



Welcome to our insightful column into the world of financial wisdom! In a time where the specter of financial frauds looms large in Kashmir, this column is curated to be your beacon of light, guiding you through the intricacies of money management and investment decisions. Financial literacy is crucial for making informed and effective decisions about managing money, investments, and overall financial well-being. Our aim is to empower individuals to make sound choices and build a secure financial future.

STRATEGIC STOCKS

Irshad Mushtaq

The share market is often considered a place where people lose money, especially in certain regions like Kashmir. The reasons behind these losses can be attributed to various factors, including aggressive trading, illegal practices by brokers and lack of understanding about long-term investment strategies.

One of the main reasons for people losing money in the share market is aggressive trading. This involves trading with amounts that far exceed the actual value of the stocks in question. For example, if a person has one lakh rupees and does trades worth 10 times that amount, they are at a high risk of losing everything if the market takes a downturn. The volatility of the stock market can lead to significant losses when aggressive trading is involved.

Additionally, trading in futures and options can also be very risky, especially when it involves taking money from the public and engaging in speculative and high-risk practices. In the past, many brokers in Kashmir have engaged in these illegal activities, trading in clients' accounts and making false promises of guaranteed profits. When the market turns negative, these practices can lead to substantial losses for unsuspecting investors.

Furthermore, the lack of understanding about long-term investment can also contribute to losses in the share market. Many people engage in intraday trading, where they buy and sell shares on a daily basis, hoping to make quick profits. However, this practice is extremely risky and can result in significant financial losses. It is important for investors to realize that true investment means buying shares for a long period and allowing the value to increase over time.

It is crucial for people to differentiate between trading and investment. Trading involves speculative and short-term practices, while investment involves holding onto shares for the long term and allowing them to appreciate in value over time. By understanding this difference and exercising patience, people can avoid losing money in the share market and instead reap the benefits of long-term investment.

In conclusion, while the share market is not inherently a place for losing money, there are certain practices and factors that can lead to significant financial losses for individuals. By avoiding aggressive trading, illegal practices by brokers, and focusing on long-term investment strategies, people can mitigate the risk of losing money in the share market. It is essential for investors to educate themselves about the intricacies of the stock market and make informed decisions to safeguard their financial interests.

— Author is NISM qualified, Mutual Fund advisor and distributor having experience of 18 years in financial market.

J&K India's Top State In Online Services, Surpasses MP: LG

Says Abolition Of Annual Durbar Move Exercise Saved Huge Funds

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir is making rapid progress in various sectors and has surpassed Madhya Pradesh in providing online services becoming number one in India, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday.

Sinha further said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was generally normal and on the path of progress, with the government taking various measures since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The recent terror incidents in the Union territory were just efforts by the anti-India forces backed by Pakistan to start a discussion all over the world to claim that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is still not normal, he added.

Sinha was addressing an event organised by the Bharat Prakashan, which publishes the Organiser and Panchjanya



Kashmir after a long wait. This signifies that the atmosphere is peaceful in the region," he said.

The LG said that despite cold conditions in Kashmir, not just the locals but tourists also enjoy night life in Srinagar and elsewhere in the Valley. "Sounds of development have replaced the frightening thuds of bullets in the Valley," he said.

LG Sinha said that last year 2.12 crore tourists visited J&K, which is a record. "Post G-20 meeting in Srinagar last year, the foreign tourist arrivals showed a 350 per cent increase. Last year, 55000 foreign tourists visited J&K," he said.

The LG said that despite the fact that the terrorism was on its deathbed in J&K, the adversary continues with its efforts to fuel terrorism. "But the plan has been rolled out to not just root out terrorism but to dismantle its entire ecosystem," he said, adding that the GoI is establishing | [More on P6](#)

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT FILES are being transferred from Srinagar to Jammu in 217 trucks and 1000 hotels are booked in Srinagar and 800 in Jammu after every six months"

Amit Shah Bereaved

Press Trust Of India

Ahmedabad: Union Home Minister Amit Shah's elder sister died during treatment at a hospital in Mumbai on Monday, a BJP office-bearer said.

Amit Shah has cancelled all his engagements in Gujarat following the demise of Rajeshwariben Shah, he said. Rajeshwariben was in her mid-60s. She was not keeping well for some time and undergoing treatment at a hospital in Mumbai, where she breathed her last in the early hours of Monday, the office-bearer said.

"Following the death of his ailing sister, Shah has cancelled all his programs for the day. Rajeshwariben's mortal remains have been brought at her residence here today morning and her last rites will be performed at Thalje | [More on P6](#)

Potential Power Crisis Looms Amid Prolonged Dry Spell in J&K

Aujib Javeed

Srinagar: As snowfall continues to elude Kashmir, the Power Development Department (PDD) of Jammu and Kashmir has sounded alarms, emphasizing the crucial role of snow in hydroelectric power generation.

Highlighting the potential impact of the absence of snowfall in the peak winter, Principal Secretary PDD, H Rajesh Prasad said, "the ongoing dry spell might not have an immediate impact but it will definitely affect the generation in coming summer and winter."

"Let's hope it snows immediately, otherwise there might be some difficulties, which can't be assessed as of now," Prasad told Kashmir Observer.

A junior engineer from the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDC) said



that the J&K has the potential to generate around 20,000 megawatts of hydel power but generates only around 1200 megawatts.

"With the absence of snowfall, there will be electricity crises throughout the year," he said.

Notably, the power department is already facing heavy

criticism from the public for failing to provide adequate power supply during the winters.

