the overall economic growth numbers look robust, there is a growing underlying inequality. The SBI report's arguments against it are far from persuasive.

The report says that the "patterns emanating from income, savings, consumption, expenditure and policy measures aimed at empowering the masses — from Ujjwala to Ayushman Bharat and from Awas Yojana to maternal/neonatal welfare — question the efficacy of using ages-old proxies like low two-wheeler sales or fragmented land holdings to support some pre-destined narratives of India not doing well". It argues that the muted post-pandemic sales of twowheelers "could reflect households reconfiguring their savings towards physical assets (real estate) and a not too small buyers' percentage shifting to used/entry-level cars (substitution effect)". It cites data from Zomato as an example of rising disposable income in non-metro areas. And looks at the income tax data for FY22 to note that the Gini coefficient had declined significantly from 0.472 to 0.402 between FY14 and FY22. The decline in income inequality is because of a "Great Migration" at the bottom of the pyramid; 36.3 per cent of individual tax return filers belonging to the lowest income in FY14 have left the lowest income group and shifted upwards, finds the report.

The SBI report suffers from some fundamental flaws. If the government has been forced to extend the scheme of subsidised food grain to 800 million Indians, does it not suggest deep economic distress? In a country where a minuscule percentage of people pay direct income tax, how reasonable is it to draw conclusions from tax data about broader inequality? Isn't income tax data nominal and as such affected by overall inflation? Why are tractor sales a better representative of the rural (not farm) economy than two-wheeler sales? The list of questions is longer than the report's conclusions.

The Indian Express

stantial negative departure at -47% followed by Budgam at -34% and Kupwara at -29%. Bandipora experienced a negative departure of -21%, while Rajouri and Kulgam shared an -11% departure each. Kathua recorded a -9% departure, Ganderbal -7%, Srinagar -4%, and both Jammu and Ramban recorded it at -6%. Anantnag and Udhampur had negative departures of -3% each. On the positive side, Samba recorded a significant +35% departure, followed by Doda at +16%, Baramulla at +2%, and Reasi and Pulwama, each registering a +1% departure in rainfall.

In terms of monthly performance, October exhibited the highest surplus rainfall а

#### 2.80 Western Disturbances affect J&K and Ladakh:

In 2023, Jammu and Kashmir was impacted by a total of 80 Western Disturbances. A peak of 9 occurrences was recorded in August, which is unusual, while the lowest count, at 3, took place in April. The distribution across other months was as follows: 7 each in January and February, 6 in March, 8 in May, 5 in June, 7 each in July, September, and October, 8 in November, and December witnessed 6 Western Disturbances.

3. Extreme Temperature Records:

The winter season etched new records

Kokernag and Pahalgam also saw their hottest June day in 18 years and 15 years, respectively. On June 24. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 22.4 degrees Celsius, the highest minimum temperature in June in 15 years, tying with the record set the previous year. Srinagar witnessed its lowest maximum temperature in July since 2010 on July 8, registering 19.2 degrees Celsius.

Autumn added a few records as well. On September 10, Gulmarg reported a maximum of 24.0 degrees Celsius, breaking all previous records since 2009 set in the month. On September 12, Srinagar marked its second-highest-ever temperature in September since 1891 when the weather observatory was established, recording a temperature of 34.2 degrees Cel-

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer Author is an independent weather forecaster, also known by 'Kashmir Weather' name across social media platforms



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or five. One sentence

"Talhaz bo dimhas akh

I frequently hear

nazrah"



Why Do You Read It?

S.Sarwar.Malik

People vary so do the reasons. Teenagers go for backside first-eyeing **sporty** faces and figures, coloured, in action; for recounting to *humjholis*, amid heroic draughts.

After casting *tairana nazar* on **headlines** govt. employees scan it thoroughly everyday, for news about transfers of colleagues/officers they love or hate ...except on leisurely Sundays when squatted **"bottom-spread"** is preferred.

Those interested in politics, hastily go after **press-releases** designed by UT's Information Department and with a sigh, miss those K-centric **articles** that recycled words, clichés, arguments, rebuttals and rejoinders-gone stale since. Then isn't mausam ka haal and siyasat ki chaal the favourite topic of conversation of all.

Those with '*religious*' bent of mind who followed religiously the *bayanaat -e-qaideen hazraat* and relished stories about *mazloom qaum* and *satanic designs*, heave many sighs & complain '*akhbar Lavinee akh ropai te az kal*'

School kids and Government employees miss that four lettered word,that vanished from lexicons : "CALL" *hartal ki aaj.....* 

Those who haven't found anything yesterday look for "Lost" advertisements -hoping luck will today come their way. Ponder why only notices about the lost birth/ marks certificates are published; not so about character certificates; though lost & conveniently forgotten by majority, long back?

To strike acquaintance with unfamiliar faces or to renew tieslong snapped, the elderly and retired persons-who have very little to do besides baby-sitting, search for venue and timings of *Rasm*-



*e-Qul* of any acquaintance now departed, wishing other myopic eyes should go blind before they locate his name in page 3 of local newspapers. Housewives in macro family-taunted for *doen harfun hinz shinai*, go for it to take attention off the **jumble** called married life. Those who find refuge from loneliness(- confronting them, af-

ter post-breakfast tata bye bye of kids & hubby,) in grand clearance sale pieces for six days, in local shopping marts ; sharpening skills on Sunday tetes with hubby, attempting **crossword puzzle** duel, when not carried by most papers here in kashmir.

Bosses and the neo-rich, pretending busy, find it handy for ignoring visitors or showing the door, while angry husbands use it to ward off any "advances" by the wife, after a tiff. Remember how excellent, fly swappers and handy fans newspapers prove.

In short, everyone finds it useful including the queer sorts who habitually use it as laxative, along with a fag, to facilitate bowelclearance, every morning.

Beyond all these "compelling reasons", there is a temptation the majority wants to yield to. That is having a newspaper FREE even when priced Rs. three or five. One sentence I frequently hear "*Talhaz bo dimhas akh nazrah*" is enough to shoot up my B.P.

