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KASHMIR'S SNOWLESS JANUARY

Unprecedented Highs Rewrite Temperature Records

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As winter's conventional script has taken an unprecedented turn this year, places across Jammu and Kashmir marked some of the warmest days of January witnessed in many years. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 15.0°C on Saturday, the "warmest" day in 14 years in the middle of 'Chillai-Kalan', vernacularly considered the harshest period of winter.

The previous record high of 14.2°C was set on January 21, 2018. The all-time highest temperature ever recorded in Srinagar is 17.2°C on January 23, 1902.

A meteorological department official said today's temperature was the sixth highest record temperature in over a century. "Srinagar recorded 15.5°C on January 9, 1976; 15.7°C on January 31, 2001; 15.8°C on January 25, 2010; and 17.2°C on January 23, 1902," he said.

Independent weather forecaster, Faizan Arif, said that first January readings for



Srinagar since then. He added that not only Srinagar, maximum temperature at many stations recorded

KASHMIR VALLEY IS WITNESSING A PROLONGED DRY SEASON with

snow on mountains and plains has raised an alarm across the valley, with

a 100 percent rainfall deficit from the last two months. The absence of

experts warning about potential repercussions of this snowless winter.

6-8°C above normal with highest maximum temperature recorded over Banihal station at 20.8°C. Srinagar continued to be around 6.1°C warmer than Jammu that recorded a maximum temperature of 8.9°C. According to Faizan,

Saturday's temperature in Qazigund reached 15.8°C, marking the third-highest reading since the establishment of the observatory in 1956. It stands as the highest temperature documented in the last 14 years, even though it fell short of breaking the record of 16.0°C set on January 29, 2010, and the all-time high of 16.2°C recorded on January 31, 2001. In Pahalgam, the tempera-

ture was 13.1°C, making it the third-highest since1978. While it didn't surpass the alltime high of 13.8°C on January 14, 2018, today's reading is the highest in the last 6 years. Kupwara experienced temperature of 15.8°C, rank-

ing as the highest in the last

9 years and fourth-highest

since the More on P6

Unseasonable **Warmth Spurs Premature Flowering**

Spring In Winter?



Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: This winter's unprecedented warmth has given way to another unexpected sight, new buds and early blossoms are unfurling on trees across Kashmir, creating a hint of premature spring. The orchardists and apple traders in Kashmir have expressed their concern over the situation, fearing its potential impact on this year's apple crop.

These flowers are generally seen in the middle of March, said Rashid Ahmad Dar-an orchardist from North Kashmir's Sopore. The early flowering in the horticultural crops (e.g. apple, pear, peach) can cause huge economic More on P6

J&K Admin Issues Clarification on Ratle Power Project

Observer News Service

www.sharpsight.in

JAMMU- LG administration Saturday issued a clarification following some media reports about Rattle Power Projects.

In a point wise rebuttal an official spokesman released facts and figures saying in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Hydro Power projects are developed in both State and Central sectors. More on P6

EYE HOSPITALS

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Dry Weather To Continue Till Jan 23: Met Office

Observer News Service

Weatherman Srinagar: on Saturday forecasted dry weather to continue till January 23, but said that possibility of light snow over isolated higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir due to feeble Western Disturbances (WDs) approaching on January 16 and 20.

"Dry weather is likely to continue till January 23 with feeble WDs approaching on 16th and 20th evening," a MeT official said.

Under the influence of these WDs, he said, generally cloudy weather with light snow over iso-

lated higher reaches is expected. From January 21-23, he said, generally dry weather is expected. He said "redevelopment of fog with cold day conditions from tomorrow onwards till 16th January over plains

of Jammu Division," he said. Meanwhile, a feeble western disturbance hit Jammu and Kashmir on Friday night due to which light snowfall occurred in the Gurez area in north Kashmir, the official said.

Drass in Ladakh also received very light snowfall but there was no accumulation of snow, he said. Jammu and Kashmir recorded a 79 percent rain deficit in December. There was no precipitation in the first week of January as well.

Several parts of the Valley saw a rise in minimum temperatures due to cloudy skies. Night temperatures settled several degrees above the normal for this time of the season.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of 0.2 degrees Celsius on Friday night, up from the previous night's minus 4 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 2 degrees. The ski resort of Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1 degree Celsius – up from minus 3.2 degrees Celsius on Thursday night. Pahalgam in south Kashmir's

Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum More on P6





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KASHMIR OBSERVER **9** Srinagar | Sunday| 14-01-2024

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education, SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 1 session Annual Private 2013 issued by the board of School Educaton under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Yasmeena Gh Nabi Parentage: Gh Nabi Bhat Roll No: 428231 Year & Session 2013 Private

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled. Sd/ Assistant Secretary Board Of School Educatio

Sub Office Bandipor



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR Ganderbal (J&K)-191201 Website: www.cukashmir.ac.in

(ADMISSIONS-2024)

CENTRALUNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR ANNOUNCES ADMISSION TO POST-GRADUATE PROGS Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to various Post-graduate programmes through Common University Entrance Test CUET (PG)-2024 to be conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA). The eligibility and other details for admission to PG programmes are available on our www.cukashmir.ac.in. The University is offering admission to the below mentioned PG programmes:

	,	1	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i					
S.No	Name of the programme	S.No	Name of the programme					
1.	M. Tech CS&E	10.	Integrated B.EdM.Ed.					
2.	M.A. English	11.	M.P.Ed					
3.	M.A. Urdu	12.	M.A. Islamic Studies					
4.	M.Com	13.	M.Sc. Botany					
5.	M. A. Mass Communication & Journalism	14.	M.Sc. Chemistry					
6.	M. A. Economics	15.	M.Sc. Zoology (Lateral Entry)					
7.	M. A. Political Science	16.	M.Sc. Biotechnology (Lateral Entry)					
8.	LLM	17.	M.Sc. Physics (Lateral Entry)					
9.	M. Ed.							
Activity	Schedule for CUET (PG)-2024:							
Online Submission of Application Form through Website 26.12.2023 to 24.01.2024 (upto 11:50 P.M.)								
(https://pgcuet.samarth.ac.in)								
Last date of successful transaction of fee through Credit/Debit25.01.2024 (upto 11:50 P.M.)								
Card/N	let Banking/UPI							
Correct	ion in Particulars of Application Form on the webs	ite27.(01.2024 to 29.01.2024 (upto 11:50 P.M.)					
only *								
	e City Information	04-	04-03-2024					
Downlo	pading of Admit cards from NTA website	07-	07-03-2024					
Date of	Examination	11-	1-03-2024 to 28-03-2024					
Answe	r Key Challenges	04-	04-2024					
Duratio	Puration/Shift 1 hour 45 minutes (105 Minutes)/ 3 Shifts							
Time o	l be announced later on website							
Websit	e(s)		os:/nta.ac.in/					
		httr	os://pgcuet.samarth.ac.in, www.cukashmir.ac.in					

* The candidates are requested to undertake the correction(s) very carefully as no further chance of correction will be provided.

The candidates who have passed the bachelor degree/equivalent examination or appearing in 2024 irrespective of their age can appear in CUET (PG) 2024 examination. Information about the eligibility, scheme of examination, examination centers, timings, fee, procedure for applying etc. are contained in the Information Bulletin hosted on the website of NTA https://pgcuet.samarth.ac.in. Candidates who are desirous of applying for the examination may go through the Information Bulletin and apply online at https://pgcuet.samarth.ac.in only during the period from 26.12.2023 to 24.01.2024 and also pay the applicable fee, online, through the payment gateway using Debit/Credit Cards, Net Banking, and UPI. For any queries or/clarification, candidates can call NTA Help Desk at 01140759000 or write to NTA at <u>cuet-pg@nta.ac.in</u>. This notification shall supersede the earlier Notification No.CUKmr/DOA/Admission.PG-05/2023-2024/008,dated 29.12.2023. For assistance of aspirants, a departmentwise HELP DESK is available at the Central University Website under the tag "ADMISSION PG-2024". No:CUKmr/DOA/Admission.PG-05/2023-2024/009(01) S/d Director I/C Dated: 04.01.2024 **Directorate of Admi**

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Balgarden Srinagar TELE: 0194-2473956. E-Mail: xenphemrd@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS 140 OF 01/2024 Dated: -12-01-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Balgarden Srinagar, invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/ Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financer of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government or GST Registration for Elect/Mech. Works for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electro-Mechanical works for WSS Zazna 2nd, Khanpora, Wakura and Batwani Ganderbal under JJM". The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and

Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board E-mail address: jkhousingboard@gmail.com

Fax No: Jammu : 0191-2431230 Srinagar : 0194-2311971 Jammu Office A/D Block, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar, Jam

Phone No: Jammy : 0191-2431973 Srinagar : 0194-2311973 Srinagar Office Habitat Centre Bemina Bye Pass

e-Auction of Housing Board Halls

J&K Housing Board invites bidders for e-auction of Hall on rental basis on 'as is where is basis' for a period of 10 years.

For brochures visit https://jkhousingboard.jk.gov.in The Bid for allotment shall be entertained only through https://jkhm.auctiontiger.net Start date & time : 16th January, 2024, 10:00 AM Closing date & time : 29th January, 2024, 06:00 PM

DETAIL OF HALLS

DIPK-NB-5244/23

dated: 13-01-2024

S.No	Location	Halls/ Commercial space.	Area in sft	Minimum rent/sft per month in Rs.	Minimum reserved rent per month for bidding in Rs.	EMD/Reg. fee in the form of three months advance rent in Rs.	
Chan	ni Himmat Jammu						
1.	Tawi Shopping Complex, Sector-2, Channi Himmat.	2 nd floor (201)	1801.00	30.00	54030.00	162090.00	
ELIGIBILITY: a. Open for all. b. The applicant must have attained the age of 18 years on the last date of submission of Application form.			 Applicants are advised to keep scanned copy of Photograph, Aadhar Card, PAN Card signatures and cancelled cheque or passbook before starting the online application. The Application Form should be filled up onlin and the applicant should verify his/her detai carefully before submitting application of auction website. Mere online submission of da will not be treated as an application and sho be liable to be rejected out rightly. 				
			there	y step proce		g the form and	

b. Registration fee shall be adjusted towards the security for three months in case of successful bidders, refunded to un-successful bidders and shall be forfeited in respect of defaulter(s) as specified in relevant clauses of this Brochure.

- Non-refundable Application Fee of Rs. 1000/- is applicable for each event.
- d. Cost referred above is exclusive of 18% GST and other taxes if applicable.

Sd/-Collector,

J&K Housing Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Sarfaraz Ali is opening a Travel Agency under the Name and style "visual of kashmir Tour And Travels" at Saida Kadal Srinagar Kashmir. Anybody having any objections in this regard may contact the Deputy Director Tourism Registration Kash mir within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objections will be entertained 9858537481 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Passport bearing no: T3476179 while travelling from Baramulla to Tangmarg . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same 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 Shabnam Ali D/o Ali Mohd Rather bmg R/o Lalpora Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I purchased MEHANDRA MAXI TRUCK bearing registration
number JK13D4707 model 2017 from one SHOWKAT AHMAD
RATHER s/o GHULAM QADIR RATHER resident of ARABAL
PULWAMA contact no 7006473464 . if anybody have any ob-
jection in this regard He /She may contact ARTO Sopore within
seven days from the publication of this notice after that no ob-
jection will be entertained.
Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh
S/O Ghulam Dadir Sheikh kri_r
R/O Durhama Wagoora
Contact No 9906930131

Office Of The Advocate Suhail Wani

IN THE CASE OF :-

- 1. Mst Raja D/o Late Oadir lone W/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Mochowa Tehsil B. K Pora Near Masjid Sharif
- 2. Nasir Ahmad Allie
- 3. Mansoor Ahmad Allie
- 4. Parvaiz Ahmad Allie 5 Sameer Ahmad Allie
- 6. Shameema
- 7. Tasleema
- 8. Gulshan and 9 Saheena

CPC.