It may be noted that the UT presently has 13 hydroelectric projects with installed capacity of 1,197.4 MWs located in various districts. The main contributor among | [More on P6](#)

Situation In J&K Under Control, Increase In Terror Activities In Rajouri-Poonch: Army chief

Press Trust Of India

Lucknow: Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande said on Monday that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is under control but there has been an uptick in terrorist activities in the southern region of Pir Panjal and Rajouri-Poonch over the last few months.

He, however, asserted that due to the efforts of the



security forces, there has been a significant drop in violence

in the interior areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the 76th Army Day parade in Lucknow, General Pande said, "The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is under control. But in the past few months, there has been an increase in terrorist activities in the southern region of Pir Panjal and Rajouri-Poonch." "There is a ceasefire along the Line of Control | [More on P6](#)

Maintain Peace In Doda-Kishtwar: GoC To Troops

General Officer Commanding of 16 Corps Lt General Navin Sachdeva on Monday directed troops to remain steadfast towards maintaining peace in the Doda-Kishtwar region. Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, who took over as GoC of the White Knight Corps recently, is undertaking a | [More on P6](#)

10 Years Of Govt Dedicated To Poor: PM

Releases Rs 540 Cr For PM-JANMAN Beneficiaries

Press Trust of India



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on January 15 that the country can develop only if benefits of various welfare schemes reach all, asserting that it is his guarantee that everyone, even those in the remotest of areas, will benefit from them.

Releasing the first instalment of 540 crore to one lakh beneficiaries of a rural housing scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) via video conferencing, he said the 10 years of his government have been dedicated to the poor.

The budget of many welfare schemes for the Scheduled Tribes has risen by five times and the scholarship for tribal students has grown by two-and-a-half times in the last 10 years, he said, adding that the work is on to construct more than 500 Eklavya model school for them while only 90 existed earlier. This government has exerted its full force to ensure that extremely backwards among the tribal population benefit from its every scheme, he said.

MORE THAN FOUR CRORE PUCCA HOUSES have been built for the poor by the government."

PM Modi also credited guidance from President Droupadi Murmu, India's first tribal woman head of state, for the PM-JANMAN scheme, saying as someone who has come from the same background she often spoke about the issues facing them during her interactions with him.

Noting that Diwali is being celebrated in Ayodhya in the run-up to the consecration of Lord Ram's | [More on P6](#)

Govt To Regularize High-Performing SPOs: DGP Directs Officers To Help People Get Justice

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief R R Swain on Monday stated that Special Police Officers (SPOs) are receiving good support and efforts are underway to regularize those demonstrating good performance within the J&K Police force. The DGP also highlighted that J&K Police is extending comprehensive assistance to Special Police Officers (SPOs), acknowledging their selfless contributions, and emphasized ongoing support



initiatives, including scholarships for their children, while expressing that those making notable contributions are undergoing | [More on P6](#)

Cutting Of Salaries To SCARD Bank Employees HC Stays Order Of Paying Only 40% Salary

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has stayed an order by Managing Director J&K State Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank Ltd (SCARD Bank) regarding payment of only 40% of the salary to around fifty employees from the Kashmir Valley.

The employees, 47 in number, said that they have been adversely affected by 22 December last year order by the Managing Director, "purportedly acting upon the directions of the Administrator", to direct payment of only 40% of the salary to them.

"The direction is specific to the Kashmir division only. The order per se does not make



any sense as to on what basis/reasons the Managing Director of respondent no. 4 (J&K State Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank Ltd) has resorted to such a course of action," a bench of Justice Rahul Bharti observed and issued notice to the authorities.

"In the meantime, the

operation of the impugned order no. 39 of 2023 dated 22.12.2023 read with communication no. Adm 3713-16 dated 20.12.2023 of the Administrator of the respondent no. 4 shall remain stayed," the court said, adding, "There shall be no deduction with respect to the salary of the petitioners or for that matter of other employees of the respondent no. 4 of Kashmir division."

This order is, however, subject to objections from the other side, the court added. The Bank primarily provides Medium Term and Long Term Loan to the agriculturists and horticulturists of the UT for specified agricultural and non-agricultural activities under the guidance | [More on P6](#)

Aes Kaeshir

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

KO PODCAST

Secy YSS Attends VBSU Event In Old City; Seeks Feedback On Schemes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As a part of ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, Secretary, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez, on Monday visited Rajori Kadal area in Shahr-e-Khaas of Srinagar district and attended a mega event organized under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY).

Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Dr. Owais Ahmad besides other senior officers and officials were present on the occasion.

The event witnessed overwhelming public participation with numerous issues raised concerning welfare and development of the area. The gathering was made aware about the government programs particularly centrally sponsored flagship schemes aimed at empowering the common masses.

The Secretary monitored the activities being conducted through the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Van and interacted with the gathering seeking feedback on various government initiatives.

Addressing on the occasion, Sarmad Hafeez highlighted the transformative impact of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra which envisages bringing the uncovered beneficiaries under the ambit of government schemes. He emphasized the importance of the yatra in fostering development and promoting engagement with government schemes besides achieving saturation under government sponsored citizen centric schemes.

He said that public outreach programs like Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra provide an appropriate platform to the local population to get enrolled under different CSSs and avail benefits without visiting government offices. He also encouraged the public to avail full advantage of government schemes tailored for their socio-economic empowerment.

On the occasion, the VBSY Van displayed the message of the Prime Minister and also spread awareness among the people aimed to ensure seamless reach of government welfare programs and centrally sponsored flagship schemes at grassroots level.