God knows how majority of our Akhbaar-wallas manage to carry on in a place like Kashmir, where READERSHIP IS DISMALLY LOW and quantum of "*darde-sar* wa darde- jigar" astoundingly high; forcing the queer segment to be content with the ego- catapulting invitation cards issued for government functions....planned for projecting aks-e- parvaz like Press Releases, where even top officers of state information department (.....of course! Line department people too; hauled from their offices along with staff) try to impress the publicity-stricken administrators & Bureaucrats, by checking the mikes or rightly positioning the mouthpieces... even dusting 'mahraz-e-kursi', themselves; beaming glances towards bosses, as if pleading in silent words:

"khaal tum ithai peith heur... khoje banne ha, khawaja, shah banne haa ... kuchh to sila milay iss aalam-ezardari ki sardari main... Jinaab Chonchan seit chamche te yaad thav, in our deegcha something trav.. pichhle Eid ka nazrana te ristte leij yaad pav."

"Columnist yaar, stop"...that is my Editor's voice, dear reader, saying "new limit of 800-1000 words, yaad thav." So...,adieu.

# How AI May Redefine Our Understanding of Time



#### John Nosta

n the world where the second hand of the clock dictates ev-Lery aspect of our lives, from mundane routines to monumental decisions, we often overlook a profound question: How do entities that operate outside the human brain, like artificial intelligence and large language models, perceive time? This question becomes even more intriguing when we consider the burgeoning field of quantum computing. Let's take a minute and delve into the fascinating realm where AI, LLMs, and quantum computing intersect, revealing a perspective of time that challenges our deepest-held notions. This won't take long...

#### **Al and Time Perception**

At its core, AI and LLMs operate on data and algorithms. Unlike humans, who experience time as a continuous and linear flow, AI perceives time as discrete and fragmented. For AI, time is represented as timestamps in data, devoid of the past-present-future continuum that humans experience. This allows AI to process past, present, and hypothetical future scenarios with equal ease, untethered by the human biases of memory and expectation.

#### The Quantum Tick

The advent of quantum computing promises to revolutionize this landscape even further. Quantum computers operate on the principles of quantum mechanics, where traditional binary states (0 and 1) are replaced by qubits that can exist in multiple states simultaneously. This quantum superposition, coupled with entanglement, could enable quantum-AI systems to process vast amounts of data in ways that are fundamentally different from classical computing.

# Redefining Time in AI and Quantum Systems

In quantum-AI systems, time could be perceived not as a series of discrete events, but as a spectrum of probabilities. The linear, tick-tock progression becomes irrelevant in a realm where outcomes are probabilistic and computations occur in a state of superposition. In this scenario, an AI leveraging quantum computing might analyze historical data, current trends, and future projections in a unified, nonlinear framework, effectively "experiencing" time in a way that's alien to human cognition.

#### Another Layer of Complexity: AGI

Then, of course, there's the realm of artificial general intelligence. Here, the already complex interplay between AI, quantum computing, and our perception of time gains an additional layer of depth. AGI, with its capacity to understand and operate across diverse intellectual realms, brings a nuanced comprehension to the quantum-time relationship that current AI systems can't fully grasp. This advanced form of intelligence could potentially conceptualize time not just as a series of probabilities or discrete events but as a multifaceted entity with dimensions beyond our current scientific understanding.

The emergence of AGI could lead to groundbreaking methods in predicting and interacting with future events, effectively "thinking" in time scales and dimensions that are currently beyond human comprehension. This not only revolutionizes our technological capabilities but also forces us to reconsider our philosophical and theoretical understanding of time itself, potentially unveiling new aspects of reality that have been hitherto invisible to human inquiry.

#### Quantum Entanglement and AI: Redefining Connections

Quantum entanglement, a key feature in quantum mechanics, introduces "action at a distance" into AI integrated with quantum computing. This phenomenon, where entangled particles instantaneously affect each other across distances, challenges our traditional views of space and time. Integrating this with AI could revolutionize data processing. Quantum-AI could simultaneously analyze and correlate distant data sources, offering global insights that transcend traditional analysis. This capability is crucial for real-time applications like autonomous systems, where rapid, remote responses are key.

However, this exciting frontier also brings challenges in unpredictability and technological complexity, alongside profound philosophical questions about reality and causality. In essence, quantum entanglement in AI is not just a leap in computing; it's a shift in our understanding of the universe, presenting a future where connections defy conventional boundaries of time and space.

#### **Time for a Change?**

The implications of this perspective are at the very least curious and perhaps even profound. In fields like finance, health care, and climate science, quantum-AI systems could forecast trends and patterns with unprecedented accuracy, considering all possible futures simultaneously. In robotics and autonomous vehicles, realtime decision-making could be enhanced by an AI's ability to process temporal data in a nonlinear fashion, predicting and reacting to events with superhuman foresight.

The alarm clock that you might be hearing is a new era in computing and AI where our understanding of time is being challenged and reshaped. AI and quantum computing are not just tools for faster calculations; they are harbingers of a new perception of reality, where time, as we know it, takes on a whole new dimension. The clock may continue to tick, but in the world of AI and quantum mechanics, time is a tapestry of infinite possibilities, waiting to be unraveled.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

# News

# Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd. Leads Environmental Stewardship with Mega Plantation Drive

Srinagar: In a significant stride towards environmental conservation, Khyber Industries Pvt,Ltd., as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, organized a massive plantation drive on the 26th of December 2023. The event, conducted in collaboration with the Forest Department of Kashmir Division, aimed to contribute substantially to the region's green cover

The ceremony was inaugurated by Dr. Mumtaz Majeed Sofi, Deputy Director of Forest Protection Force, and Mr. A.K Akhoon, Assistant Director of Forest Protection Force, along with other esteemed members of the Forest Department. The presence of the Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd. (KIPL) team underscored their commitment to environmental conservation through such initiatives.

'Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd.'s consistent efforts towards



environmental protection were recognized during the event, as it was highlighted that approximately 4000 saplings of various trees had been planted during this mega plantation drive. Director Operations Khyber Industries Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Riaz

Ahmad Tramboo expressed, "This initiative stands as a testament to KIPL's dedication to fostering a sustainable and green environment. It's worth noting

that Khyber Industries Pvt. Ltd. has been actively participating in CSR initiatives, particularly in the realm of environmental conservation. Last year, the company successfully planted around 14,000 tree saplings as part of their CSR endeavors, all conducted under the resonant slogan, "Go Green."

Mr. Umar Trumboo -Director Corporate & Strategy, Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd.

expressed enthusiasm for Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd. mega plantation drive stating, "Our commitment to environmental stewardship sets a positive precedent for the industrial sector. Actively engaging in tree plantation and aligning CSR with ecological preservation, the company symbolizes the crucial role businesses play in fostering a greener planet. As saplings grow into flourishing trees, the impact extends beyond industrial success, leaving a lasting legacy of environmental responsibility and sustainable development.