Sons and daughters of late Mst Haleema D/o Late Oadir lone W/o Abdul Gani Allie R/o Mochowa Tehsil B. K Pora Near Masiid Sharif.

Versus

(Caveators)

Public at large (Non caveator)

In the matter of :- caveat petition in terms of section 148- A The caveators has reason to believe/apprehension that

the non-caveator may file a suit / Application etc. Before the Hon'ble district court and Revenue court on the ground of distorted facts and in representation of concocted story he may succeed in obtaining some interim order at our back/ex-party against the caveators and such eventuality the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that the caveators is being given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order. S/d

از نیابت بیروه بااجلاس نائب تحصیلدار بیره

جناب عابدحسين صاحب تضمون كاغذات درخوات منجانب اشفاق حسين رضوى لينرسيد مقبول رضوى ساكندا سكندر بوره بمرادعطا يكى RBA تحت SRO 294 اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص دعام معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر ميں درخواست سائل دفتر نبراميں زير کاروئی ہے اس سلسلے مين پيواري حلقہ سے ر پورٹ بشولدر یکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل موضع 🔪 اسک**ندر لورہ** میں رہایش پذیر ہےاور سمجھی جھی ترک سکونت سنہیں کی ہے۔سائل کا کمبہ بذیل افرد پر شتمال ہے آ سيداشفاق حسين رضوى ملازم 40 سال امدنى 65367 ىدىمارفە زوجەسىداشفاق خسىن رضوى گھرىلوكام 36 سال سیدیلی سین رضوی پسر زیرتیکیم 05 سال شيرخوار سيدمجد باقر رضوي 02-مال اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہ مہیں ہے سائل کے تمہ کی ماہوارہ آمد نی 65367 ہے سڑٹھیکیٹ اجرا ر نے میں اگر سی تحف کوئی عذر پااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذر پااعتراض ساتھ یوم اندردفتر ہذامیں پیش کرے معیاد رنے بعد کوئی بھی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on percentage basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	 Earnest Mon- ey Deposit	Bid Valid- ity	Time of Com- pletion of work (days)
	scheme Zazna 2nd, Khan-	Work/scheme wise details given in FORM I of ten- der document	In the Shape of Bid Security Declaration (enclosed as FORM-XII)		As per FORM I

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Status of AAA : Accorded

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division, Balgarden, Srinagar.

The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) Srinagar.

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	12-01-2024 (5.00PM)
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	12-01-2024 (5.00PM)
iii	Date of Pre-bid meeting	15-01-2024 (11.30AM)
iv	Bid submission start date	12-01-2024 (5.00PM)
v	Document Download/sale end Date	23-01-2024 (11.00AM)
vi	Bid submission end date	23-01-2024 (11.00AM)
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	23-01-2024 (12.00PM)

- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. 1.
- 2. Queries by email if any, should be made at xenphemrd@gmail.com.

SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS OF DISTRICT GANDERBAL

Sr No	Name of Water Sup- ply Scheme	Description of work	District	Estimated cost	Tender fee (in Rs.)	Time of completion (Days)	Status of AAA		
1.	Zazna 2nd Ganderbal	SITC of Electro- Mechanical works	Ganderbal	Rs.40,85,995/-	500/-	45 Days	Accorded		
2.	Khanpora Ganderbal	-DO-	-DO-	Rs.32,16,182/-	500/-	45 Days	Accorded		
3.	Wakura Ganderbal	-DO-	-DO-	Rs.32,42,742/-	500/-	45 Days	Accorded		
4.	Batwani Ganderbal	-DO-	-DO-	Rs.31,99,043/-	500/-	45 Days	Accorded		
No: PHE/MRD/4919-30 Sd/- DIPK-15213/23 Date: 13-01-2024 Executive Engineer,									

Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. **Rural Division, Srinagar.**

SAD DEMISE



With profound grief and sorrow we inform you the sad demise of Ali Mohd Khan S/o Gh Mohmad Khan R/o Khanmoh Sringar who died on 10-01-2024 after a prolonged illness. Fateh Kahawani was held on 13-01-2024 at his ancestral graveyard after that Dua-e_Majlis continued at home Khan Mohalla Khanmoh Srinagar through the day

Bereaved Family Rubeena Akhter (Wife) Mushtag Ah Khan | Gulzar Ah Khan | Javaid Ah Khan (Brothers) Muzaffar Ahmad Lone (Brother-in-Law) 8491843015 RKO



دی چاتی ہے کہ نتھا عزاد اراور نماز گزارز ہیر علی ابن فداخیین ساسحنہ کمگر ی باز ارسرینگر روز قبل نماز مغربین ادا کرنے کے بعد مسجد سے باہر ایک دلدوز حادث کا شکار روز قبل نماز مغربین ادا کرنے کے بعد مورخہ 11جنوری 2024 پروز جمعرات ہوئے اور کچھ روز قوما میں رہنے کے بعد مورخہ 11جنوری 2024 پروز جمعرات رات 10 بچ اپنے عربے واقارب کو داخ مفارق دے کر اس دارالفانی سے رخصت ہو گئے ۔الذ تبارک وتعالیٰ مرحوم کو بااطفال کر ملاحظور کرے ۔ اس سلسلے میں مرقوم کا چہارم مورخہ 15 جنوری 2024 بروز سوموار مسجد ماحب الز مان گلتان بابا مراز کمگر ی بازار سریگر میں انجام پذیر ہوگا۔

سوگوران فداخيين(والد) عمر ان خيين و ديگر عزيز وا قارب

bmg نائب بحصيلدا ز دفتر نائب تحصيلدار للمنتر ه ر نواست منجانب بشیر احمد چوپان ولد شجان چوپان سا کنه موضع ڈیڈموہ ستحصیل کریر ک مر اد حصول RBAسر تفييك بحق تحجق دختر فاطمه بانو تحت اسى ارآ و144,294,375 اشتہار بمر اد آگاہی ہر خاص وعام عامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر مميں درنوست سائل دفتر بذاميں زير کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پیوار کی حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکار ڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہاں ہو تا ہے کہ سائل ' عرصہ دراز سے دھ ہذا میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کمنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 60000 ہے کمنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے 48سال مزدوری بشير احمد چوپان شميمه بيكم زوجه بشيراحمه گھریلوکام 46-مال زرتعليم 18 سال فاطمه بانو دختر زرتعليم 16 سال بخسانه بانو دختر زيرتعليم 14 سال ماقب پسر 12 سال مت دختر 06سال زیرتعلیم اسکےعلاوہ کوئی بھی افر اد کمہنہیں بتلایا گیاہے 🚽 سرٹفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجرء کر ۔ میں اگر کسی تخص یا شخاص کو کوئی عذریا اعتر اض ہو تو وہ اپناعذریا اعتر اض سات یو م کے اند رپیش کریس۔میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتر اض قابل قبول نہں ہو گاہ نائب تحصيلداد kri ,



DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



KASHMIR OBSERVER | Srinagar | Sunday | 14-01-2024 U

Batwara Residents Concerned Over 'Illegal Sand Extraction'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Batwara locality here have expressed their concern over the alleged illegal sand extraction activities in their area.

The residents claim that unauthorized extraction of sand is causing environmental degradation and posing a threat to their surroundings. The sand extraction, they said. makes the land corrode.

Local residents claimed to have observed heavy machinery and trucks operating in the area, extracting sand without proper authorization or adherence to environmental regulations.

"These activities are not only jeopardizing the ecological balance but also impacting the quality of life for those living in Batwara," said Zahoor, a

local resident. 'We have noticed a significant increase in sand extraction activities lately. This not only raises environmental concerns but also questions the legality of these operations. We urge the authorities to investigate and take necessary action," added a local shopkeeper, whose shop is located

When contacted, an official at the Irrigation and Flood Control department said they are conducting regular drives and taking tough action against such illegal activities.

"We, along with officials from the geological and mining department and police officials, conduct surprise checks and raids after receiving complaints and necessary action will follow in this regard as well," he added

directed to repair dysfunction-

al street lights with a motive

to illuminate Srinagar City;

emphasizing swift action and

personal oversight to ensure

every nook and corner of the

city needs to be cleaned for the

upcoming celebrations.

on the Jhelum river side.

A boatman ferrying children in a shikara loaded with wedding tent (shamyana) in the interiors of Dal Lake amid intese cold in Srinagar on Saturday. KO Photo, ABid Bhat Shri Guru Gobindji's Birthday: Div Com **Kashmir Reviews Arrangements**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting to review arrangements for the celebration of Shri Guru Gobindji's birthday to facilitate the devotees of Sikh community on the occasion of the religious festival.

Deputy Commissioner nagar, Commissioner SMC, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic, officers of line departments, Members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee Srinagar attended the meeting in person, while all other Deputy Commissioners along with district officers and district representatives of Sikh community attend-

To put all the arrangements in place, he exhorted all departments to work in close coordination to facilitate the community while celebrating the festival.

ed the meeting virtually.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com issued a slew of directions to the officers for ensuring requisite arrangements at all the Gurudwaras in the Kashmir Division. He directed for providing uninterrupted power supply on the auspicious occasion of Sikh Community.Div Com urged concerned officers to fill up the potholes on roads leading to the Gurudwaras particularly in district Srinagar.

He emphasized sanitation drive and cleanliness at these religious places.

Besides, he instructed for making proper arrangements for smooth traffic movement, availability of SRTC buses to devotees and ensuring security.

To put all the arrangements in place, he exhorted all departments to work in close coordination to facilitate the community while celebrating the festival.

Information Hospitality and Protocol

Skill Development

Skill Development



TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686

PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

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

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

PDD: 0194-2450213

This Day In History

1641 - United East Indian Company conquers city of Malacca, 7,000 killed

1761 - Third Battle of Panipat: In one of the largest battles of the century, the mostly Muslim Afghani Durrani Empire defeats the mostly Hindu Maratha Empire in Northern India. An estimated 60,000-70,000 were killed in the fighting and about 40,000 Maratha prisoners massacred afterwards. 1784 - US Revolutionary War ends with the US Congress of the Confederation ratifying the Treaty

of Paris 1814 - King of Denmark cedes Norway to King of

Sweden by treaty of Kiel 1914 - The Gandhi-Smuts Agreement is reached between Gen. J.C. Smuts and Mahatma Gandhi,

- regarding voluntary registration, poll tax, recognition of Indian marriages and other matters 1929 - Afghan King Amanullah forced to resign
- 1943 World War II: Japan begins Operation Ke, withdrawal of its troops from Guadalcanal
- 1943 World War II: Casablanca Conference begins between Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Soviet army begins offensive at 1944 Oranienbaum/Wolchow
- 1950 US recalls all consular officials from China
- 1956 Jordan government refuses to join Pact of
- Baghdad 1969 - 25 members of US aircraft carrier Enterprise
- die during maneuvers

Commissioner SMC Reviews Preparations For R- Day Celebrations Electric Wing, SMC was

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner SMC/CEO, SSCL, Dr Owais Ahmed today chaired a comprehensive meeting at the SMC Central office to review the preparations for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations in Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the corporation, focusing on ensuring a vibrant and well-prepared environment for the momentous occasion. The Commissioner issued immediate directives to the Corporation.