Dal Lake Inferno

3 Affected Families Receive Assistance

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a team of District Administration, Srinagar visited Abikarpura Dal in Tehsil North of the District to provide immediate assistance to the 03 affected families whose houses were gutted in a

fire incidents here on Saturday late night.

The team of District Administration provided immediate assistance in the form of blankets, mattresses, bed sheets and kitchen sets, besides some funds were provided as an interim relief out of the District Red Cross Fund.

Further cases will be processed under SDRF.

Commissioner SMC Reviews Progress Of NCAP projects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Commissioner SMC/CEO, SSCL, Dr. Owais Ahmed today held a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of projects falling under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP).

During the meeting, Commissioner SMC meticulously reviewed all ongoing projects for the fiscal year 2023-2024, with a primary focus on evaluating the status of projects under NCAP.

Dr. Owais emphasized

the need to proactively pursue the implementation of the mission and issued strict directives to all concerned officials to ensure the effective and timely execution of the projects.

The meeting was attended by officials from various departments, including FA/CAO SMC, Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer City Roads, ADP, SMC CSO, SMC, as well as Senior Officers from R&B, Urban Forestry, and SMC at the Meeting Hall of Commissioner SMC.

DC Srinagar Reviews Implementation Of Self Employment Schemes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the implementation of employment generation schemes in Srinagar District, a meeting was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was among others attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Deputy Director Employment, Lead District Bank Manager and Officers of other line Departments.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a

detailed review of all the self employment generating schemes being implemented in the District. He also evaluated the progress achieved under the Good Governance Index and Deliverables.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took an extensive department-wise review of cases sanctioned under various schemes, including Mumkin, Tejaswini, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), DIC, KVIB and other self-employment-oriented schemes.

The Officers of the concerned Departments briefed the DC about the status of coverage of beneficiaries under various self-employment schemes in the District.



Who Let The Dogs Out! Stray dogs relaxing next to an elderly woman at Pratap Park in Srinagar on a bright Monday afternoon. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Naqsh o Nigar' Exhibition Garner Enthusiastic Response

Shereen Naman

Srinagar: 'Naqsh o Nigar,' an exhibition featuring a blend of Art, Craft, and Photography has received an overwhelming response from the art enthusiasts.

Launched by the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, at the Government Arts Emporium on January 12, the exhibition was organized in collaboration with Edraak, an institution dedicated to revitalizing education in Kashmir through arts and aesthetics.

Showcasing the works of 25 artists, primarily young students from diverse fields, the

event reflects a rich diversity of artistic expression. These artists, driven by a deep love for their craft, have poured their hearts into the creation of a captivating collection.

"Curating such programs does not only boost our confidence but also provides us with a promising platform to come forward. We are lucky to showcase our talents as budding artists in front of such supportive personalities," Sameera Nabi, one of the artists, said.

Since Srinagar joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), the department of Handicrafts and Handloom, J&K has taken the initiative to host these

exhibitions, which honor the rich heritage of artistic expression.

"This exhibition has made us tie up with UNESCO, which has given me enough confidence. I didn't sell my artwork earlier, but now, through this exhibition, I am happy to see my pieces getting booked," said Shazia Basharat.

"The pieces of art exhibit a deep investigation of methods, supplies, and ideas, encouraging communication between the known and the unknown as well as between the past and the present," Shazia added.

Other artists also hailed the exhibition as an open and encouraging platform, giving

them the recognition they deserve.

"The government is further planning to curate such exhibitions to promote the talent in Kashmir valley. I am glad to see that the majority of them, being young minds, are eager to learn and sell their art," Zuhair Hassan, an artist said.

Saima Farooq, a papier-mâché artist, said that she has tried to showcase unique designs, other than the usual ones, during the event.

"In addition to papier-mâché khatam-band pieces, we have done a fusion of papier-mâché and applied it to some different stuff," Saima said.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore

Notice Inviting E-Tenders- Fresh ENIT No. 30 of 2023-2024 Dated:13-01-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible, contractors registered with J&K U.T Govt. for the following works:-

S. No.	NAME OF WORK	Estimated amount (EMD) Rs.	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Validity of contract	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Rs)	Major Head of Account
01	Fresh to ENIT 27 of 2023-2024 Dated: 2212-2023 To carry out varied support activities under the jurisdiction of Jal Shakti PHE Division Sopore District Baramulla	Rs 21.41 lacs	Rs. 43000.00	Up to March 2025	BEE/CEE	1000/-	JJM

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from:-

1.	Publishing date	13-01-2024	04:00 PM
2.	Download Date Starts	13-01-2024	04:00 PM
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	13-01-2024	04:00 PM
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	20-01-2024	03:00 PM
5.	Date of opening of tenders	20-01-2024	03:30PM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and the bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SOPORE in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".