Khyber Cement holds the title of the largest cement manufacturer in the state of Jammu & Kashmir, serving as an integral part of the Khyber Industries PVT Ltd. Founded by visionaries Dr. Gulam Rasool Tramboo and Mr. Haji Muhammad Maqbool Tramboo, and advanced by Mr. Umar Tramboo, the cement unit epitomizes excellence and innovation.

# J&K Bank Signs MoU With Atul Greentech To Promote Green Transport

Srinagar- J&K Bank Wednesday entered into a tie-up with M/S Atul Greentech Pvt. Ltd (Atul: E) by virtue of which the Bank has become one of the preferred financiers for the purchase of three-wheeler electric vehicles from the company. As per the agreement M/S Atul Greentech Pvt. Ltd - a subsidiary of M/S Auto Pvt. Ltd - will provide upfront discount to the borrowers availing loans from J&K Bank for purchasing from a wide range of their e-vehicles.

Deputy General Manager (Corporate Banking/MSME) Nishikant Sharma signed the Memorandum of

Understanding on Bank's behalf while M/S Atul Greentech Pvt. Ltd was represented by their Deputy General Manager (Sales) Prerit Talesara in the signing ceremony held at Bank's Corporate Headquarters that was attended by senior officials from both the organizations.



Terming the association a step in a right direction with a focus on future, Nishikant Sharma highlighted the need for providing loan facilities to the eco-friendly green initiatives taken across the country. He said, "Amid growing focus on pollution-free and clean environment, green initiatives across our country have assumed greater significance. So the role of Banks has become more important in providing financial support to make all the eco-friendly initiatives

iation a successful."

"Therefore, our association with Atul Greentech Pvt. Ltd will not only facilitate hasslefree loans to the prospective borrowers but will also help them earn discounts from the company. It is a win-win for us as well as the prospective customers," he added.

Deputy Manager Sales Prerit Talesara, while speaking on the occasion, stated that both J&K Bank and Atul Greentech Pvt. Ltd will add to their clientele particularly in J&K.

# CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## **India to Become**

for new investments worth billions of dollars in India's port infrastructure by the companies from UAE"

Modi and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed conducted a joint roadshow in Ahmedabad preceding the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. A substantial crowd warmly welcomed the leaders in Ahmedabad.

Speaking about India's economy Modi said, "Today, India is the fifth largest economy in the world. 10 years ago, India was in 11th position. Today, all major agencies estimate that India will be in the top three economies of the world in the coming years. Let people across the world do their analysis, but it is my guarantee that it will happen.

Further, talking about India's global importance, Modi said, "The world looks at India as an important pillar of stability. A friend who can be trusted, a partner who believes in people-centric development, a voice that believes in global good, a voice of the Global South, an engine of growth in the global economy, a technology hub for finding solutions, a powerhouse of talented youth and a democracy that delivers."

He added, "We are all aware of the global circumstances. So, in times like these, if the Indian economy is displaying such resistance, if the growth in India is showing such momentum, a big reason behind this is our focus on structural reforms in the last 10 years. These reforms have enhanced the capacity, capability and competitiveness of India's economy."

# **Poor And Underprivileged**

industries, religious tourism and tapping the potential of the Agriculture & Allied sector," he said.

"Besides central government schemes, the J&K UT administration is running more than dozen self-employment sche nes with an objective to provide resources and requisite training to youth to start their own business. This could be a game changer both in urban and rural areas," he added. At the event, the LG urged the people to assist the Civil Administration and Police to intensify crackdown on drug supply chains to make their Panchayat Nasha-Mukt. Responding to the issues put forth by former PRI members on the occasion, Sinha assured them that their suggestions and genuine demands would be considered in the planning of the District Capex Budget.

address the skewed distribution of electors.

The housing and urban development department is actively pursuing a communication from the office of the chief electoral officer, which, among other things, suggested transfer of mandate to conduct the municipal electoral processes to the State Election Commission (SEC) in accordance with constitutional provisions.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the chief electoral officer (CEO) is the authority to hold urban local body (ULB) elections in addition to Lok Sabha and assembly polls, while the SEC — headed by a state election commissioner — is mandated to conduct elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI).

In a letter to the housing and urban development department last month, the CEO's office said consequent to the appointment of a fulltime state election commissioner, the mandate to conduct the municipal electoral processes needs to be transferred from the CEO to the SEC.

"For this, the election authority under the municipal acts needs to be changed from chief electoral officer to the state election commissioner. The constitutional provisions also mandate this," the letter read.

The five-year term of most of the municipalities, including the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), ended in November last year, while the term of panchayats expired on Tuesday.

The term of the SMC ended on November 5 and the JMC's ended on November 14.

The tenure of block development councils (BDCs) and district development councils (DDCs) is ending in October 2024 and January 2026, respectively.

The last ULB and panchayat elections were held between October and December 2018 after a long delay The CEO's office, in its letter, also referred to various petitioners who have objected to the large-scale difference in the electoral base of each seat of the two municipal corporations and demanded a fresh delimitation of all bodies. ...there is a large difference in the elector bases of different wards wherein there are wards with elector bases in the range of 2,000 to 3,000 on one side and 12,000 to 15,000 on the other extreme. Similar variance is there in most of the municipal councils and committees also. This skew in the representation strength of each ward can be addressed by a fresh delimitation exercise," the letter stated.

Hajj this year.

An official from the J&K State Hajj Committee told Kashmir Observer that this year, despite 12,000 slots being allocated to the region only 7,000 people have applied for Hajj, contrasting sharply with the 14,000 applications received in 2023.

"Out of 14000 applications, over 12000 performed Hajj last year," the official said.

In 2022, over 22000 people submitted Hajj application forms, however only 6000 could be accommodated, he added.

To encourage the pilgrims for submission of application forms, the Hajj committee extended the deadline till January 15. "However, very small number of people applied," the official added.

Many individuals whom the Kashmir Observer spoke to expressed concerns that economic constraints pose a significant barrier for those aspiring to embark on the sacred journey of Hajj.

The pilgrimage to Mecca holds profound spiritual and religious significance for Muslims worldwide, however due to financial limitations their ability to fulfill this deeply cherished obligation remains constrained.

The expenses related to Hajj encompass various facets, including travel costs, accommodation, visa fees, transportation within Saudi Arabia, and other incidental expenses.

The culmination of these expenses creates a substantial financial burden for prospective pilgrims, particularly for those living in economically challenging circumstances.