SP College Commemorates **National Youth Day**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the aegis of Viksit Bharat @2047, the Red Ribbon Club of Sri Pratap College organized a week-long activities to commemorate National Youth Day.

In this connection, a virtual symposium on the theme, "It's all in the mind" was coordinated by the Convener and members of Red Ribbon Club.

The proceedings of the line symposium were moderated by Dr. Mehraj Bashir, Assistant Professor from Department of Zoology. After welcoming the participants, he introduced the theme of the event and talked about the importance of youth

&K Bank

ving To Empowe

who are the harbinger of revolution and change.

The Principal of the college, Prof (Dr.) Ghulam Qureshi Jeelani presided over the whole event and talked at length about the role of youth in taking India to new heights. He also spoke about the importance of this day wherein the day is celebrated to honor the birth anniver-

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir Jammu And Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)

01 of 2021

01 of 2021

01 of 2021

07 of 2020

07 of 2020

CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu / Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar. www.Jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the Matric Level Posts - clubbing requests thereof.

NOTIFICATION

Assistant Mechanic

Assistant Mechanic

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) vide Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392) dated: 05-01-2024, notified the schedule for document verification for the following Matric Level Posts.

S.No.	Notification	Item No.	Name of the Post	Department
	No.			

074

PUBLIC

Yousuf.

inf

NOTICE

Tei wants to change the

name of my daughter

from Tahzeeba Manzoor

objection in this regard

he/she may contanct

Aadhar Centre Hazratbal

within a period of

seven days from the

date of publication of

this notice. After that

anybody has any

Nelofar

Mohammad yousuf

efficient rectification. The Commissioner emphasized illumination of flyovers with tricolor and warm lights; creating a visually striking display in honor of Republic Day.He directed the Sanitation Wing SMC to prioritize sanitation and urged that

He also stated that this day is celebrated to educate youth about their rights and role in shaping the Indian society so that the nation achieves the ideals to become the best economic and social power by 2047.

sary of one of the greatest

philosophers and spiritual

leaders of the nation.

no objection shall be entertained. Mohammad Yousuf Teli F/o Nelofar Yousuf

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LTD

Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department, Zonal Office Anantnag, Bakshlabad, Anantnag-192101 email: amid.zoksou@ikbmail.com: T-01932-222440

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Ms. ShaistaManzoor, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 31st March 2022 thereby calling upon the Borrowernamely, Mr.Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Aziz Bhat R/O Panzath, Qazigund, Anantnag et al to repay an amount of Rs. 92,45,493.06 (Rupees Ninety Two Lac Forty Five thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three And Paisa Six Only) being the balance outstanding in the accounts of the Borroweras on 28.02.2022, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon. The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/s in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 10THday of January of the year 2024. The said borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 1,04,53,964.06(Rupees One Crore Four Lac Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Four And Paisa Six Only)together with future interest thereon from

31.12.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Mortgage of Residential House along with a piece of Land measuring 1Kfalling under Khasra No 1985/452 Min, Khewat No. 12, Khata No. 68 situated at estate Panzeth WanporaQazigund standing in the name of Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Aziz BhatR/O Panzeth Wanpora, Qazigund Anantnag.

Dated:10.01.2024 Place : Panzath

	3 01 of 2021	0/9	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
	4 01 of 2021	083	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
	5 01 of 2021	087	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
	6 01 of 2021	099	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
	7 01 of 2021	103	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
	B 01 of 2021	106	Assistant Mechanic	Horticulture
	9 05 of 2020	168	Assistant Mechanic	ARI and Training
1	0 07 of 2020	315	Electronic Mechanic	Skill Development
	1 07 of 2020	325	Electronic Mechanic	Skill Development
	2 05 of 2020	147	Fitter	Public Works (R&B)
	3 04 of 2020	083	Greaser Washer	Transport
	4 05 of 2020	167	Junior Electrician	ARI and Training
	5 05 of 2020	166	Lathe Runner	ARI and Training
	6 04 of 2022	081	Mechanic	Home
	7 03 of 2021	604	Mistry	Forest, Ecology and Environment
1	8 06 of 2020	190	Plumber – II	Higher Education
	9 01 of 2021	121	Screenman	Information
	0 01 of 2021	126	Screenman	Information
	1 01 of 2021	132	Screenman	Information
	2 01 of 2021	136	Screenman	Information
	3 01 of 2021	141	Screenman	Information
	4 01 of 2021	154	Screenman	Information
	5 01 of 2021	155	Screenman	Information
	26 01 of 2021	157	Screenman	Information
		117		11 1 In In I D

112

311

320

The candidates who had applied for multiple items/posts and had any item missing against their name/roll number in the Annexure B of the aforesaid notification were asked to submit clubbing request as per the devised format given with the said notification from 10-01-2024 to 12-01-2024. -2 .11

Workshop Assistant

Workshop Assistant

The requests so received in the offices of JKSSB, Central Office, CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/JKSSB, Central Office, Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar have been examined.

In view of the above, the Annexure B in respect of document verification notification issued vide No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392) dated: 05-01-2024 for the Matric Level Posts have been revised and annexed as Annexure A to this notification for the information of the candidates.

Further, the schedule and venue in respect of document verification for the Matric Level Posts shall be the same as notified vide Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392) dated: 05-01-2024.

No further claim in this regard shall be entertained by JKSS8 through any medium.

No.: JKSSB-COEOEXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392) DIPK-15159/23 DATED: 13-01-2024

1969 - Soyuz 4 launched; rendezvous with Soyuz 5 Horticulture two days later Horticulture 1974 - World Football League founded 1975 - USSR breaks trade agreement with US 1990 - Un Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar re says he has lost all hope for peace in Gulf Ire

1994 - Russian manned space craft TM-17, lands

From KO Archives

Only PM Can Represent Us: Farooq

Observer News Service

AMMU- Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah today questioned the usefulness of Hurriyat delegation to Paki-stan in sorting out problems in Kashmir and said only direct talks between prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistan chief executive General Pervez Musharraf would he purposeful for bringing peace in the region.

'Kashmir is part of India and only the prime minister can represent us in any dia¬logue', Dr. Abdullah said after inaugurating a B. Ed college in private sector at Tarore, 22 kilometers from here this morning. He however, added that no authority, even the prime minister, can never af-ford to think of parting with an inch of Kashmir, 'which was, is and will remain proud part of the nation'.

The chief minister said that after failing to annex Kashmir in favour wars, Islamabad has switched over to proxy war for the past about 12 years. He said the foreigners are attacking se-curity pickets and targeting nationalist forces. Everyday National Conference workers, village defence committee members and SPOs are killed. They are also after those who have laid their arms after real-ising the futility of gun, Dr. Abdullah said.

"Pakistanis out to eliminate those carrying tricolour in Kashmir thereby snapping the relationship the people of the valley have tied with rest of the nation, but we are determined to give them a befitting fight 'Even if Farooq is killed, Kash¬mir will never go to Pakistan', he declared

According to NAFA, the chief minister said APHC lacked mass support. "It has only militant support. If that support is withdrawn, it will collapse. Why are they eager to go to Pakistan? They are already in touch with Pak through its mission in India. In fact, the APHC is the creation of Pakistan, he said.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 14 January, 2001)

Haltan 12/01/24 (Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

Authorized Officer

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KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Sunday | 14-01-2024

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The rise of social media, while providing a platform for immediate information dissemination, has paradoxically fueled the flames of churnalism. The incessant demand for breaking news has given way to a culture that prioritizes speed over accuracy

s a journalist genuinely invested in upholding truth and transparency, the current state of my profession is disheartening. Journalism, once revered as the voice of the people, has devolved into a disconcerting phenomenon I can only describe as a twisted joke. In an era where information reigns supreme, the proliferation of churnalism has cast a long, dark shadow over the integrity of news reporting.

I acknowledge the valiant efforts of ethical journalists who tirelessly endeavor to uphold the sacred duty of informing the public. These individuals, often unsung heroes, work diligently to uncover the facts, challenge authority, and shed light on issues that matter. However, their commendable work is increasingly



Stifled Voices, Sensationalized Stories Churnalism's Toxic Touch

Anzer Ayoob

overshadowed by the growing prevalence of churnalism within news outlets.

Churnalism, in essence, is the practice of regurgitating recycled content rather than investing the time and resources required for original reporting. This disturbing trend not only compromises the quality of news but under-

mines the very foundations of journalism. Newsrooms, once dedicated to investigative reporting and in-depth analysis, now succumb to the pressures of producing quick, attention-grabbing pieces that prioritize sensationalism over substance. The rise of social media,

while providing a platform

for immediate information dissemination, has paradoxically fueled the flames of churnalism. The incessant demand for breaking news has given way to a culture that prioritizes speed over accuracy. In this race against time, fact-checking and thorough research often fall victim to the urgency of being the first to report.

This dangerous confluence of factors has resulted in the rampant spread of misinformation, a phenomenon that poses a severe threat to society. Churnalism not only dilutes the credibility of news outlets but also fosters an environment where propaganda and extortion can thrive. The public, bombarded by a constant stream of recycled content, becomes susceptible to manipulation and distortion of reality.

In this age of information overload, where the line between truth and fiction becomes increasingly blurred, the fight for ethical journalism has never been more critical. It is imperative that we, as journalists, reclaim the essence of our profession by prioritizing accuracy, integrity, and a commitment to serving the public interest. The pursuit of truth demands a steadfast dedication to original reporting, rigorous fact-checking, and an unwavering commitment to holding those in power accountable.

In conclusion, my lament echoes not only for the state of journalism but for the society it serves. As the guardians of truth, we must confront the perils of churnalism head-on, rekindling the flame of ethical journalism that has the power to enlighten, empower, and inspire positive change. The fight is arduous, but the stakes are too high to succumb to the allure of sensationalism and expediency.

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



Not So Heavenly Kashmír Sees Snow Scarcíty

Arqam Illyas

ashmir, known as "Paradise on Earth" for its idyllic snow-capped mountains and valleys, is facing an unprecedented scarcity of snow this winter season. While Kashmir typically receives heavy snowfall between December and February, this year has been markedly different. The region has witnessed minimal snowfall, even at higher altitudes. The plains, usually blanketed in white by December, remain worryingly dry.

Behind the lack of snowfall is an anomalous weather pattern causing warmer, drier conditions over the Kashmir Valley region. Global warming, local temperature changes, and altered precipitation patterns have conspired to rob Kashmir of its usual winter snow cover. While warming global temperatures play a dominant role, local factors like deforestation and urban sprawl cannot be ignored. The felling of trees and the growth of concrete jungles contribute to the urban heat island effect, further warming the region and influencing precipitation patterns.

The dry weather this year has already impacted tourism, a major pillar of Kashmir's economy. Ski resorts, which normally open by early December, have yet to open as there is barely enough snow coverage on the slopes. Numerous tourist attractions, like the famed Dal Lake, lack the picturesque snowy shores and majestic houseboats covered in white.