- To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual/Kif on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (3&4) of the above table. Bid security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore. (NIT No and Work No to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)
- Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:
 - Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR).
 - Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card with renewal of 2023-2024 iii). Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration in FORM GST-3B of the preceding month/ quarter.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
 - The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, EMD and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (LI) to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore by hand or by speed/registered post before processing of allotment. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least 02 years.
 - No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - The bid shall be deposited in electronic format only on the web site of (www.jktenders.gov.in)
 - The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the tender opening committee constituted by the competent authority.
 - No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.
 - The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the bidder

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The Item No. 01 of the BOQ i.e Providing and fixing of 63 No. sign boards as per approved specifications at respective water supply schemes under JJM falling under the jurisdiction of PHE Sub Division Sopore/watlab/Sumbal shall have to be completed by the successful bidder within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of LOI/allotment whatever is earlier in any case and the rest activities of the contract shall have to be carried out as and when asked for by the Assistant Executive Engineer. The contract shall remain valid upto 03/2025.
- The tenders shall remain valid for 180 days only.
- The successful tenderer shall have to arrange, construct and maintain at his own cost necessary walkways, platform, ladders, stairways, water and other facilities of usual and suitable character for all operations of construction and inspection.
- As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder it is mandatory for him to enter into an agreement with the department. However, non-drawal of agreement will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him.
- The contractor shall be liable for debarment for next two years in respect of competing in the tendering process in PHE Department including forfeiture of Earnest Money if:-
 - Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - The Successful contractor fails to execute an agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
 - If the bidder makes any change in BoQ (Bill of Quantities). In no case they should attempt to create similar BoQ manually. The BoQ downloaded should be used for filling rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same nomenclature as it contains.
 - Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to incessant/ torrential rains /heavy snowfall/ cyclone/ flood etc. shall be the responsibility of the bidder until the work is finally handed over to the Department.
 - The taxes etc shall be deducted from the bidders claim as admissible under rules.
 - The rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the complete execution of work unless otherwise specified.
 - The date of start of work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of letter of intent/contract allotment as the case may be.
 - Performance security 3% of allotted cost in form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG is to be submitted before the issuance of allotment which shall be released only after successful completion of the contract plus DLP of six months, certificate of which shall be primarily issued by the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Respective Sub division (s) and duly signed by the Engineer-in-charge.
 - In case the bid submitted being beyond 10% below, the First Lowest bidder (LI) will have to furnish 5% Additional Performance security in the form of CDR/FDR/DD/BG.
 - In case the Performance security being BG, should be valid up to 60 days beyond the Defective Liability Period.
 - Beside the Performance Security, Security Deposit 05% from each payment shall be deducted from all the running bills of contractors. Performance Security and Security Deposit shall not bear any interest.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SOPORE

No: PHE/SPR/ 10665-72
DIPK-15230/23 Dated:15-01-2024

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

AIRPORTS
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 6:08
ZUHR 12:38
ASR 4:07
Magrib 5:48
ISHA 7:12

HIJRI
CALENDAR
04 Rajab
1445

This Day In History

- 1929 - WHP-AM in Harrisburg PA begins radio transmissions
- 1935 - Adolf Hitler orders German rearmament in violation of The Treaty of Versailles
- 1939 - Germany occupies Czechoslovakia
- 1939 - Hungary annexes republic of Karpato-Ukraine
- 1940 - German air raid on British fleet base Scapa Flow
- 1941 - Bizzard hits North Dakota & Minnesota killing 60
- 1945 - Allies secure Iwo Jima
- 1945 - Würzburg, Germany is 90% destroyed, with 5,000 dead, in only 20 minutes by British bombers.
- 1959 - Iraq & USSR sign economic/technical treaty
- 1962 - 1st launching of Titan 2-rocket
- 1962 - US Super-Constellation disappears above Pacific Ocean, kills 167
- 1966 - Gemini 8 launched with Armstrong & Scott, aborted after 6.5 orbits
- 1968 - General Motors produces its 100 millionth automobile, the Oldsmobile Toronado.
- 1969 - Viasa DC-9 crashes at Maracaibo's Grano de Oro airport, killing 155
- 1970 - New English Bible published
- 1971 - Northern Ireland Prime Minister Chichester-Clark meets with British PM Heath to discuss the security situation in Northern Ireland
- 1973 - Shah of Iran and Consortium members agree to nationalize all assets immediately in return for an assured 20-year supply of Iranian oil
- 1973 - OPEC discusses raising prices to offset decline of U.S. dollar value
- 1976 - British Prime Minister Harold Wilson announces his resignation
- 1977 - US president Carter pleads for Palestinian homeland
- 1978 - Amoco Cadiz spills 223,000 tons of crude oil off French coast
- 1978 - Soyuz 26 returns to Earth
- 1978 - US Senate accepts Panama Canal treaty

From KO Archives

74% Polling In Panchayat Polls: Govt

JAMMU - : Defying throaty and boycott calls an estimated 74 percent of nearly two and a half lakh voters today cast ballots as the opening day of the first phase of panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir passed off peacefully. Polling was held in seven and half blocks of the border districts of Kupwara, Rajouri and Poonch, chief electoral officer (CEO) Pramod Jain said. He said 85 percent polling was recorded at panchayats of Krapora block of Kupwara district. However, it was only 70 percent each in Tangdhar and Teetwal blocks of the district.

Jain said 68 and 65 polling was recorded in Meh-dhar and Balakote blocks of Poonch districts respectively, while it was about 78 percent in three blocks of Rajouri district.

He said counting was in progress and the results were expected by late evening.

Police said, barring one incident of altercation between two groups during which some polling boxes were damaged in Aruni village of Poonch district, polling was peaceful.

A report from Tangdhar block said two women — 120-year-old Tahira Begum and 108-year-old Yakdab Bibi polled at the booth.