Ejaz Ayoub, an independent Srinagar-based economist told Kashmir Observer that economic inequality in the society has widened and the middle class section-which is the largest section in the society - has suffered a series of economic blows due to back to back showdowns owning to abrogation of Article 370 and Covid-19. expect a hazel free hajj this year," he added. Notably, a few days ago Union Minister

Smriti Irani signed the Hajj Agreement 2023 and said that India's annual Hajj quota has been enhanced to 1.75 lakh pilgrims annually. Under the new Agreement 2024, the Saudi government has agreed to enhance India's an used for the time time that 1.75

nual quota of first time Hajj Pilgrims to 1.75 lakh annually.

# **Protecting Public**

General (DIG) of police south Kashmir, Rayees Mohammad Bhat, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Awantipora Ajaz Ahmad Zargar and other senior officers of the Police District were also present on the occasion.

The spokesperson said that the inspection zeroed in on critical elements, including the crime data and statistics for the jurisdiction, assessing the effectiveness of on-going initiatives and identifying areas for improvement, functioning of woman help desk, crime and criminal tracking network & systems, reporting systems, accommodation and allied facilities for jawans.

Stressing for adopting comprehensive counter measures to tackle terror crime incidents, the IGP Kashmir, he said, asserted that protecting the lives of people was their utmost responsibility.

Birdi, he said, urged officers to strengthen communication within the ranks and to augment the security grids in their respective areas.

"This strategic move aims at bolstering the safety and security of the people in the area," he said.

Addressing the ongoing threat, the IGP, the spokesperson said, urged vigilance against suspicious elements providing any kind of support to terrorist activities. Birdi, he said, emphasized the importance of keeping such elements under constant radar to foil their attempts and prevent any untoward incidents.

Commissioner in Islamabad about an impending al-Qaeda plot targeting Kashmir. This advance warning, conveyed via diplomatic channels, was aimed at averting a potential attack, emphasizing ISI's stance of non-involvement in any retaliatory strikes post-Pulwama and, in this instance, after the killing of the then Valley's Al Qaeda commander Zakir Musa. The fore-warning turned out to be genuine as the attack, according to Bisaria was actually in works and was pre-empted in time.

The book also mentions that some nations had offered to dispatch special envoys to the subcontinent, but this was deemed unnecessary. "Even China, not to be outdone, proposed sending its deputy minister to both countries to facilitate de-escalation. India, however, politely declined the offer," Bisaria says.

Regarding the broader regional geopolitics, the diplomat notes that Pakistan's Prime Minister, Imran Khan, urged China to support Islamabad after the United States sided with India against China. Yet, Chinese President Xi Jinping firmly stated, "China will not be favoring Pakistan over India."

ing Pakistan over India." "I learned that Khan had suggested to the Chinese that they should back Pakistan due to the US supporting India against China. However, President Xi Jinping reacted sharply to Khan's simplistic geopolitical assessment and affirmed that China would not be favoring Pakistan over India," Bisaria recounts.

"He advised Khan that it is the US that could assist Pakistan in its relationship with India, and it would be in Pakistan's best interest to reconcile with both the US and Afghanistan," Bisaria writes.

# **CAT Quashes**

department of Anesthesia from 01.07.2016 to 01.07.2017," the Cat said, adding, "The said experience being irrelevant was rejected by he private respondent after submitted another certificate from the same Hospital stating that she has worked as Senior Resident for the same period in the same hospital. The second certificate issued only seven days after the first one has been surprisingly accepted by PSC despite "glaring" contradictions with the first certificate, the CAT said. 'The doubt casts a serious shadow on the eligibility of private respondent (Dr R Jan) even if the issue of nonrecognition of the college is kept aside for a moment," the Bench said, adding, "These facts coupled with the position that even the private respondent (Dr R Jan) did not choose to rebut these allegations before us, we are constrained to hold that the private respondent was ineligible in terms of the advertisement notice and thus not entitled to be selected and appointed. Had her candidature been rejected at the right point of time by the PSC, the Bench said, the petitioner would have been selected and appointed being next in merit without having to face a "long drawn legal battle of about two years." Consequently, the Bench declared as "void ab-initio (invalid from the beginning)" the appointment of Dr R Jan as Lecturer, Anesthesiology in Government Medical College, Srinagar vide notification no 32-PSC (DR-S) of 2021 dated 20 May 2021 and her appointment by Government on 1 June 2021. "The respondents (authorities) are directed to appoint the petitioner (Dr. Mehnaz) as Lecturer Anesthesiology in Government Medical College, Srinagar against the said post being next in the order of merit with all consequential benefits notionally," the CAT said and ordered the completion of the entire process within two months.

He also directed Deputy Commissioner Jammu to take a comprehensive review of the development of playfields in panchayats of the District and ensure that by the end of the month of April, every panchayat of Jammu District, where land is available, has a playfield.

## 'We'll Soon

the administration is sensitive to the needs and aspirations of every section of the society.

The LG said that his administration, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is determined to root out terrorism and to provide a safe and secure environment to the people.

"Terrorism is breathing its last breath and we will soon finish the terror ecosystem from the soil of J&K. Peace and development has brought qualitative change in people's lives and standard of living," he added.

The LG also congratulated the individuals and organizations from diverse fields honoured on the occasion for their outstanding contribution to the society.

"I am extremely happy to see people are working with a new commitment for a brighter future of the nation," he said.

"J&K is the land of almost all major religions known to humankind. Respect for all religions, sects and co-existence has enriched cultural heritage. Everyone will have to work together to restore its glorious past and promote virtues of culture, humanity and selfless service," Sinha added.

He also assured all necessary support by the administration to enable the creativity and dedication of the 5163 youth registered by Relief & Rehabilitation Department for self employment.

## **Any Elections In**

commission will have to wait till the wards to be reserved are identified.

The other major task likely to be carried out before holding the panchayat and municipal polls will be delimitation of the wards to

## **Review Petitions**

from an error apparent on the face of records. Mere execution of IOA, without anything more, does not result in loss of total sovereignty," it said.

The plea, while citing several other "erroneous conclusions", said Article 370 was not a concession but the outcome of the act of State.

"The view of the court that Article 370 was declared to be temporary because of the conditions in the State, otherwise the State had fully integrated with the Union, is a finding, with respect, unsustainable...The view taken by the court therefore is clearly unsustainable and qualifies as an error apparent on face of record," the review plea said.