The lack of accumulating mountain snowpack has growing consequences beyond tourism. Spring snowmelt feeds rivers and provides irrigation for crops in drier months. Less snow now may mean water scarcity down the road. There are also cultural impacts; snow forms an iconic part of Kashmir's identity and self-image, immortalised in poetry and songs. Locals take pride in resiliently enduring harsh Himalayan winters. Seeing a snow-



Amir Suhail Wani

criminalrowing ity in any context is symptomatic of an underlying unrest and unattended maladies festering beneath the surface of apparent calm. While humans have been struggling with criminality and penology for centuries, the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency is a comparatively recent and complex criminal manifestation. The valley of Kashmir, where such cases have been unheard of in the past, has also come to occupy a place on the juvenile criminality map with figures on the rise and the nature of crimes getting gruesome, the reports suggest. The recent incident of a 16 year old boy killing a man for objecting to relationship with his daughter rang some bells and the word caught fire that all is not well and our society is pregnant with criminal potential of unforeseen nature. In another criminal accident a juvenile stabbed to death a 15 year old boy in Srinagar, sending shock waves across the city. This is in addition to the several stabbing incidents that have been reported in Qamarwari, Bemina, Kralpora, Batmaloo, Nowhatta, Kothibagh, Rambagh areas of district Srinagar in the past four months. These episodes speak of a deeper malice corrupting the social substructure and points to the invisible but pressing frustrations faced by the youth on one front or the other. It also raises sharp questions on parental upbringing, the eroding social fabric, the losing grip of the social institutions and the negligence of educational institutions, be they schools or tuition institutions to their fundamental prerogative of man making instead of money minting.

A child is not an island

separated from the famil-





criminality of all colours.

While the society as a whole, including our religious institutions, has a responsibility to create a bulwark against these gore and ignoble episodes, we must not fall into the trap of ethicising the problem. This requires such a refinement of understanding and an insight into the heart of the problem as is mostly absent and this absence of understanding leads to addressing it in ways which only augments the underlying malady. The aim is to create a social ambience where such cases don't arise in the first place - the place which can be created to the best of approximation by addressing the issues enumerated above as triggers for juvenile criminality. However, once a teenager commits a crime, there are chances of the occurrence of criminal atavism and to abort these tendencies and save the youngsters from turning into lifelong criminals, institutional and structural interventions are mandatory. The state of affairs in this sphere isn't well in our state and except the lone overloaded juvenile jail at Harwan, the state lacks infrastructural and human resources to cope up with the issue. To put a brake, if not a full-stop on this emerging and threatening phenomenon of juvenile criminality, society can't treated in bits and pieces, assigning this role to family and that to school, but society as a whole with all its institutions has to rise up to its task of slaying the goliath.

ial and social mainland. His growth and evolution, pattern of living is by the collective impulses rising from social forces, family environment and peer group, access to education or lack thereof. In tracing the major catalysts driving the criminal behaviour among children one comes across the factors like Poverty, Drug Abuse, Anti-social Peer Group, Easy availability of firearms, Abusive parents, Single-parent child, Nuclear Family, Family Violence and Child sexual abuse. However, in recent times, exposure to media which glorifies violence and depicts criminality as a heroic deed has not only accelerated criminality among youth, but normalised the abnormal too. Social media platforms incessantly bombard us with the content celebrating and glorifying violence, which the teenagers are easily driven away by. The rise of social media and hyper-urbanization has also weakened parental control; a mechanism which in the past kept the behaviour of children under check. Ironically, the glorification of material pursuits within families and societies and the loss of socio-cultural values have also stirred in children the slumbering bestial traits, made them to model their lives on animalistic pattern

where violence is the norm and strength the sole merit. Precisely, the shattering of the social matrix and forgoing the cherished values has brought with it a storm of new-age issues with juvenile criminality as part of the package. While conferring upon children the unprecedented liberty and freeing them from all controlling mechanisms under the pretence of delivering them from the clutches of parental oppression has thrown them out of gears. The disempowering of teachers to the extent where they can't speak in a loud tone to the student has had repercussions of its kind. In an ironic inversion of hierarchy, teachers now seem to be scared of students, fearing character assassination from students over social media or other undeserved consequences of their corrective actions. In the past, children were under parental vigilance at home and under the surveillance of teachers at schools - the disappearance or in-effectuation of these means has pushed youth into criminal euphoria. We do not intend to advocate, behind the veneer of this moral nostalgia, the resurrection of corporal punishment or throttling the liberty of youth. But it must also be seen that youth are not totally left to themselves, entitled to chaos and

, A child is not an island separated from the familial and social mainland. His growth and evolution, pattern of living is by the collective impulses rising from social forces, family environment and peer group, access to education or lack thereof

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

> The author is a Srinagar based columnist

As climate change accelerates, Kashmir may see more unpredictable weather in the future. The snow scarcity in Kashmir is not an isolated event. It is a stark reminder of the changing climate and its impact on fragile ecosystems. Such events could become more frequent and severe in the future, necessitating immediate action

less season challenges this crafted image.

As climate change accelerates, Kashmir may see more unpredictable weather in the future. The snow scarcity in Kashmir is not an isolated event. It is a stark reminder of the changing climate and its impact on fragile ecosystems. Such events could become more frequent and severe in the future, necessitating immediate action.

The snowless winter in Kashmir serves as a wake-up call for all of us. We must advocate for climate action, support sustainable practices, and hold ourselves accountable for the planet's well-being.

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Why Not Make It 100 Of The Earliest known Mystics; LALLE-DED onwards



S. SARWAR. MALIK

t times I regret purchasing a book, even when it costs merely a hundred bucks. Goaded by the consideration that the book is a 2018 local publication and writer belongs to Kashmir & above all attracted by the title ' Awliyai ...'but after reading 20% of it, and shuffling some pages, here & there, I concluded that going for it didn't really fulfill my purpose, entirely, but miniscule information it did yield.

The book gives sketchy details of 92 sages [commencing with Bulbul Shah (R.A):- who came to Kashmir in 725 AH & died in 727 AH, to Baba Abdullah Shah Gazi (R.A):- 10th century Hijri]. It mentions Sayeed Ali Hamadani (R.A) and Shiekh Noor u Din Rishi (R.A) and Shiekh Hamza (R.A) and the rest (- including Baba Hardi Reshi & Baba Lateef Ladi Raina Reshi; the 'neo-converts') in order, but to my surprise, very conveniently forgotten LAL DED. Possibly the author doesn't agree that she is one of the leading Icon/ one of the torch bearers of Kashmiriyet/ Tasawoff. She needs no introduction and excluding her seems an insult to mysticism itself.

Thanks to Sir George Grierson who received the manuscript from Pandit Mukand Ram Shahstri in 1914 AD. Of course true researchers have to decide to what extent the unknown scribe's manuscript can be trusted- given the time pe-riod Lalla Vaakhs took travelling from 'Lips To Paper' and also their erstwhile journey in labyrinthine drossy memory boxes of fragile human skulls. Of course one cannot disagree with Dr S.S. Toshkhani's valuable opinion, saying " to reclaim her authentic persona, we have no option but to discard the motivated myths and invoke the actual text of her verse", yet permit me to add that " de-Hinduising-efforts" have to be consigned to quagmire together with those who forget what conditioned her holy utterance: " Mav Zaan Batte tou Musalmaan", because LAL DED was either none of the two or better say she was both, in the same manner as all other true mystics are. She was neither a "batta"(-frequently used in vaakhs, nor a (hypocrite) Musalmaan (- " unclean despite ablution"- of her vaak). She aimed her missives against both (-as was done to 'deniers' of Arabia). Lal Ded did not belong to any one creed. She had risen above these 'LABELS'....had transcended compartmentalisation. In passing let me remind readers about the assertion of Dr. R.K.Bhat, that 'Hyound, instead of 'Batte,' though preferred by some today, wasn't in usage in 14th century AD, as it is a derivative of the word 'Sindhu'. A true Kashmiri cannot show disrespect to any saint-be he Shah e Hamadaan or Shamsudin Iraqi and at the same time we cannot allow our local saints like Nund Reshi -with whom our primary roots are linked, be relegated to an inferior podium. Same about LAL DED. In my mind's screen there emerges the face of Justice Gowher (May his soul rest in peace in Janaah). *** Nearly two decades back, I got a chance to lay my hands on the Indian edition of a book, titled Studies in Islamic Mysticism', written by the renowned scholar- Reynold Alleyne Nicholson; originally in 1921, in which reader is acquainted with those Sufies, famous in East and worthy of being known to Europe. One is amazed by the vast knowledge the writer

had, not excluding Dr. Iqbal's Development of Metaphysics and the likes. My interest in the subject is shared by many and in Kashmir Mysticism/Sufi-ism is a cherished topic in private lives. Also projected publically; of the motive behind we will not talk today. Some pull back to the pristine era while some consider mysticism as a natural growth of Islamic thought. Interesting it sounds, when a man who has read western philosophers writes 'RE-construction of Islamic Thought'. Yes, my thoughts transport me to the arena of Dr. SIR Mohammad Iqbal.

Many amongst the previous generation had even the edge of being acquainted with Persian and Arabic languages but English knowing and tech savvy present generation has its own advantages, hence need not feel so disadvantaged. Information technology has brought huge libraries nearer to our desk.

Nowadays shriller voices are raised that the Islamic world is divided. True, not one, nor two, nor a score but more than six dozen different schools exist who differ in interpretation. This sounds strange because all of them believe in Allah, in one Quraan, in prophet Mohammad (s.a.w). All is not well, with the Muslim world, presently.

No one can deny the role of Shah-e-Hamadan in converting a large number of local Kashmiris but it would be a great folly to harbour the notion that Islam didn't exist in Kashmir prior to his arrival. Likewise Bulbul Shah wasn't the first Muslim saint/ preacher. How can we forget Syed Hussain Samnani. Many more might have been around breathing - in the conducive mystic air of Kashmirthe Sharda Peeth of yore.

It is true that Lall-e- Ded and Shiekh Noordin Reshi are the torch bearers of Kashmiri literature, but the fact that the latter mentions "Miraan...Pillas & Zalka Rishis" in his verses is a clear indication that Islam had penetrated this land of ours long before Bulbul Shah Qalander, Shah-e-Hamadan and Nund Reshi. Thus, not only the parents of Nund Reshi but many more had embraced Islam prior to the arrival of Shah-e-Hamadaan and true understanding of Ouranic message coursed th veins of many Kashmiris, in mystic colour of an indigenous hue, of which, the notable Nund Reshi was an example. History tells us that Arab Muslims had conquered Persia in the 7th century. Mehmood Ghazni took Lahore in the 11th century. Delhi was ruled by Khiljis (the central Asian Turks), and that during the 14th century the cross-bred Tughlaks ruled there. How could life throughout North India escape the influence of Islam during these centuries? Was Kashmir impermeable and incommunicado? Isn't it possible that the un-deciphered rock inscription in Durbuk Ladakh could be of (Syrian-Aramaic or Nestorian-Mongolian script) Kublai Khan's period? But let it not tarry us here.

If by any logic mysticism/ monastic order of Sheikh Nooru-Din Reshi seems unacceptable why should 'Persian mysticism' be portrayed as the lone approved face of Islam? What harm is there if research is done to unravel whether one of the overriding concern of Mir Sayid Ali Hamadan's advent in Kashmir was to take refuge from Timor's tyrannical test "of riding the blazing metal horse; that he combined with the higherpurpose of proselytizing people of kashmir, in the colour of the 'kubrewi'mystic order l".

Lall-e- Ded-the great Icon of Kashmiriyet, can proudly be considered as the saviour of Kashmiri language - who successfully warded off the potential threat of Sanskrit; and Nund Reshi's strength should be acknowledged because this humble local saint navigated it through the Persian STRAITS and suffered detention during the reign of Sultan Ali Shah (1413-19 AD), for reasons not so clear. It sounds quite interesting when one reads what Late G.N Gauhar (Retired judge cum writer of Chadoora, Kashmir) says about "Khat e Irshad of Shah e Hamadan's son, Mir Muhammad"- the untitled inscription on

deer

skin;



IT IS TRUE THAT LALL-E- DED AND **SHIEKH NOORDIN RESHI ARE THE TORCH BEARERS OF KASHMIRI** LITERATURE, **BUT THE FACT** THAT THE LATTER MENTIONS "MIRAAN...PILLAS **& ZALKA RISHIS**" in his verses is a clear indication that Islam had penetrated this land of ours long before Bulbul Shah Qalander, Shah-e-Hamadan and Nund Reshi

Rani on the women, in general, during/after her reign has not been studied by researchers till date, as far as my little knowledge goes, though Lall e Ded hints to the sweeping changes in Rani's time, in a vaakh, "....Rajye pheri naa...". It doesn't matter if men like Jon Rajya didn't mention Lall-e-Eshwari-Ded/Mouj. Kalhana did the same in case of Abhinavguptapeed and Vasugupta.