The polling in the remaining blocks of the three districts would be held on January 17 and 19, Jain said, adding over five lakh electorates will decide the fate of 1667 candidates, panchs and sarpanchs in 125 panchayats. (PTI)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 16 January, 2001)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 16-01-2024

Warm Winter

This winter, Kashmir is facing a drawn dry spell which bodes ill for the year ahead. On Saturday, Srinagar experienced the highest temperature in January in the last two decades, reaching a maximum of 15 degrees Celsius. The region is currently witnessing a significant deviation in its usual weather patterns, marked by an extraordinary 100% shortfall in snowfall in January. Prolonged periods of dry weather, particularly in the plains of Kashmir, have resulted in temperature anomalies, with readings surpassing normal levels by 6 to 8 degrees Celsius at numerous stations across the valley.

The unseasonal warmth, days hovering far above the typical winter chill, paints a grim picture. Experts have sounded the alarm on the rapid retreat of glaciers in Kashmir. Over the past six decades, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a staggering 25% reduction in glacier size, a trend exacerbated in recent years. If left unchecked, 48% of these vital glaciers could vanish by the end of the century.

The unusual rise in temperature across the globe has already caused deep concern about the creeping climate change, which is changing the nature of the seasons. Though this should cause alarm, it isn't. Or at least to the extent where it could matter. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh between them are home to around 1.7 billion people and any disruption in the climate pattern could severely impact them. So, the three countries, as well as other countries in the region need to wake up and work toward a global response to the looming catastrophe. But the factors causing climate change are global in nature and so any effort to reverse the damage has to be backed by the world. And this should be done sooner than later. The time is running out fast.

The world must move beyond lip service and commit to meaningful action. The Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree Celsius goal, once ambitious, now seems woefully inadequate. We need aggressive emission reduction targets, investments in renewable energy, and a global commitment to protecting vulnerable ecosystems like the Himalayas.

Kashmir's plight is not an isolated event, but a harbinger of what awaits us all if we continue down this path of unchecked environmental degradation. The fate of our snow-capped peaks is not just about tourism or winter sports, but about the food security, water resources, and livelihoods of millions. It is about the very future of our planet.

OTHER OPINION

A matter of interest

AZData released by the National Statistical Office on Friday showed that retail inflation had edged marginally upwards last month. As measured by the consumer price index, it rose to 5.69 per cent in December, up from 5.55 per cent in November, driven largely by higher food inflation. This increase was expected. In his statement on the last monetary policy committee meeting, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had noted that the "near-term outlook, however, is masked by risks to food inflation which might lead to an inflation uptick in November and December." Das had cautioned that "this needs to be watched for second round effects, if any."

The disaggregated data shows that the consumer food price index rose to 9.53 per cent in December, up from 8.7 per cent in November. Within the food basket, inflation remains elevated in cereals, vegetables, pulses and products, sugar and spices. As per analysts, the outlook for some of these items like rice, wheat and pulses remains uncertain. However, core inflation, which excludes the more volatile components such as food and fuel, has moderated further. Alongside, data also released by the NSO showed that the index of industrial production slowed down to just 2.4 per cent in November, in part, due to the base effect. For the first eight months of the year (April-November), industrial output is up 6.4 per cent.

In a few weeks from now, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the interim Union budget. A few days later, the monetary policy committee of the Reserve Bank of India will meet for the last time this financial year.

In its last meeting, the MPC had voted to maintain the status quo on both rates and stance, as it decided to remain focused on the "withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns to the target".

In his statement Shaktikanta Das had said that "the target of 4 per cent CPI is yet to be reached and we have to stay the course." However, in an interview to this paper, MPC member Jayant Varma recently said that "we are approaching the point where an interest rate cut is necessary to prevent an excessive real interest rate."

Varma argued that monetary policy can be "less restrictive" if there was expectation of inflation nearing the central bank's target of 4 per cent. The RBI has projected inflation to moderate from 5.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2024-25 to 4 per cent in the second quarter and 4.7 per cent in the third quarter. Considering that the US Federal Reserve has also hinted at the possibility of rate cuts next year, in its coming meetings, the MPC should provide some forward guidance on the possible trajectory of interest rates.

The Indian Express

India, Pakistan Dead-End

The re-election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the upcoming general elections, as looks likely, and the possible return of Nawaz Sharif to the helm in Pakistan could, however, be more conducive to resumption of dialogue between the two countries



RIYAZ WANI



Going forward, it looks unlikely that India and Pakistan could go back to any engagement in the near future. Immediately, however, both countries are going to their respective national polls and their outcome would be crucial to how the ties between them shape up. It is believed that the re-election of PM Modi, as looks likely, and the possible return of Nawaz Sharif to the helm in Pakistan would be more conducive to resumption of dialogue between the two neighbours

India's former High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria has made some sensational claims about the diplomacy between the two countries in his book titled 'Anger Management: Troubled Relationship Between India and Pakistan.' One such claim involves the aftermath of the dogfight in February 2019 when the Pakistani Air Force captured an Indian pilot Abhinandan Varthaman whose Mig-21 Bison was shot down in Pakistan territory. Bisaria asserts that Islamabad was deeply alarmed by "credible" intelligence about India's purported missile strike plans. This led Pakistan's then Prime Minister Imran Khan to urgently seek a midnight call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was turned down.

Another one is about Pakistan's ISI tipping off India through Bisaria about a specific Al Qaeda revenge attack in Kashmir after the killing of its commander Zakir Musa in May 2019. Tip-off, according to the diplomat, turned out to be genuine. This, however, made no redeeming difference to the deeply embittered relationship between the two countries. In fact, the ties between them reached their nadir later that year when on August 5, 2019, New Delhi withdrew Kashmir's special status. Pakistan sent Bisaria back and cut off trade ties with India.