On December 11, settling the decades-long debate over the contentious issue of Article 370 after a marathon 16-day hearing, the fivejudge bench delivered three concurring judgements upholding abrogation of Article 370 that provided a unique status to J&K when it acceded to the Union of India in 1947. The Centre had abrogated Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

It held that the President of India was empowered to revoke the measure in the absence of the Constituent Assembly of the erstwhile state whose term expired in 1957.

Scrapping Article 370 was among the core issues of BJP's agenda and had been consistently included in its election manifestos.

The apex court verdict was seen as a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

# **Kashmir Faces**

The total expenses surpass 9 lakh, which is huge for us," Tariq Ahmad said.

Over the years, the cost of Hajj has increased significantly leaving the pilgrims disappointed. However, despite the costs remaining similar to last year, the Hajj committee of Kashmir has witnessed a significant drop in applications for corra ro.

"The rich class will prefer private operators but the middle class is in trouble. The borrowing is high among them, savings are less and the inflation is high," Ayoub said.

When asked the rates of hajj were same last year, he said "the cost of Hajj isn't the crucial factor; what truly matters is how many individuals can earn enough to afford the pilgrimage,"

Government has been reiterating that the increase in tourist influx has given a boost to the local economy; however, Ayoub said that income generated by the tourism sector is not reflected on ground because "they don't encompass the entire spectrum of society."

Many individuals pointed to the inadequate facilities in Mecca for Kashmiri pilgrims last year as one of the main reasons they chose not to submit their application forms.

"You must have seen the videos where almost all the pilgrims complained of poor facilities in hotels, transportation and overcrowding last year. It has an impact," said Fayaz Ahmad, a resident of HMT Srinagar.

Owing to the rising cost of Hajj many people are turning to the cheaper alternative of Umrah instead.

"Umrah costs only 1 lakh for a 20-day journey. It's affordable," stated Akthar Hussain, who returned to the valley after completing Umrah in December.

The officials, however, said that people can embark to Hajj from other states including Delhi and Mumbai, where the journey is expected to be cheaper as compared to Srinagar.

"However they must know it, they would be accommodated with Kashmiri pilgrims in Mecca and Madina. They will have to be with the pilgrims of those states," he added.

According to the rate list issued by the Haj Committee of India last year, the Hajj cost from Mumbai was approximately 90,000 cheaper than Srinagar, and the difference in Hajj cost between Delhi and Srinagar was around 50,000.

Dr. Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, Executive Officer of the J&K State Haj Committee acknowledged that the cost of Hajj is excessively high.

"The cost will be around 4 lakh this year as well," Qureshi said, adding, "if the numbers remain the same, they will accommodate all of them and won't go for a quota."

When asked about the complaints of poor facilities in Mecca for pilgrims, he said the bilateral agreements between India and Saudi got delayed last year, thus the pilgrims found it difficult.

"..But this year the Hajj Agreement between the two countries is already done and we "The IGP stressed the need for stringent action against individuals found involved in antipeace activities," he added.

During the visit, the spokesperson said, the IGP urged officials for better management of Police Station records, stressing the significance of organized and accessible documentation as per laid down rules for efficient policing.

In a bid to enhance community engagement, he said, Birdi urged officials to spruce up interactions with the public, and also highlighted the importance of fostering a strong and positive relationship between the police force and the community it serves.

Earlier, the spokesperson said, Birdi engaged in a detailed interaction with the cops at Police Station Tral and Police Post Aripal, seeking valuable insights into their experiences and challenges.

"Highlighting the paramount importance of creating a conducive and secure environment for those dedicated to ensuring public safety, IGP Birdi expressed sincere appreciation for the dedication and hard work exhibited by the Police personnel and encouraged continuous efforts to enhance community safety," he added.

## **Pay Bills**

purchase which will be critical for providing reliable supply.

The MD also said that huge default figures are taking a toll on the financial health of the Corporation as it would impact the fund flow under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), which is aimed at transforming the LT Distribution Network in Kashmir Division.

Seeking cooperation of all consumers in clearing dues, the MD further stated that keeping in view the compulsion for realization of arrears; KPDCL has passed directions to all 19 Electric Divisions to further accelerate disconnection drives of defaulter consumers who are reluctant to pay their energy dues on time.

# **Imran Khan Sought**

Pakistani jet, yet Pakistan refused permission, citing the sensitive optics following the hostilities.

Later, in a campaign speech, PM Mod mentioned the incident and said, "Fortunately, Pakistan announced that the pilot would be sent back to India. Else, it would have been qatal ki raat, a night of bloodshed."

Bisaria also reveals an instance in June 2019 when Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, tipped off India through the Indian High

## **Mercury Plummeted**

place, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.7°C against minus 4.5°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg, the official said, recorded a low of minus 5.0°C against minus 4.6°C on the previous night and the temperature was 2.6°C above normal for the popular skiing resort in north Kashmir. Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 4.8°C against 5.1°C on previous night, and it was below normal by 2.6°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of minus 1.4°C, Batote 2.2°C and Bhaderwah minus 0.2°C, he said. The MeT official said that from January 10-16, generally dry weather is expected. "Overall no significant weather activity is expected till January 15."

# STATE

# **Govt Appoints BDOs As Administrators For Panchayats**

#### **Observer News Service**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday appointed Block Development Officers (BDOs) as Administrator(s) for running affairs of Panchayat Halqas under their jurisdiction for a period of six months w.e.f

10.01.2024 or till further order. According to a notification issued here today in this regard, the government has made these appointments on expiry of the term of Halqa Panchayat(s) on 09.01.2024 and on being satisfied that the Halqa Panchayat (s) cannot be constituted immediately.

# **MMU Urges Preachers** To Desist From Sectarian, **Disrespectful Sermons**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Muttahida Majlise-Ulema (MMU) Jammu and Kashmir, headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has warned elements trying to harm communal amity and unity in Jammu and Kashmir by stoking sectarian tensions.

MMU has emphasised that the urgent need of the hour was to focus on the fundamental teachings and principles of Islam during their sermons and discourses for the sake of greater unity among Muslims.

"MMU makes a fervent appeal to the scholars, preachers, khateebs and imams of different schools of thought that while they follow their own schools of thought and creed in practice, in public gatherings, on pulpits and mihrabs of mosques, meetings and in gatherings, they should desist from criticising others following a different maslak, and instead focus on universal and fundamental teachings of Islam", MMU said in a statement.