Mystic experiences all over the world are astoundingly similar even when the languages employed appear different. The Kashmiri language, Lall-e-Ded used in 14th century AD, is said to have assimilated numerous words from Shaivistic, Buddhist vocabulary - of course with many morphological and phonological changes. Here in Kashmir we out rightly rejected the theory of Semitic influence dating back to the pre-Christ era; research whereof was disallowed by our state for reasons known to few/ not made public. Learned ones may recall what they know about the 'Crescent-Belt' of yore and the effects it dispersed or flagged off.

Claims of some Hindu on her 'intellectual property' and campaigning on the other side by some Muslims only proves how shallow their faith and understanding of mysticism is. Shallow is the allegiance toward LALL e MOUJ of

these

empty

happily announce that Rup Rishi and Lakhyman Rishi were two Hindu disciples (out of 12) buried by the side of Nund Rishi at TSrar-e Sharief, why not gracefully accept the probability that Lall e Ded is the Guru- whom Nund Rishi called even "sein Avtar" or at least his 'senior contemporary' about whom he said "Grant me God the grace and boon bestowed on Lalle"

If the VAAKH, "Why feel intoxicated by someone else's wine...be overcome by Others faith" is at all authentic then the anecdote of her (temporary or permanent) conversion at Shopian, after meeting Syed Hussain Samnani gains credibility, to an extent, though rebut by J.L Koul and Prof. A.N Dhar but to my mind the discriminatory words " someone else's/others faith" can't belong to Lall e Mouj (- who believed in non-discrimination between Batte tou Musalmaan), though in popular sense they may specifically connote Persian eclectic theosophy or practices in contrast to indigenous mysticism followed by Lall e Ded & Nund Reshi. These words may most probably also connote that the experiential method is the real mode and just talking about someone else's mystic encounters only puts the seeker on the path, at the most, but walk he must himself to reach the goal. Companionship matters but efforts have to be made by the seeker. This reminds me of a Persian couplet: (Mann gillay na cheez bodam/ wa laikin ba muddatt e hum e gul nishistam), rendition whereof could be: Humble and down to earth am I in reality; but yes (fragrance that you sense is because) I have been in the company of the rose.

Further is it right to rally for and against non-issues like the 'tandoor anecdote'. Reversion to the original word *Kathh* (sheep) or *Hakhurr* (young bull) in the popular "nil e wathh", shouldn't become an issue. Likewise with 'Spurious Vaakhs containing 'haasil, yaar, tehsildaar etc.

One group drum beats that she was buried in 1392AD as per Muslim rites at Bijbehara; the other group talks about 'Daah'. Some say she just turned into light. Shamas Fageer asserts "Lall ascended to heaven like a cloud". Such squabbles about her last rites - that too when related to the SEER who abhorred rites & rituals, don't behove enlightened minds of true intellectuals. Remember, things not proved by scientifically-guided research lead to mistakes as have happened in the case of the burial-place of poet Mehjoor adjacent to the quarry that vields nothing but un-hewn stones. In lighter vein may I ask for how many years people addressed their faateh to Songstress Queen Habba khatoon and poet Mehjoor near the quarry, till M.Y Teng found that for former it had to be sent to the Basook, Bihar and for latter to Metrigam address? Much more than LALL Eshwari, is the status of our LALL MOUJ, in whom we see a fusion of Lalli (in blood & flesh) and motherly/cosmic spirit; a fusion of poetess and saint; a fusion of faiths and real founts of inspiration. So what if semantics and legends have got mixed up, winnowing is a fruitful exercise, even the simple pastorals know. She is OUR MOUJ- the symbol of Kashmiriyet and Culmination of an Era of Indigenous Mysticism. Adieu, dear reader.



If by any logic mysticism/monastic order of Sheikh Noor-u-Din Reshi seems unacceptable why should 'Persian mysticism' be portrayed as the lone approved face of Islam? What harm is there if research is done to unravel whether one of the overriding concern of Mir Sayid Ali Hamadan's advent in Kashmir was to take refuge from Timor's tyrannical test "of riding the blazing metal horse; that he combined with the higher-purpose of proselytizing people of kashmir, in the colour of the 'kubrewi' mystic order l"



in Arabic bearing script,

(unusually) the seal and signatures of king Sultan Sikander (dated 1408 AD); wrongly construed as "Letter of Authority", believed to be preserved as a 'relic' in Khanqahi moulla of Srinagar. Gauhar savs it doesn't mention that Sheikh Noor Din sought admission in their Kubrawi mystic order but specifically gives 'expertopinion(fatwa) that the Reshi practices of Nund Reshi(- believed belonging to the Owaisi order), was permissible. I wish prominent men among 'the aitiqa*di's*, who have access to the relics of the *Khanqah*, publish the photo of this Khat e Irshad, along with its verbatim English translation, in this newspaper.

This document indicative of Nund Reshi's spiritual eminence, might have been necessitated by a controversy among the proud Persian proselytisers/ syeds/ulemas/ missionaries, accompanying Mir Mohahammad or Mir Ali Syed Hamadani. It appears meetings (-perchance or arranged) with Nund Reshi were not courtesy calls but interactive sessions/debates. Now if mystic practices and words of these Kubravi saints recognised the need of absorbing local traditions why should the words and practices of Nund Reshi - that came to him naturally

in the shape of "blood and Milk" be treated otherwise. The "Pundit" lobby- tirade by both Lall-e- Ded and Nund Reshi might have allied with some weaklings among these foreignguests in manoeuvring Nund Reshi's arrest in 1408AD. ***

True, very little is known about Lall e Ded's life, said to be born somewhere between 1320 to 1355AD. Whether her husband ill-treated her, out of jealousy, or for her abnormal behaviour (remember Prof. C.L Sapru says 'suspicious husband'), doesn't matter much at this point of time, because it is an accepted psychological truth that women mystics, throughout the globe, have claimed a personal relationship with powerful (male) god/ deity/prophet when presence of male authority (in the words of a leading lady of the valley) "in their worldly life was constricting." Christian nuns, women Lamas and others, do have their personal reasons as well, that put them on the path of mysticism, at a crucial stage - that we can call their 'Turning Point'. Doesn't one vaakh mention "abuse and spit....slander, followed or preceded my steps...Lykh te thokkh... ninda. Then the influence of the famous Kashmiri queen, Kota

vessels. Why should the similarity of images and metaphors pointing towards devotional Shivism (not Sufism) be made a slogan? Why do we forget that all religions have a meeting ground - which is called 'Higher Mysticism'; described by the adepts of today as 'an interface of mystic and post-Einstein-scientificconcepts? Lall e Ded is not much different from other Rishis and Bhakti saints who preceded or succeeded her. We have to remember that no polarisation existed between Kashmiri Hindus and Muslims in her time. The indigenous Rishi-ism made a tremendous impact on their collective psyche and both LALL e MOUJ and NUND RISHI breathed in the same air & exhaled the same notes from their fluted beings. Unpardonable however is the behaviour, resembling toddlers fighting to prove the others' 'beloved doll is inferior' through the medium of fabricated tales, misinterpretations, apologetic stances and defensive posturing. The golden dictum says your freedom to stretch arms ends where somebody else's nose begins. Hurting sentiments, deliberately, is a sin. Hagiology of Lall e Ded at least indicates veneration by lovers of course, expectedly, exaggerated. If we

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

The author is a Srinagar based writer. He has written articles for newspapers for over two decades and has been a frequent contributor to Literary Journals. He has also authored "Jewel in the Lotus-Ladakh" and "Cries of a Thorn Bird" which are set to appear in print soon. The author is currently working on a Novel in English

News

DDC Chairperson, Former Ministers Call on LG



Safina lammu: Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council Baramulla called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan today. Former Ministers, Rajiv Jasrotia and Pawan Gupta, and former General Secretary BJP, Satish Sharma apprised the LG on various issues of public importance. Sheikh Muzaffar, President, Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist People's Front (JKNPF), also called on Manoj Sinha.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Martand Trust Mattan Anantnag led by its President Ashok Kumar Sidha and a social activist Sandhya Dharalso also called on Lieutenant

Governor at Raj Bhawan.

Commissioner SMC/CEO, SSCL, reviews the preparations for Republic Day Celebrations in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 13: Commissioner SMC/CEO, SSCL, Dr. Owais Ahmed today chaired a comprehensive meeting at the SMC Central office to review the preparations for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations in Srinagar.

The meeting, was attended by senior officers from the corporation, focusing on ensuring a vibrant and wellprepared environment for the momentous occasion. The Commissioner issued

immediate directives to the Corporation.

Electric Wing, SMC to repair dysfunctional street lights with a motive to illuminate Srinagar City; emphasizing swift action and personal oversight to ensure efficient

rectification. Commissioner emphasized illumination of flyovers with tricolor and warm lights; creating a visually striking display in honor of Republic Day.

UAPA, Property Attachments Deterred Terror Support In J&K: Police

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Strict implementation of the stringent UAPA and attachment of properties of terror sympathisers have acted as a deterrent and helped bring down violence in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said here Saturday.

The officer, who did not wish to be named, also said that a change of heart among the people has brought about a huge improvement in the situation.

"We have launched a multipronged crackdown on terror and terror networks. Apart from neutralising terrorists, hundreds of their sympathisers, OGWs, have been arrested. We have started attaching properties of those who support terror voluntarily. This has acted as a deterrent," he told PTI during an interaction.

He said the strict implementation of the rule of law has dealt a big blow to the terror ecosystem. "Violence has drastically come down after police started to strictly implement the rule of

law," the officer added. Over the last couple of years, police have cracked down on overground workers or terror associates in Jammu and Kashmir, booking them un-der the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Hundreds of properties, including those of militants and terror associates, worth crores of rupees have also been attached as part of the

The officer added that the people have understood the futility of violence.

'They want to go on with their normal, routine lives and want to reap the dividends of peace. We have seen the impact of the



disturbances and hamper peace.

strategy and taken several steps,

including issuing strict SOPs

within the department," he said.

'hybrid militants' were active in

the Valley, their numbers were

Jammu and Kashmir using new

technologies, he said there are

countermeasures for all new

counter any such measure. If

there is some new technology,

security agencies also work on

that and find ways to counter it,"

The officer also said that se-

curity forces have succeeded to

a large extent in stopping the in-

filtration of terrorists and arms

and ammunition along the Line

of Control (LoC) in the Kashmir

"There has been less or no

snowfall this time due to which

there could be attempts to send

more infiltrators. But we are

on alert. We have maintained a

strong and strict (counter-infil-

tration) grid," the officer said.

"We are capable enough to

on the decline.

technologies.

he told PTI.

valley.

The officer further said while

On reports of militants in

"We have devised a counter-

maintenance of peace. Life is go-ing on normally, businesses are flourishing, educational institutions are running normally, and tourism has achieved new heights," he said.

The senior officer said upgrading police stations and de-ploying specially trained police personnel have lent a huge help to area domination exercises and keeping a watch on inimical elements.

"This has helped in maintain-ing peace," he added.