Ever since, ties between India and Pakistan have been frozen. And it looks unlikely that there will be any thaw anytime soon. The neighbours could certainly be expected to spring a surprise though. There are several precedents for this. In February 2021, just over a year after New Delhi revoked Article 370 that granted special status to Kashmir under India's constitution, the two countries reinstated the 2003 ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control. They even engaged in a back-

channel dialogue. There was suddenly a brief spell of bonhomie. Both Imran Khan and the then Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Bajwa called for dialogue and resolving Kashmir in a peaceful manner. Bajwa even made a pitch for the two nations to "bury the past," and move on. He also called for "geoeconomics" to replace geopolitics as Pakistan's worldview to ensure peace and prosperity in the region. And this apparent rapprochement played out against the backdrop of the India-China stand-off along the LAC. The LoC truce allowed India to focus more on confrontation with China. It also enabled Pakistan to deal with instability along its border with Afghanistan where the Taliban was about to win the two-decade long war with the US.

But the mutually convenient ceasefire could not culminate into a formal bilateral dialogue. Kashmir was learnt to have become the sticking point, with Islamabad seeking restoration of Article 370 and India refusing to do so. Since then the two countries have grown further apart. With New Delhi having succeeded to a large extent to pacify Kashmir, at least as far as civilian unrest, the old rules of engagement do not apply. In a recent interview with the ANI, the foreign minister S Jaishankar said that India had made the Pakistan's policy to "use cross-border terrorism to bring India to the table" irrelevant by "not playing that game now."

While that may be true as far as India's current policy towards Pakistan, the opposite of it also holds some merit: and that is, Islamabad in recent years has appeared less than eager to support flagging militancy in Kashmir Valley. More so, following the abrogation of Article 370, when a section of public opinion in Kashmir and the rest of India expected otherwise - albeit, Islamabad

did raise diplomatic ante which, in turn, achieved nothing. This could be both a result of Pakistan's ongoing troubled economic situation and its beleaguered geopolitical standing. Or it could also be the outcome of the dominance enjoyed by the security forces in the region, which has increasingly narrowed the space for militants to operate. Hence, probably, the tactical shift of militancy to the Jammu division, which had otherwise been militancy-free over the last decade and a half. The militancy in Rajouri and Poonch has witnessed a sharp rise throughout 2023 and it remains to be seen how the situation evolves in 2024.

Going forward, it looks unlikely that India and Pakistan could go back to any engagement in the near future. Immediately, however, both countries are going to their respective national polls and their outcome would be crucial to how the ties between them shape up. It is believed that the re-election of PM Modi, as looks likely, and the possible return of Nawaz Sharif to the helm in Pakistan would be more conducive to resumption of dialogue between the two neighbours. They could pick up where they left off in 2017 when Sharif was forced out of power. However, the regional situation has since transformed. And with the abrogation of Article 370, the complexion of the Kashmir issue too has altered. So, for the two countries to re-engage, they would need to evolve new terms of engagement. And it is easier said than done. This would call for a diplomatic leap of faith, more so, on the part of Pakistan.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



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Awaiting the Blanket of Snow

As the serene valleys of Kashmir usually don a pristine white coat of snow in January, this year has been notably different. The absence of the usual winter wonderland has left both locals and tourists anticipating the arrival of the long-awaited snowfall.

Locals, who are accustomed to waking up to a world blanketed in snow this time of the year, find themselves amidst an uncharacteristic scene. The picturesque landscapes,

which typically resemble scenes from a postcard, now wear a different hue, reflecting the unique blend of anticipation and concern in the air.

The absence of snow has not only affected the aesthetic appeal of the region but has also impacted various aspects of daily life. The region heavily relies on winter tourism, and the delay in snowfall has left businesses that depend on the influx of visitors in a state of uncertainty. The joyous atmosphere that snow brings, with

its promise of winter sports and festivities, is yet to envelop the region, leaving the community in eager anticipation.

However, amidst the anticipation, there is also a sense of resilience and adaptability. The people of Kashmir, known for their warm hospitality, continue to welcome visitors with open arms, hopeful that the snow will soon grace their land. It's a testament to the spirit of the community that despite the unseasonal weather, the lo-

cal markets are bustling with activity and cultural events continue to bring people together.

As we await the much-anticipated snowfall, let us appreciate the strength of the Kashmiri people in the face of this unusual winter and hope for the swift return of the region's iconic snowy landscapes.

Muntaha Mir

The Grass Bale And The Icicles



THE GRASS BALE IS BEREFT OF ANY SNOW, ICE AND THE ICICLES. My father and my younger brother occasionally visit the grass bale to fetch fodder for our only cow, but my eyes gaze at the barren bale with an earnest desire to see it wrapped in the white blanket of snow and the icicles again



Mushtaq Hurra

Rectangular paddy grass bale in the backyard of my house reflects several anecdotes of bravery, defiance, nonchalance and laxity, on the canvas of my childhood reminiscences. Flocks of sparrows, mynas and other birds would throng the bale to pick the paddy grains sticking to threshed paddy stalks, because a thick snow cover would stamp out all the possibilities of food opportunities for the avian populace. The presence of birds would ignite our innate mischievous traits. We would devise strategies to capture the birds for pleasure derivation and prey. Laying indigenously made noose traps was our solitary method to take these birds captive. And the stunt would glue us around the grass bale for hours together. And to our great contentment, the required bait to entangle the birds, was spread over there.