MMU includes Anjuman Au-

qaf Jama Masjid Srinagar , Darul Uloom Raheemiyah Bandipora, Muslim Personal Law Board led by Grand Mufti, Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiayan, Ittehadul Muslimeen, Jamiat-e-Ahl-e-Hadees, Jamaate-Islami, Karvaan-e-Islami, Anjuman Himayat-ul-Islam, Anjuman Tabligh-ul Islam, Jamiat Hamdaniya, Anjuman Ulema Ahnaf, Darul Uloom Qasmia, Darul Uloom Bilalia, Anjuman Nusratul-Islam, Anjuman Mazhar-ul-Haq, Jamiat Imam-ul-Ulema, Imam-o-Mashaikh Aniuman Kashmir, Dar-ul-Uloom Naqshbandiyya, Dar-ul-Uloom Rashidia, Ahl-e-Bayt Foundation, Kanz-ul-Uloom, Karavaan-e-Khatam-e-Nabuwat besides others.

The statement further said the clergy should also highlight and educate the masses about the serious social and moral issues faced by Kashmiri society and play their role in the allround reform of society.

"Those who still continue with such a mindset to promote sectarianism will be exposed in public and held ac-

# **BSF Director General Reviews Security Situation In Jammu**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

JAMMU: Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Nitin Agrawal on Wednesday reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of the troops guarding the border with Pakistan on the Jammu frontier, officials said.

Agrawal, who visited areas located close to the International Border (IB), also called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here and briefed him about the security situation along the border The DG reviewed the security situation and the operational preparedness of the troops with senior BSF officials. Agrawal is currently on a visit to the Jammu region. D K Boora, Inspector General, BSF, Jammu frontier, briefed Agrawal about the security situation here.

# countable", MMU warned.



2.5 Kg Narcotics Seized **Near Loc In Poonch** 

JAMMU: Security forces on Wednesday seized narcotics weighing 2.5 kg from a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

They said the contraband, believed to be high-grade heroin worth crores of rupees in the international market, was smuggled from across the border, adding that it was found dumped in the Malti

area ahead of the border fence. A search operation is underv and further details are awaited, the officials said.



The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig. (Dr) B.D. Mishra called on Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah.

# **Jammu Records Season's Coldest Day At 9 Deg Celsius**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

**IAMMU:** Jammu recorded the coldest day of the season on Wednesday, with the maximum temperature plummeting nine notches below normal to settle at 9 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in the city was recorded at 4.8 degrees Celsius, which was 2.6 degrees Celsius below normal for this part of the season, an official of the meteorological department said.

The residents of Jammu plains are reeling under severe cold wave over the past one week with the mercury hovering several notches below normal due to foggy conditions in the morning hours and absence

of the Sun during the day. Foggy weather has also hit the rail and air traffic, causing inconvenience to the passengers.

Banihal along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway recorded a maximum of 18 degrees Celsius, which is 7.6

degrees Celsius above normal. However, the night temperature in the highway town was minus 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district, recorded a maximum of 16.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 5.7 degrees Celsius, the official said.

The picturesque Bhaderwah in Doda district recorded a high of 15.1 degrees Celsius and a low of minus 0.2 degree Celsius.

# **Only 15% Govt Teachers In J&K Trained To Use Computer As Medium Of Teaching**

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In Jammu and Kashmir only 15 percent of teachers in government-runschools are trained to use computers as a medium of teaching—raising a question on upgrading the quality of education in the public institutions. Among the total number of teaching staff in Jammu and

only 2037 concerned teachers were able to impart education through computers.

Similarly, at primary school, total of 8934 teachers were trained to teach students through the medium of computers.

Likewise, at upper primary level. a total of 7852 teachers were trained to deliver the education through computers followed by 5083 teachers at secondary level and 2272 at higher secondary level respectively.

When contacted by the nev

reveals that, "Infrastructure gaps exist in 5000 schools located in remote and hilly terrain."

The Planning Department and Monitoring Department in the proposed vision has further revealed, "Considerable chunk of human resource is not skilled in the art of teaching, Over 36000 ReTs or RReTs are not possessing desired level of qualification have been regularised."

Stating the further weaknesses, the department has

# Surya Namaskar Session Held At Sun Temple Martand



### **Observer News Service**

ANANTNAG: Directorate of Ayush UT of J&K in collaboration with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga & Archaeological Survey of India on Wednesday organised a session of Surya Namaskar here at the iconic Sun Temple Martand.

The program was organised by District Ayush Officer Anantnag under the guidance of Director Ayush UT of J&K, Dr. Mohan Singh. 2nd Commandment CRPF & Deputy Commandant CRPF 96 Bn. Assistant Conservator Archaeological Survey

of India (Srinagar Circle) were also invited as guests.

The whole staff of Ayush Anantnag and Ayush Kulgam also participated in the event.

Program started with recitation of the National Anthem. Afterwards stunning programs of SURYA NAMASKAR with some standing Asanas of yoga were performed.

At the conclusion of the session, District Ayush Officer Anantnag on behalf of AYUSH department thanked all, especially District Information Centre Anantnag, for making the event a grand success.

# Won't Indulge In **Politics On Ram Temple Consecration: Omar**

**Press Trust Of India** 

SRINAGAR: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday refused to comment on the consecration of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya, saying he does not want to indulge in

politics on the issue. "I will not comment on the Ram Mandir. This is neither the first inauguration nor the last. We have seen inaugurations in the past as well. If you want to bring politics into it, it is up to you, I am not indulging in politics over the is-sue," Abdullah told reporters here.

Asked if he would attend the consecration ceremony of the temple if he gets an invitation, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he was sure he will not be invited.

"Why are you asking me whether I will go or not? Who goes uninvited? I know I won't be invited. Those who were to be invited,

they have already got an invitation. The industrialists, cricketers, film stars and others.

Everyone knows their names. Have you seen my name in the list? No. When they do not have an intention to invite me, why should we go into ifs and but?" he said.

# Indus Food Exhibition 2024 JKTPO Spotlights J&K's Culinary **Brilliance In Food, Agriculture**

**Observer News Service** 

NOIDA: Jammu & Kashmir, renowned for its rich culinary heritage, proudly exhibited its diverse food, agriculture and horticulture products at the prestigious Indus

dynamic food industry. The event, organized by the Trade Promotion Council of India in association with the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, attracted over 1200 exhibitors and 7500 global buvers. Jammu & Kashmir, recently honoured with the Gold (Winr in National ODOP awards, claimed the spotlight at the esteemed Indus Food 2024. Eighteen exhibitors from the region, witnessed a remarkable showcase of products and impactful B2B meetings with both international and domestic buyers. These interactions resulted in 780+ promising leads and on spot orders worth 45 Lakhs.