Crediting low recruitment of local youngsters into terror ranks as another main reason for the decline in violence, the officer said the youths of Kashmir have understood that nothing can be achieved by picking up arms.

Recently, at the annual yearend press conference of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Director General of Police R R Swain had said while 130 youngsters had joined the militant ranks in 2022, the number dropped to 20 in 2023.

On the issue of targeted killings, the senior police officer cited above said terrorists adopt this strategy to create

J&K generates only 600 MWs hydroelectricity against generation capacity of 3500 MWs during winters

JAMMU, JANUARY 13: In reference to the misinformation related to Ratle Power Projects in various newspapers and other media platforms, the absolute fact is that in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Hydro Power projects are developed in both State and Central sectors.

Out of the existing installed generation capacity of 3500 MW, 1140 MW is contributed by UT-owned plants, including projects like 900 MW Baglihar, 110 MW Lower Jehlum, and 110 MW Upper Sindh. The remaining 2300 MW comes from central sector plants, with prominent ones being Salal, Dul-Hasti, Uri, and Kishanganga.

During winters, power houses in J&K, under both central and state sectors, generate a maximum of 600 MW against their rated capacity of 3500 MW due to a fall in water levels in the rivers. However, with the peak demand reaching up to 3200 MW in winters, it becomes evident that J&K's power demand cannot be solely met by hydroelectric power plants.

Out of J&K's own power houses, a major portion of electricity generation is from the Baghliar Hydro Electric Project (BHEP), producing approxi-mately 900 MW. Other locally owned power generation plants, including Upper Sindh, Lower Jehlum, Chennani, others, collectively generate around 200-250 MW. This totals approximately 1100-1140 MW through UT's own generating stations, which drops to around 200 MW in winters. The remaining power requirement during winters is met through Central Generating

Stations (CGS) both within and outside J&K.

Of the total installed capac-ity of 1140 MW in the UT sector, a major share of around 1030 MW (88% of total capacity) is utilized in J&K, while the remaining 150 MW is sold outside J&K, honouring agreements executed in 2009.

In the existing situation, J&K requires more power from thermal generators to meet its base load requirement. Solar generation could provide bal-ancing support to hydro plants to some extent.

The Government of India has set Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets, making it mandatory for every State/UT to procure some quantum of hydro and solar power to meet a proportion of power demand. J&K, being a hydro-rich state, has to rely on thermal power, particularly during winters, to meet the base load demand. As such arrangements are being made to bank hydro with other states in exchange of thermal power whenever there is surplus situation.

Over the last four years, J&K has not signed any Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for selling power outside J&K from its power houses; the same quantum has been maintained as per previous PPAs. In contrast, new PPAs have been signed to procure power to the tune of 3000 MW for J&K, including 900 MW of hydro from under construction Joint Venture (JV) projects namely Pakal Dul, Rattle, Kiru and Kwar of Chenab Valley Power Projects(CVPP) and 1600 MW of solar power from different CPSUs at a nominal price in2023.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Unprecedented Highs

observatory's initiation in 1977. The temperature matched the record set on January 18, 2010. The all-time high in Kupwara in this month is 16.9°C recorded on January 8, 2015.

Meanwhile, Batote recorded a temperature of 19.4°C today, marking the fifth-highest reading since 1977. Although it equaled the record from January 11, 2015, the all-time high was 22.6°C on January 30, 2015. This temperature in Batote stands as the highest recorded in the last 9 years.

The recent warmth observed in these regions hints at a noteworthy deviation from the historical temperature patterns. Many stations have recorded unusually warm temperatures this season as mercury rose to 23.4°C on January 11 this year which was the highest ever maximum temperature for the place.

professor of University of Kashmir, Srinagar told Kashmir Observer that the apple trees need "chilling period" for proper blooming and quality production.

"Why can't apples be grown in hotter places because they need this chilling period. However, if it is warm during winters, it will have impacts on the Apple industry," Khuroo said.

He said plants don't know about the months, they take cues and signals in the form of temperature and moisture.

"From last week we have noticed buds bursting and the flowering process beginning at an unusual time. The unfolding dry winter at present appears to be scary for the foreseeable future," he added.

people," he said

Dr. Rather further said that he has witnessed this kind of situation twice from the last 10 years.

"The people need not to panic. The trees need moisture at the time when the dormancy of apples breaks and I am sure there will be availability of water, but it will be a matter of concern if it doesn't rain," he added.

Notably, the unusual weather patterns are making a significant impact on groundwater, electricity, fish production and agriculture.

J&K Admin Issues

(88% of total capacity) is utilized in J&K, while the remaining 150 MW is sold outside J&K, honouring agreements executed in 2009, initially through PTC, later bilaterally with Haryana.

In the existing situation, J&K requires more power from thermal generators to meet its base load requirement. Solar generation could provide balancing support to hydro plants to some extent. The Government of India has set Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets, making it mandatory for every State/UT to procure some quantum of hydro and solar power to meet a proportion of power demand.

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power post-commissioning of the projects. The tariff for the sale of power is assessed through established procedures and determined by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).

The tariff of the said CVPP projects ranges between Rs. 3.92 to 4.64 per unit. J&K's has signed PPAs for 900 MWs of power from the said projects, considering the additional requirement of Hydrobased power in the existing power portfolio and the pricing, while for the remaining quantum, the CVPP has signed PPAs with other States.

2. In terms of tariff charges, Jammu and Kashmir offers one of the lowest tariff rates to its consumers in various categories, underscoring its commitment to providing affordable electri to its residents. During the current financial year, the electricity duty on the power has also been withdrawn. 3. One significant challenge is that only 55% of consumers have electricity meters installed at their houses, while power consumption often exceeds the agreed loads by the consumers. It is pertinent to mention here that the Indian Electricity Act mandates the supply of power through meters only. Therefore, the department encourages consumers to install meters at their residences, pay based on consumption, and avoid flat-rate billing.

crackdown.

Unseasonable Warmth

losses due to freakish snowfall events post-flowering.

"This isn't a good sign," Faizan Arif, an independent forecaster said, adding that temperatures will continue to remain 5 to 7 Degree Celsius above normal, more like late February temperatures.

Notably, the valley is witnessing a prolonged dry season with a 100 percent rainfall deficit from the last two months. The absence of snow on mountains and plains has raised an alarm across the valley, with experts warning about potential repercussions of this snowless winter.

Interestingly, the region is also experiencing warmer days than National Capital New Delhi and Jammu region which wasn't the case earlier.

In recent times, the region has experienced increasing trends of climate warming with an increase in annual temperature of about 0.65°C per year, and decrease in annual precipitation of – 1.24 mm per year.

Anzar Khuroo, botanist and associate

Dr. Khuroo asserted that the snowfall during the Chillai-Kalan period is vital for every sector.

A number of apple growers also said that the snowfall in the winters are essential for the proper growth and blossoming of trees, upon which the quality and quantity of apple production depend.

'The snowfall in the Chillai-Kalan period is vital for the growth of apple trees. The way a human being needs food for its survival, the trees also need water, moisture and sunlight at the proper time for its growth," said Fayaz Ahmad Malik, President of Asia's second largest Fruit Mandi in Sopore.

He said the growers are very worried and are desperately praying for the early snowfall.

Dr. Tariq Rasool Rather, a Senior Scientist and Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at Sher-e-Kashmir University of

Agricultural Sciences, however, said that the current dry weather won't have an immediate impact on apple trees but can't have a longer term impact for those who don't have irrigation facilities.

"It will be difficult for apple trees to produce quality products next year if the situation remains the same (no rains in winters) for those Here is the full text:

Out of the existing installed generation capacity of 3500 MW, 1140 MW is contributed by UTowned plants, including projects like 900 MW Baglihar, 110 MW Lower Jehlum, and 110 MW Upper Sindh. The remaining 2300 MW comes from central sector plants, with prominent ones being Salal, Dul-Hasti, Uri, and Kishanganga.

During winters, power houses in J&K, under both central and state sectors, generate a maximum of 600 MW against their rated capacity of 3500 MW due to a fall in water levels in the rivers. However, with the peak demand reaching up to 3200 MW in winters, it becomes evident that J&K's power demand cannot be solely met by hydroelectric power plants.

Out of J&K's own power houses, a major portion of electricity generation is from the Baghliar Hydro Electric Project (BHEP), producing approximately 900 MW. Other locally owned power generation plants, including Upper Sindh, Lower Jehlum, Chennani, etc.,collectively generate around 200-250 MW.This totals approximately 1100-1140 MW through UT's own generating stations, which drops to around 200 MW in winters. The remaining power requirement during winters is met through Central Generating Stations (CGS) both within and outside J&K.

Of the total installed capacity of 1140 MW in the UT sector, a major share of around 1030 MW

Over the last four years, J&K has not signed any Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for sell-ing power outside J&K from its power houses; the same quantum has been maintained as per previous PPAs. In contrast, new PPAs have been signed to procure power to the tune of 3000 MW for J&K, including 900 MW of hydro from under construction Joint Venture (JV) projects namely Pakal Dul, Ratle, Kiru and Kwarof Chenab Valley Power Projects(CVPP) and 1600 MW of solar power from different CPSUs at a nominal price in2023. Recently, UT Administrative Council has accorded procurement of 500 MW of firm power from thermal generators for which the PPA signing is in process. This doubles the capacity/availability of power to J&K in the coming years.

As regards to under construction JV projects of CVPP (with 51% stakes held by NHPC and 49% by I&K Government), the projects are being developed through Debt-Equity modelin the ratio of 70:30 at total cost of 22200 Cr. J&K's equity contribution comes as grants from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), while the debt portion is secured through loans from banks.

For raising the necessary loans its essential for the CVPP to execute advance PPAs for selling

Dry Weather To Continue

temperature of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius – up from minus 5.3 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, while it was minus 0.3 degrees Celsius in Kupwara.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan', a 40-day harsh winter period during which a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes.

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

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. (with PTI inputs)



STATE

HIZB OPERATIVE CASE

Pak Sending Money On Business Pretext To Finance Terror Acts

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police Special Cell interrogating Hizbul Mujahideen operative Javaid Ahmad Matoo, arrested in connection with 11 terror attack cases in Jammu and Kashmir, has found that money was channelled through hawala from Pakistan on the pretext of a Pashmina shawl and carpet business to run terror activities.

Police produced Matoo before a court on Friday which extended his custody by five more days. According to police officials,

Matoo, 32, revealed during interrogations that one of his associates, Mohammad Rafi Najar of Sopore, works as a financier to spread the network and execute the activities of the Hizbul Mujahideen in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Najar is involved in providing money through hawala for terror purposes from Pakistan on the pretext of a Pashmina shawl and carpet business," an official said.

The official added that the money was used to finance the activities of the Hizbul Mujahideen.

Matoo, a "highly indoctrinated terrorist" carrying a reward of Rs 10 lakh, was arrested from the national capital's Nizamuddin area, police had said after his arrest. He was allegedly driving a stolen Santro car when he was apprehended on January 4. The security agencies have categorised him as an 'A++'-category terrorist.

Producing him before a court on Friday, the Delhi Police sought further custody of Matoo to verify his associates involved in channelising funds through the hawala network from Pakistan.

Police also told the court that they needed to verify those who helped Matoo carry out the terror strikes and trace the source of arms and ammunition provided to him.

Matoo has been named as an accused in 11 known terror attack cases, including five grenade attacks and the killing of at least five police personnel in separate incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.

He has also been accused of having links with Al Badr, another terrorist outfit.

nificant, which can cause loss

of life and property, damage to soil fertility, biodiversity, and

climate patterns and health

"Don't burn leaves, bushes,

hazards, the department said.

grass, stubble and debris near

forest areas," the advisory

Forest Fire Breaks Out In Baramulla

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Bush fires broke out at several places in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, officials said.