Our other allurements to play hide and seek during late autumn days, in the lap of paddy grass bale, and hence would make it our cherished abode. The

ephemeral yet strong arrangement of paddy grass stalks to preserve it from weather vagaries, would bestow us with a wonderful treat of ice, during harsh winter days when it would rain and snow amid sub zero temperatures. And the ice-made delicacy is known as icicles. Pointed dagger-like arrows of ice hanging from the tips of grass stalks, would make it look like a diamond studded balustrade erected around the edges of the bale. The bewitching sight would tempt us to taste the hard yet fragile icicles, despite our vulnerability to contract cold and flu.

Though the sights of icicles were found on all hands, the rectangular paddy grass bale would provide us with the cleanest stuff. Thatched roofs of houses would make the icicles look mucky and grime. Even the icicles hanging from tree branches were smudgy and dirty. Smashing the icicles with the help of a strong wooden peg would give us knightly feelings. Every morning, I would not miss any opportunity to play with these natural wonders of ice. The ice-made miracle would fascinate us the most. We would at times

attribute many creatures and natural wonders to the patterns of the icicles. Paws of birds and the alphabet of English scripture would resemble most of them.

Enjoying the crispy and crumbly icicles hanging from the margins of the thatches of the rectangular paddy grass bale, was one of the cherished adventures which would entice me and my siblings. Contrary to blackish thatches of roofs of houses, fresh paddy grass, with no scum or gunk, would ensure purity of the icy feast. I and most of my pals from our neighborhood would sneak secretly from their homes to relish the pointed icicles from the grass bale. Though our elders used to reprimand and admonish us for venturing out, during the biting cold of Chhiliakalan, but our passion for ice, snow and the icicles would drive us out from our comfort zones viz warm rooms.

Chomping the crystal clear dagger-looking pendant masses of ice under our teeth, stealthy, would run euphoric sensations through our nerves. Now, I can't even dare to touch ice, but childhood is the age of oblivion and ardency where

conquering a mountain looks quite easy and ordinary. Now, the rod-like icy marvels have vanished into the thin air. The grass bale is bereft of any snow, ice and the icicles. My father and my younger brother occasionally visit the grass bale to fetch fodder for our only cow, but my eyes gaze at the barren bale with an earnest desire to see it wrapped in the white blanket of snow and the icicles again.

Snowless winter has not only deprived the bale of the white cover, but has clouded my creative vibes as well. The milky blanket of the snow used to charm my sense of aesthetics, imagination and creativity. Now, with no snow around, I feel being robbed of a recurring source of ancestral legacy, as the snow is more than a form of precipitation for me. The unexpectedly abnormal warm days of the winter look pleasant, but the veneer of sunny and dry weather is actually a calamity in the making.

Author is a Teacher and a Columnist. He can be reached at mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com

LAST SONNET



S.Sarwar Malik

LISTEN:
O' Reader of this crap.
Thus litanised
My evolved
(- app-driven)
'Laptopish tongue', Tonight:
"Pass on that moralistic hammer, if you please,
Gathering strength within, today, I seize./
To shatter my pen, its purpose malign./
The rest I'll manage, this choice is mine./
(The blade's at hand,
The blue vein in sight./
Pulsating, demanding,
On my wrist, its plight./
You got it?
OK, I repeat...
Please, spare the moralistic hammer's strike./
Gathering strength today, in my might./
I'll break my pen, its hold to release./
The rest, I'll manage, this inner peace./
(The blade sits near,
The vein's soft hum./
Pulsing, whispering clear./
On my wrist, to become./)"
OFF I WALK HAPPILY, NOW/
TO THE AWARDED INFERNO:/
TO EMBRACE
THE SILENCE./
Where is my prosaic quill?/
The dead bark, good for trying *The Alphabets*,/
is...here./
B Y E ///
But, wait for a while
One word to the Sir, too,
Before I take the rhyme-less path,
Of my, 'PEER O MURSHID of yore':
YES A QUEER MAN I MIGHT BE/
LET IT BE SO I DON'T CARE/
MY TORSO FACES ON OPPOSITE SIDE/
WHILE /
BUSY ARE PEOPLE USHURING THE/
NEW YEAR IN FESTIVITY/
A PETTY SCRIBE, THAT I AM/
BOW DOWN TO KISS /
THY FEET
MY SIR!
Praying, cure me of this stammer, Master
Hold my shivering hand, please.////

Dedicated to The memory of Milinda Grace, of USA

-From the upcoming novel of the author; Chapter: Writer's Dead Muse

5 Wintry Books To Read During Long Nights

Liz Rosenberg

Winter solstice brings the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It's a great night to spend reading.

I've taught English and creative writing in snowy Binghamton, New York, for more than 40 years – reading, writing, reviewing and judging books all the while – so it's never hard for me to find something to read. Only to choose.

To save you the same indecision, I've picked five books for the darkest time of the year.

1. HENRY DAVID THOREAU, "WALDEN POND" (1854)

Thoreau's "Walden Pond" is America's most celebrated nature book, filled with the author's observations of the woods near Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. "Walden" begins in July, but Thoreau welcomes winter in some of the book's most beautiful passages.

"The north wind had already begun to cool the pond," Thoreau writes, when he "went into winter quarters." Not that he stayed indoors much.

Most of us won't stretch out face down "on ice only an inch thick," as Thoreau reports doing, but we can read about him doing it while staying warm. Thoreau noticed frozen bubbles, stacked "like a string of beads" or "silvery coins poured from a bag." He cat-

alogs – how he loves cataloging! – the colors of the pond, from "transparent" to dark green to "opaque and whitish or gray." In winter he burned pine, decaying stumps, hickory, dry leaves and logs he'd dragged home while skating across the pond. Fuel provided him warmth, cooked food and company. "You can always see a face in the fire," Thoreau wrote.