The BSF DG visited various border outposts in Jammu's Akhnoor sector on August 9 last year and exhorted the troops to maintain effective domination to successfully meet the challenges from across the frontier.

ers and teaching through the means, official figures reveal. The official figures reveal that the department of School Education was having a strength of 1,67,000 teachers across the region out of which only 26.180 teachers were trained in use of computers.

Kashmir, only 26,180 teachers

were trained in use of comput-

At pre-primary level only, the official figures reveal that

ly appointed Administrative Secretary, School Education Department Piyush Singla was not able to attend the calls.

Pertinently, in Jammu and Kashmir, nearly 5000 government schools located in remote and hilly terrains have infrastructural gaps.

The 'JK Vision document 2047'

said, "Development works get delayed due to hilly terrain and Climatic Conditions-snow bound areas.

The documents also reveal that at least 1.67,106 teachers for 27.18 lakh students, i.e. one teacher for 16 students on an average are available in the region–(KNO)

The event, held from January 8th to 10th, witnessed J&K's vi-

Food 2024

brant participation, capturing the essence of the region's agricultural prowess.

Indus Food 2024, Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage export-focused exhibition, served as a vital platform for international collaboration within India's

# Satish Chandra Appointed **Chairperson Of RERA**

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has appointed Satish Chandra. former chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission, as chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

Satish Chandra, who was appointed as head of J&K PSC in June 2022 and completed his tenure in November 2023, was appointed as head of RERA.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 22 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir appoint Sh. Satish Chandra, IAS (retired), as chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), reads a notification issued by the Housing & Urban Development Department.

According to the notification, appointment of the chairperson shall take effect from the date he assumes the charge of the post in the Authority.

"The chairperson of the Authority shall not hold any other office. The terms and conditions of appointment shall be notified separately," the notification states—(KNO)

# VBSY Unveils Triumph Over Adversity Through NRLM In Anantnag **Observer News Service**

**ANANTNAG:** The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) transcends mere statistics, unraveling a tapestry woven with the resilient stories of transformation. At its core, this expedition is a testament to the unwavering spirit of Anantnag's people and the Central Government's dedication to inclusive progress through the DAY-NRLM initiative.

Consider the inspiring journey of Igra Rashid from Nipora village, who turned financial challenges into triumph with the UMEED scheme. Through the formation of Pamposh SHG, Iqra expanded her walnut business, breaking free from middlemen, and now enjoys a stable monthly profit of Rs 30,000 to 40,000. Her success echoes the profound impact of UMEED on rural women below the poverty line.

Zahida Shabnum's story reflects the transformative power of joining a self-help group. With financial assistance, she innovated in her father's carpentry business, establishing a successful Joinery Mill and lifting her family above the poverty level.

These success stories resonate with the core objective of DAY-NRLM empowering individuals to break free from financial constraints and build sustainable livelihoods.

CANCELLATION/PARTIAL CANCELLATION/DIVERSION OF TRAINS

In order to further strengthen the rail infrastructure, Northern Railway has decided to undertake Pre-Non-Interlocking and Non-Interlocking work at Dhablan station in connection with doubling of Rajpura-Bathinda section. To execute this work, A traffic block will be taken from 12.01.2024 to 24.01.2024. As a result, following trains will be affected as under :-

CANCEL	LATION OF TR		
Train No. & Name			of Cancellation ginating station)
04531 Ambala Cantt Jn Dhuri Jn. Expre	ss Special (Daily)	12.01.202	24 to 23.01.2024
PARTIAL CAN	ICELLATION O	F TRAINS	
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at / Originate from	Partial Cancelled Betwewn	Date (from the originating static
14735 Shri Ganganagar - Ambala Cantt, Jn. Express (Daily)	At Bathinda Jn.	Bathinda Jn Ambala Cantt. Jr	22.01.2024 8 23.01.2024
14736 Ambala Cantt, Jn, - Shri Ganganagar Express (Daily)	From Bathinda Jn.	Ambala Cantt. Jn Bathinda Jn.	- 23.01.2024 8 24.01.2024
04548 Bathinda Jn Ambala Cantt. Jn. MEX Special (Daily)	At Dhuri Jn.	Dhuri Jn Ambala Cantt. Jr	12.01.2024 to 23.01.2024
14510 Bathinda Jn Ambala Cantt. Jn. Express Special (Dail <del>y)</del>	At Dhuri Jn.	Dhuri Jn Ambala Cantt. Jr	17.01.2024 to 23.01.2024
04547 Ambala Cantt. Jn Bathinda Jn. Special (Daily)	From Dhuri Jn.	Ambala Cantt. Jn Dhuri Jn.	- 18.01.2024 to 24.01.2024
DIVER	SION OF TRA	NS	
Train No. & Name	Diverte	d Via	Date (from the originating station
11057 Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj T Amritsar Jn. Express (Daily)	Rajpura Jn Sirhin	id Jn Sanehwal	12.01.2024 to 21.01.2024
11058 Amritsar Jn Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj T. Express (Daily)	Sanehwal - Sirhind	14.01.2024 to 23.01.2024	
12751 Huzur Sahib Nanded - Jammu Tawi Humsafar Express (Weekly)	Rajpura Jn Sirhin	id Jn Sanehwal	19.01.2024
12752 Jammu Tawi - Huzur Sahib Nanded Humsafar Express (Weekly)	Sanehwal - Sirhind	Jn Rajpura Jn.	14.01.2024 & 21.01.2024
For any kind of information, passengers RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit In https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.iu	dian Railways webs		
Azadi Kajaka KailMadad Helpline No. <b>139</b> Download RailMadad W	ways.gov.in		nce - Our Conce

#### Government of Jammu and Kashmir

# **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER, MINI-SECRETARIAT SHOPIAN**

Emial:, Ph. No. 01933260980, FAX: 01931 260479

Subject:- Publication of Tentative seniority list of Junior Assistants/ Laboratory Assistants/ Library Assistants and Class-IV (MTS) of School Education Department, District Shopian as it stood on 08/01/2024 for inviting objections, if any.