The fire incidents were reported from the hills of the Khadiniyar forest area of the north Kashmir district, the officials said.

The personnel and machinery of the Forest Department and the Fire and Emergency Services were trying to bring the fire under control, the officials added.

Forest and bush fires have been reported from several areas in Jammu and Kashmir over the last few days. On Thursday, forest

Gol Promotes 30 JDs To Directors In MIB

stated

Ghulam Abbas From J&K Figures In List

Observer News Service AIR, Thiruvananthapuram, M. Leela eenatchi. Ioint Director

Committee announced on Saturday that, in the event that the committee receives lesser fires were reported from Pranhal applications, there would be and Chimber areas of the south Kashmir's Kulgam district. The Forest Department has issued an advisory warning of the heightened risk of forest the holy pilgrimage. fires in Jammu and Kashmir

due to continuous dry weather. all those who wish to perform With dry winter conditions the holy pilgrimage to Mecca, and increased human activity to submit their applications by in forested areas, the potential January 15 without any delay. for devastating blazes is sig-

Saturday.

HAJ-2024

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The J&K State Haj

tee, according to its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr Shujaat Qureshi has already extended the last date for submission of forms by nearly one month, and that no further extension will be granted in this direction after January 15.

Vivekananda's Vision



be much better this year.

Responding to a separate

query on the number of wom-

en who want to perform Hajj

without a "Mahram," he said

the committee has received

52 forms till date, and the age

requirement for those wishing

to perform the Hajj without a

mittee has already extended

the last date for submission of

forms by nearly a month from

December 20 to January 15,

and that no further extension

will be granted after the stipu-

lated time.

He said the State Haj Com-

Mahram is set at 45 years.

request all the aspirants to submit their forms by January 15," Qureshi told the media.

TOURISTS ENJOYING SHIKARA ride on a warm winter afternoon in Srinagar's Dal Lake on

No Draw Of Lots If Number

Of Applicants Low: J&K

Only 7000 applications out of the total 9000 allocated quota for the J&K Union Territory have so far been received by the J&K State Haj Committee, he added. According to Qureshi, the lastminute rush slows down the online procedure, besides creating obstacles.

Regarding the arrangements for pilgrims, he said, since the Union Ministry for Minority Affairs signed the bilateral agreement well on time, the arrangements, hopefully will



Army Intensifies Search Operation In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A cordon-and-search operation was underway in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday to track down terrorists who had fired on a convoy of Army vehicles a day ago, officials said.

There was no casualty in the attack on the convoy on Friday. Troops are using sniffer dogs and aerial surveillance to comb the area, which has

dense forest, the officials said. The cordon-and-search operation was underway to track the attackers, a senior officer said.

The vehicles that came under attack near Krishna Ghati in Poonch sector on Friday evening were carrying security personnel back to a camp.

No one was injured in the attack and the commanding officer as well as other Army personnel were safe, officials said. A similar ambush on Army vehi-

cles took place in Poonch's Dhatya Morh in the Dera Ki Gali area on December 21. Four Army personnel were killed in the attack. Rajouri and Poonch districts have

16 Corps GoC Briefs LG About Security Situation

JAMMU: The General Officer Commanding of 16 Corps Lt General Navin Sachdeva on Saturday briefed Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha about the security situation in Jammu region.

"Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, GOC White Knight Corps called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The GoC briefed LG Sinha about the present security scenario, it said

Lt General Sachdeva also presented the LG his book on China.

witnessed targeted attacks by terrorists on the Army and civilians in the recent past, they said.

Nineteen soldiers were killed in four terrorist attacks in Rajouri and Poonch in 2023. Security forces killed more than 30 terrorists in the two districts -- along the Line of Control (LoC) as well as in the hinterland -- last year.

J&K Bank Carries Forward 'Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyaan'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing the mission to achieve 100% Kisan Credit Card (KCC) saturation in Jammu and Kashmir under the 'Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyaan', J&K Bank conducted various camps across the Union Territory.

As part of the saturation drive, the Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash on Saturday visited a mega Camp held at Kullian in R S Pura, Jammu along with the Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar (IAS). Comprised of a large gathering of farmers, the camp was

also attended by CGM NABARD

Bhallamudi Sridhar, Bank's Ex-

ecutive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers Ashutosh Sareen, Sunit Kumar, Director Agriculture (Jammu) Ram Sevak, DGMs Rajesh Dubey and Vinod Sharma besides officials from the line departments and the Bank.

Principal Secretary Shailendra Kumar, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, stressed upon the need to encourage agricultural entrepreneurship among the farmers while ensuring the proper end-use of the funds under different schemes.

He said, "Growers need to take a step ahead of agricultural farming towards entrepreneurship and participate in the ongoing agricultural transformation across the country.

no drawing of lots (Qurah Andazi) this year, and those having completed the requisite procedure, will be picked for The committee has urged

Haj Committee

The J&K State Haj Commit-

"There would be no drawing of lots this year, in case the J&K State Haj Committee receives a lesser application this year. And those having completed the procedure will be selected for the holy pilgrimage. So we

Being Realised Under PM'Leadership: Jitendra Singh



KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

NEW DELHI: The government of India has promoted 30 Junior Administrative Grade officers (Joint Directors) of Indian Information Service Group 'A', to the Junior Administrative Grade (Directors) (Non-Functional Selection Grade) of the service in pay level 13 of New Pay Matrix of 7th CPC.

The list of promotees include Ghulam Abbas, Head Central Bureau of (CBC) Communication J&K and Ladakh Regional Office Jammu/PIB Jammu.

As per the Government order issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), the other officers getting elevation are: Amit Kumar, Joint Director CBC New Delhi, Rajith Chandran M.R. Dy. Press Registrar RNI New Delhi, V. Parvathy Joint Director CBC Thiruvananthapuram, Neha Jalali Joint Director DPD Delhi, Anshuman Mishra, Joint Director(News) DD News Delhi, Rituraj Joint Director PMO (on the strength of PIB New Delhi), Arvind Kumar Jain Joint Director(News) DD News Delhi Nadeem Thufail T. Joint Director (M&C)PIB Chennai, Suresh Kumar Gedela - On deputation to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Mayusha A.M. Joint Director (News) NSD RNU AIR Chennai, Sooraj R. Joint Director DPR (Def.) New Delhi, Saraswati S. Kuwalekar Joint Director (News) RNU AIR Mumbai, Sudhir Singh Joint Director (M&C) PIB New Delhi, Partha Ghosh Joint Director (News) DDK Kolkata, Abdul Hamid Joint Director (M&C) PIB Kolkata, Girish Chandra Dash Joint Director CBC

RO Bhubaneshwar (Addl. Charge of RO CBFC Cuttack) Praween Kavi Joint Director (M&C) PIB New Delhi, Subhashree Mahapatra Joint Director (News) NSD AIR New Delhi, V. Balakrishna

Joint Director (M&C) PIB Hyderabad, Nana Sevakram Meshram Joint Director (M&C)PIB Mumbai (under order of posting to PIB Panaji) Ratnakar Pamula Joint Director CBC RO Vijaywada, Ram Khiladi Meena Joint Director CBC Jaipur Anand Prakash Soni Joint Director(News) NSD AIR New Delhi, Anubhav Bairwa Joint Director (News) NSD AIR New Delhi, G.D. Hallikeri Joint Director(M&C) PIB Vijayawada, KamlaVerma Joint Director DPD New Delhi, Pritam Singh Joint Director(M&C) PIB Shimla and Nampibou Marinmai Joint Director (News) DDK Guwahati(Working in DDK, Aizwal with Addl. Charge of AIR, Aizwal and IIMC, Aizwal).

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has effected Swami Vivekananda's vision for India on the ground and now the country can lead the world in multiple ways.

Addressing an event here on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, he said, "We have seen India moving in the direction that Swami ji had envisaged for us."

"The vision which Swami ji placed before us in the late 19th century, is now being actualized under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi", he said, adding, "We have now proven ourselves as first-line nations of the world and today we can lead the rest of the world in more than one ways."

Singh laid stress on the capacity building of the youth so that they can realise the full strength of their talent and channel their energies towards that end. The Union Minister urged everyone to make optimal use of their strength, potential and talent in the next 25 years of 'Amrit Kaal' so that they can contribute to realizing the vision of a developed India by the year 2047.

According to Swami Vivekananda, the ideal of education should be capacity building and growth of human beings. It is this ideal which influenced the NEP 2020 that focuses on bringing to the fore the inherent talent and aptitude of students, Singh said.

E-mail: jkstatesportscouncil@gmail.com | Contact No: 0194-2311207, 0194-2310064 | 0191-2570423, 0191-2560771

Sub: -Special cash award to outstanding sports person for the year 2021-22- and 2022-23.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed format duly affixed thereon a passport size photograph self-attested are invited from the eligible domiciles of J&K for the purpose of grant of special cash awards as per the sports policy 2022. The sports persons of UT J&K who win 1st, 2nd & 3rd position in national and international competitions held during the year-2021-22 and 2022-23 conducted by authorized International / National Sports Bodies / Federations should only apply for grant of special cash award.

The applicants should submit details of medals earned in National / International competitions held at Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior level during 2021-22 (01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022) and 2022-23 (01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023) in the given format supported by Xerox copies of sports certificates / documentary proof duly certified / authenticated from concerned recognized J&K UT Sports Association in the application format. Application format will be available on our official website jksportscouncil.in

The applications enclosing therein sports certificates self-attested should reach the office of the Divisional Sports Officer (J/K), J&K Sports Council at New Indoor Sports Complex, M.A Stadium Jammu / Bakshi Stadium Srinagar on or before 29.01.2024. Applications received after the due date or incomplete information given will not be entertained

No.: - SC/2880/10375-82 Dated:12-01-2024

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a.

Date

SECRETARY **J&K SPORTS COUNCIL**

(Signature of Sportsperson)

APPLICATION FORMAT FOR GRANT OF SPECIAL CASH AWARD TO OUTSTANDING SPORTS PERSONS

Name	
Parentage	(
Permanent Correspondence Address	
Date of Birth (as per Birth Certificate / Matriculation Certificate)	SELF-ATTESTED
Aadhaar No_Mobile No	
Bank Account number w ith IFSC Code	
Email Id	
Whether Domicile / resident of J&K (YES / NO) (If yes, attach certificate)	
Whether Physical!) Challenged (Para, Blind. Deaf. Special OKmpic Sports)	
Name of Sports Discipline	
Financial year for which applied	

12. Sports Achie \ements at sub-junior, junior and senior level

International level (financial year 2021-22 and 2022-23 as per eligibility criteria)

S.no	Name of competition	Venue	Date	Performance (mention medal earned)	Whether team / individual event	If team event, mention number of athletes in the team	Cycle of event in financial year
1							

b. National level (financial year 2021-22 and 2022-23 as per eligibility criteria)

	······································									
S.no	Name of competition	Venue	Date	Performance (mention medal earned)	Whether team / individual event	If team event, mention number of athletes in the team	Cycle of event in financial year			
1										

DECLARATION BY SPORTSPERSON

- 1. I have read the J&K Sports policy 2022 and declare that I am eligible for consideration of special cash award.
- 2. I have enclosed self-attested copies of all sports certificates self-attested in support of my application.
- 3. I did not represent a State / UT other than Jammu & Kashmir at the National / International level.
- 4. I am not guilty of doping, sexual harassment and abuse, competitive manipulation like betting, inside information, match fixing, tanking threatening the integrity and essence of Sports.
- 5. I have no subsisting contract for pecuniary gains like commercial endorsement or professional sports.