## NOTIFICATION

Whereas, vide this Office Notification No. CEO/SPN/Estt/NT/22/3585-92 dated: 30/07/2022, seniority list of Jr. Assistants/ Lab. Assistants/ Library Assistants and Class-IV as it stood on 30/07/2022 of School Education Department District Cadre Shopian was notified; and

Whereas, fresh seniority list of Jr. Assistants/ Lab. Assistants/ Library Assistants and Class-IV forming Annexure 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' has been prepared due to inclusion/ exclusion of some officials and the Tentative seniority list as it stood on 08/01/2024 of School Education Department, District Shopian has been uploaded in the Official website of Chief Education Office Shopian http:// ww.ceoshopian.in for invitation of objections, if any, from the aspirants within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

The objections/ variations/ claims (if any) in the service particulars/seniority position assigned to the officials in the seniority list shall report to this Office with documentary evidence through their concerned DDOs. No objection/claim whatsoever shall be entertained after the expiry of stipulated time.

No. CEO/SPN/Estt/NT/24/153-59 Dated: 10/01/2024

DIPK-14995-23 DT: 10/01/2024 **Chief Education Officer** Shopian

# SPORTS

# Arjuna Awardee Sheetal **Devi Inspires J&K**



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: In a historic moment, 16-year-old para archer Sheetal Devi was honored with the prestigious Arjuna Award by President Droupadi Mur-mu on January 9. Born with phocomelia, a rare congenital disorder resulting in underdeveloped limbs, Sheetal defied the odds to become the first international para archery champion without upper limbs.

Her accolades include three gold medals and one silver medal achieved at the 4th Para Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China, in 2023. Additionally, she secured a silver medal in the World Para Archery Championship held in Pilsen, Czech Republic, also in 2023.

Her journey from the humble hamlet of Lohi Dhar, Block Mughal Maidan in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, to the pinnacle of success is a testa-

ment to her indomitable spirit. Despite the challenges posed by her condition, Sheetal, born on January 10, 2007, exhibited athletic prowess from a young age. Climbing trees laid the foundation for her strong upper body, a crucial asset in her future archery endeavors.

Drawing inspiration from Matt Stutzman, who achieved silver at the London 2012 Paralympics using his legs, Sheetal's coaches tailored a unique approach, enabling her to master the art of para archery.

Following the announcement of awards, LG Manoj Sinha greeted her in his post on X and described it as a proud moment for J&K.

Administration District Kishtwar visited Sheetal Devi's home on Wednesday, extending heartfelt felicitations for her outstanding achievements in a simple yet heartfelt ceremony.

# Kohli To Miss 1st T201 **Versus Afghanistan Today**

**Press Trust of India** 

MOHALI: The spotlight will be only on the returning Rohit Sharma as his long-time colleague Virat Kohli pulled out of the opening T20I against Afghanistan due to "personal reasons" ahead of the first ever white-ball series be-

group's performance in the IPL, which precedes the World Cup. Dravid said Rohit will open the batting with young Yashasvi Jaiswal against Afghanistan. Rohit and Kohli, after he returns, are a certainty in this squad but the accomplished duo would first like to get the most out of the games

prevailing cold wave

Rohit, who will also captain the side, will be expected to carry on with his ultra aggressive approach in the powerplay like he showed in the ODI World Cup. The team, having returned from South Africa last week, only assembled on Wednesday evening for the series.



tween the two teams, beginning here on Thursday. Kohli, though, will be avail-

able for the second and third T20 International. India head coach Rahul Dravid attributed Kohli's pull-

out to "family reasons" before he addressed media. Both the stalwarts are re-

turning to the shortest format after 14 months and will be keenly observed in the threematch rubber, which will be India's last before the T20 World Cup in June, giving the team more clarity on where it stands ahead of the ICC event

in Americas. However, the final 15 will be picked on the basis of core against Afghanistan, who would be without their star spinner Rashid Khan. Khan underwent a back surgery in November last year and is still recuperating.

"He is not totally fit. We will miss him in the series. We will struggle without Rashid but one should be ready for any kind of situation," Afghanistan captain Ibrahim Zadran said on the eve of the seriesopener, hoping that others in the side would step up.

The focus, however, will firmly be on Rohit, easily among the biggest crowdpuller. His presence on the field would be a big reason for the Mohali crowd to brave the

India would be expected to win comfortably in their own conditions but Afghanistan will give them a run for their money.

Having recently exceeded all expectations in their giantkilling run during the ODI World Cup in India, Afghanistan will be high on confidence in a format that suits them the most.

Barring Rashid's injuryforced absence, the team is at full strength after the likes Mujeeb Zadran, Naveen-Ul Haq and Fazalhaq Farooqi sorted their contractual issues with the country's cricket board. Match starts at 7pm (local time).

# **Rohit-Jaiswal To Continue At Opening Slot: Rahul Dravid**



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

MOHALI: India head coach Rahul Dravid confirmed on Wednesday that the team will persist with Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal as openers in the run-up to the T20 World Cup, underlining the importance of a left-right pair at the pole position.

Rohit has returned to India's T20 scheme of things for the series against Afghanistan, beginning here on Thursday, after a hiatus of 14 months. His previous appearance was in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal against England at Adelaide. Jaiswal has been opening in the shortest format since the away series against the West Indies

in August last year. "As of now, we will be opening with Rohit and Jaiswal. When you have a squad that offers flexibility, we can take a call that is in the best interest of the team," Dravid said on the eve of the match.

"We are certainly happy with what Jaiswal has done for us as an opener. It also gives us the left-right combination at the top," added Dravid.

However, that will leave the question on how to find a place for Shubman Gill, who either opens or comes at No. 3 in T20Is. It is pertinent because Virat Kohli too has made a comeback to T20Is along with Rohit. Star batsman Kohli has been named in the squad for the series against Afghanistan, though he will be available only from the second T20I.

So, how is the think-tank going to accommodate Kohli in the eleven? Is pairing Kohli with Rohit at the top a rational move to make? Dravid did not entirely rule out that possibility.

"Nothing is closed (Kohli opening with Rohit). We have no doubt that the kind of ability and skill sets players like Rohit and Kohli possess, they will be able to find answers against different kind of bowling," said Dravid.

The former Indian captain said the selection process will be dominated by the capability of a player to negate all circumstances, and will not merely rely on the desire to field a leftright combination.



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# **MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR** — DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —

uary 11, at 2:00 PM. The game will be played at Synthetic Turf TRC and pit Bemina FA up

The event is organised by

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association is set against Barzulla FA. to hold the final match of the JKFA and J&K Sports Council, and Under-15 Grassroots Football Tournament on Thursday, Jansponsored by JK Sports Trust.

**Observer News Service** 

**U-15 Grassroots Football** 

**Tournament Final Today** 

+91 1943501600

# **DIL KE EHSAAS**



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