It is certified that the above particulars given by me are true and correct. There is no material concealment. In case of wrong information furnished or material concealment, my award shall be forfeited without notice.

- Domicile/Resident Certificate-Leaves) 1.
- 2, Sports Achievement Certificates Leaves)

VERIFICATION BY RECOGNISED UT SPORTS ASSOCIATION / OTHER COMPETENT BODIES

Certified that the particulars declared by the sportsperson have been checked, verified mid found correct.

Dated:	Name, Signature and Seal of the
DIPK-NB-5237-23	Secretary / President of State / UT Sports Association /
DT: 13/01/2024	Other Competent Bodies concerned
511 10/ 01/ 2021	

e - mail: pherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 - 2416292, This Office e-NIT No: 57/JJM (IV)/JS-PHE/RWSD/GbI of 01/2024, issued Under No: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs/13475 -Reference: 13499, dated: 05.01.2024, Work figuring at S.No: 08 bearing Tender id. 2024_PHE_242173_8

EXTENSION NOTICE – I

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JS-PHE DEPTT.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, GANDERBAL/SGR.

H.Q: DUDERHAMA GANDERBAL.

Due to Nil response for the works advertised/ published vide this office above referred e-NIT No. & date bearing tender ID mentioned above, the bid submission end and bid opening (online) dates for the said works are hereby extended & re-fixed as under:

- Last date of submission of Bids online 18.01.2024 up to 12:00 p.m.
- Date of opening of bids online 18.01.2024 at 13:00 p.m.

All other terms and conditions of the e- NIT shall remain unchanged

No. JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. / 13784 - 13808

Dated: - 13.01.2024.3.1 DIPK-15169-23

DT: 13/01/2024

(Er. Samiullah Beigh) Executive Engineer JS-PHE,

RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.

Sd/-

<u>SPORTS</u>



3 Synthetic Football Turfs To Come Up In Kashmir Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In exciting news for Kashmir Football, three synthetic turf football fields will be constructed in three districts of Kashmir Valley.

The J&K Football Federation announced Friday that three commissioned fields will come up in Srinagar, Baramulla and Shopian. The FA said in a statement that the move came to fruition after the government issued a "groundbreaking order" and will "revolutionize football infrastructure and fos-

ter talent across the region". The JKFA also expressed its thanks to Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, for playing a "pivotal role in securing this monumental development." The FA also thanked J&K LG Manoj Sinha for his support. The JKFA has also proposed the

ent allocation of Synthetic Turf Football Fields in Rajouri and Kathua. In absence of an elected body, the JKFA is run by a committee, which includes Wasim Aslam its (Ex-Chairman/Chief Coordinator), Nazir Ahmad Andrabi (Chairfor man), B.A Shah (Hony General secretary), Bashir Malik (Presiop- dent DFA Srinagar), Sajid Dar (International Coach & Coach Educa-

Coach/Ex-International)

tor) and Ishfaq Ahmad (AFC Pro

Sachin's Wish Raises Hope For Anantnag's Armless Cricketer

Agencies

ANANTNAG: Amir Hussain Lone, an armless cricketer from South Kashmir's Anantnag district, has not only made a mark on the cricket field but has also gained attention from several influential figures in India.

With legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar wishing to meet young Amir, hopes for this specially-abled cricketer have started to run high. Amir, hailing from Waghama village in Bijbehara, lost his arms at the age of eight while working at his father's mill.

He has mastered the unique skill of bowling with leg and batting by holding the bat between the neck and shoulder.

"During my childhood, I aspired to be a cricketer like Sachin Tendulkar, dreaming of representing my country," Amir told news agency KNO. "I couldn't control my emotions after seeing Sachil Sir's wish to meet me. It's really a dream come true."

Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar has showered huge praise on the J&K Para captain stating that Amir has made the impossible possible. The iconic cricketer was so much in awe of Amir that he hoped



to meet him and get a jersey with his name.

"And Amir has made the impossible possible. I am so touched watching this! Shows how much love and dedication he has for the game. Hope I get to meet him one day and get a jersey with his name. Well done for inspiring millions who are passionate about playing the sport," Sachin wrote on his social media account X.

The praise didn't end with Sachi's message on X. Adani Foundation also announced

y that it will contact cricketer Amir Hussain Lone and provide him every possible supo port in his journey.

Gautam Adani, Chairman Adani Group, saluted the courage and dedication of Amir Hussain towards the game and the spirit of never giving up in adverse circumstances.

"This emotional story of Aamir is amazing! We salute your courage, dedication to the game and spirit of never giving up even in adverse circumstances. @AdaniFoundation will contact you soon and provide you with every possible support in this unique journey. Your struggle is an inspiration for all of us," Adani said in a post on X.

Talking to KNO, a visibly happy Amir said: "I am so glad! Sachin shared and liked my life story. I hope to meet him soon. Legend cricketer has been my favorite since childhood, and he still inspires me. It is a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir and my hometown, Anantnag. Words can't capture my joy. I never expected this to happen."

India Eye Series Win Over Afghanistan As Kohli Returns



Press Trust of India

INDORE: A series win over Afghanistan is still not counted among the grandstand cricketing feats, but a clutch of players will be eager to achieve that here on Sunday in the second T20I as it can transform them into contenders from sidekicks. India had won the first game at Mohali by six wickets to take a 1-0 lead.

It is then imperative for Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar and Avar Patel to produce a defining effort against the Afghans to keep themselves within the selectors' sight as the move to find a perfect squad for the T20 World Cup has gathered steam. That India will not play another T20I series ahead of the marquee event in June increases the gravitas around their performance against Afghanistan. litesh has all the reasons to place himself among the frontrunners as the wicketkeeper-batter has overtaken Ishan Kishan in the pecking order since replacing the latter from the fourth T20I against Australia at Raipur last year.

case. The left-hander had made an excellent start to his T20I career last year, making 39, 51 and 49 not out against the West Indies in an away

three-match series. However, it remains to be seen whether Varma can retain his place in the side as star batsman Virat Kohli is available for this match after skipping the first game.

After missing out on the 50-over World Cup with an injury, Axar now seems to be back in the thick of things in both red- and white-ball formats



It Was Hostile Environment In Ahmedabad: Mickey Arthur

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Mickey Arthur, Pakistan's former team director, admitted that the ODI World Cup match against India at Ahmedabad was one of the toughest moments during his stint, taking the side through a hostile environment.

Arthur moved on after Pakistan failed to reach the semifinals of the showpiece event last year, while former all-rounder Mohammed Hafeez replaced on and tried their best – nevertheless it ultimately does play a role in motivation when you can't see or hear that support base around you," he added.

Pakistan's World Cup campaign was as usual marked by high-level off-field turbulence, including news about dressing room discord and leaked WhatsApp conversations of

then skipper Babar Azam. However, Arthur said all those outside commotions never really affected the team.



Tilak Varma offers a very similar

However, it will be immature to take this Afghan side for granted. They have the wherewithal to hurt India on their day.

The young Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Azmatullah Omarzai and the experienced Mohammad Nabi can tear apart a bowling unit as mercilessly as any other.

Despite the absence of star spinner Rashid Khan, the Afghans have the services of Mujeeb ur Rahman, who was in good rhythm in the first match, Naveen-ul-Haq and Fazalhaq Farooqi.

If they can fire in unison, it will not be far-fetched to expect cracker of a contest.

ENJOYING THE SUN-

Young kids play cricket in the interiors of Dal Lake while soaking in a rare warm January day.

📷 Abid Bhat/KO

him in the role.

"It was extremely tough not having any Pakistan support. The one thing that really drives the Pakistan team is the incredible support they receive at grounds and hotels. Here we never had that, and that was quite tough in a World Cup, particularly for the players," Arthur was quoted as saying by the 'Wisden'.

"As you can imagine it was a tough, hostile environment in Ahmedabad. But we were expecting this, and to their credit our players never moaned or complained once. They cracked "The outside noise with Pakistan is incredible, you just have to check your Twitter feed to see so many fires that are ignited out there, that have absolutely no truth attached to them," he said.

"You end up – and I found this out the first time – you're just constantly extinguishing those fires and chasing your tail. What we knew within our team was our game plan, and the defined roles that the players had, and we cracked on with it. There were unequivocally no massive disagreements with the players," Arthur added.

Hard For Palestinian Players To Stay Focused At Asian Cup: Coach

Palestine play Iran on Sunday

Agencies

The Palestinian squad at the Asian Cup are finding it very hard to focus due to the conflict in Gaza, coach Makram Daboub said on Saturday, but he added that their presence at the tournament should remind the world that "Palestine exists".

Israel kept up bombardments in the Gaza Strip on Saturday as its war on the enclave's Hamas rulers approached 100 days with no end in sight. The Israeli offensive follows a cross-border rampage on Oct. 7 by Hamas militants in which Israeli officials said 1,200 people were killed and 240 taken hostage back to Gaza. Israel's campaign has demolished much of the coastal strip and killed almost 24,000 people according to Palestinian health authorities in the enclave.



"Keeping focused, honestly, is difficult because most of the time the players are focusing on news after training or before it, even on the bus while going to training," Daboub told reporters ahead of their group opener against

deserve freedom. Through

the matches, our presence

and what we will deliver in

this tournament should be a

Iran on Sunday. "Everyone is focused on the news and what is happening, but even with that... message for the whole world that Palestine exists."

The team's captain Musab Al-Battat said stopping sporting activity in Gaza for the past three months had had negative consequences on the players, who have had training camps outside the region due to the conflict.

He also hoped their presence at the Asian Cup would deliver a message to the world. "As Palestinian players, we have a message that we can deliver to the whole world and that is the Palestinian team and state is a country

team and state is a country like all others that has the right to participate and be part of any tournament anywhere," he said.

"Hopefully all these circumstances will be a positive push for us as players to present the best result because our people truly deserve it and our fans deserve it."

Chelsea Continue Winning Streak With 1-0 Win Over Fulham

Agencies

LONDON: Cole Palmer made up for his misses in midweek by scoring a penalty to give Chelsea a 1-0 win over Fulham on Saturday for a third straight Premier League victory.

Palmer sent Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno the wrong way from the spot in first-half stoppage time after Raheem Sterling had been tripped in the area.

It was the 21-year-old Palmer's ninth league goal of the season and fifth from the penalty spot, as the former Manchester City player has emerged as the most successful of Chelsea's many expensive off-season signings.

And, it came after Palmer was guilty of several wasted chances on Tuesday — including a glaring miss from close range — when Chelsea lost 1-0 to second-tier Middlesbrough in the first leg of the League Cup semi-finals.

"After the (Middlesbrough) game I was disappointed like anyone's going to be missing that many chances and costing the team the game," Palmer told broadcaster TNT. "People know



you have those games, so just had to try and put it behind me." Chelsea has won three straight league games for the first time under manager Mauricio Pochettino and extended its league winning streak at home to four matches its best run at Stamford Bridge in 3 1/2 years. This latest win lifted the Blues provisionally above Manchester United and Newcastle into eighth place.

Another positive for Chelsea was seeing defender Ben Chilwell back for the first time since September following a lengthy injury layoff. "Been a while, so just happy to be back," Chilwell said.

However, Chelsea may have been fortunate to not go a man down when Malo Gusto escaped with just a yellow card for a studs-up challenge on Willian in the first half.

Fulham was coming off a 2-1 home win over Arsenal in its last league game but has struggled on the road all season. The visitors had few quality chances at Stamford Bridge, but Chelsea needed goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic to deny striker Raul Jimenez from scoring an equalizer in the 73rd.