In winter he welcomed rare humans, such as fellow writer Louisa May Alcott's father, Bronson. But mostly he encountered foxes, squirrels, chickadees, jays and a barred owl that he described as the "winged brother of the cat." Thoreau delights in the sound of the ice booming in a thaw and describes moonlit rescues of hikers he escorted back to the edge of civilization.

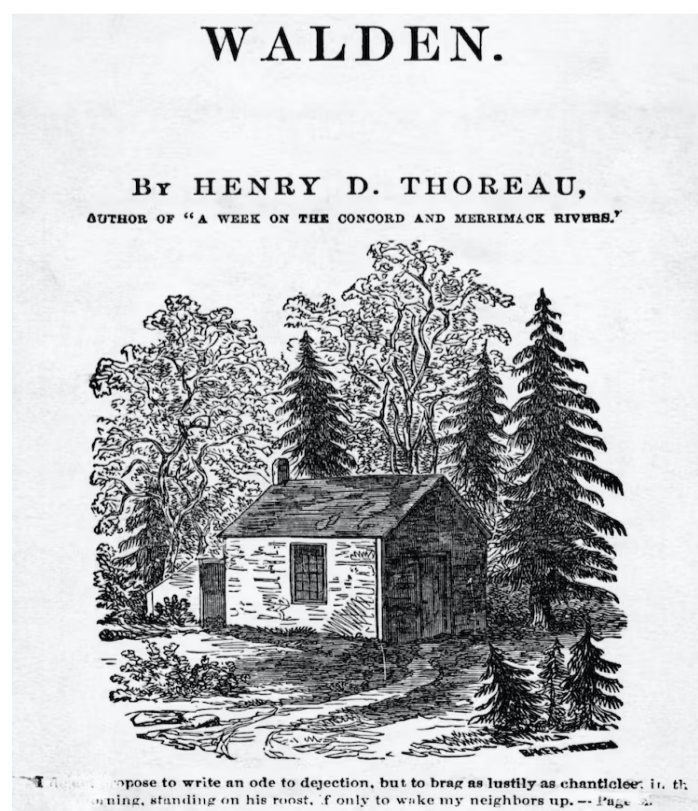
The five chilly chapters of "Walden" comprise a winter sampler for those who haven't read this mighty book – and for those returning to it.

2. ROBERT FROST, "THE POETRY OF ROBERT FROST"

No poet sang of winter like poet laureate and New Englander Robert Frost. In his great "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" he pays homage to winter's solitude:

"Between the woods and frozen lake/The darkest evening of the year."

"The Poetry of Robert Frost" weighs in at more than 600 pag-



es. "You Come Too," a beautifully curated edition of poems for the young, is less than 100.

Both books contain popular midwinter favorites. Even their titles suggest the poet's strong connection to winter: "Looking for a Sunset Bird in Winter"; "A Hillside Thaw" ("Ten million silver lizards out of snow!");

"Good-by and Keep Cold"; "A Patch of Old Snow."

In "Birches," Frost writes of branches that turn raindrops into ice crystals melted by sunlight.

Shattering and avalanching on the snow-crust –

Such heaps of broken glass to sweep away

You'd think the inner dome of

heaven has fallen.

Frost's poems are easily memorized and lovely to read aloud over any blustering gales.

3. DYLAN THOMAS, "A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES" (1952)

As Frost wrote for all ages, so did Dylan Thomas in "A Child's Christmas in Wales" – available in its original Tiffany blue New Directions paperback edition, decorated exquisitely with illustrations by Ellen Raskin – a winter's poem made to be sung. We can even hear the poet chanting it aloud on his 1952 recording.

One need not be Welsh to love Thomas' seaside childhood. One need not even celebrate Christmas.

"One Christmas was so much like another," the poem opens, "that I can never remember whether it snowed for six days and six nights when I was 12/or whether it snowed for 12 days and/12 nights when I was six."

4. ITALO CALVINO, "IF ON A WINTER'S NIGHT A TRAVELER" (1979)

Italo Calvino bundles magic, metafiction, philosophy, danger and love into "If on a Winter's Night a Traveler." It's Calvino's most mystifying work, challenging readers' assumptions about reading and storytelling.

Not exactly a novel, it comprises the first chapter of 10 invented novels by 10 imaginary authors. Is it still winter? a reader may

wonder. Was it ever winter?

As Calvino admits, "The only truth I can write is that of the instant I am living."

5. JAMES FENTON, "A GARDEN FROM A HUNDRED PACKETS OF SEEDS" (2002)

Some gardeners spend all winter dreaming. Others spend it busily planning.

"A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seeds" proposes a radically old-fashioned approach – to grow a garden simply sprung from seed. Author James Fenton explains, "[S]imple-mindedness was a part of what I was after: buy a packet of nasturtium seeds and plant them, grow some very tall sunflowers – this is what gardening should be all about."

A garden doesn't need expensive starter plants or even a plan. The great question in life, as well as with gardens, is: What do I want to grow?

Winter unearths simplicity – the stark black-and-white vista it presents, the bare-boned landscape. It encourages readers to follow suit by ridding themselves of the extraneous and making room for life. As the celebrated saying goes, "If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but the same amount of snow."

Besides, as December ends, we turn the corner toward light.

By arrangements with The Conversation

24.82 Cr People Escaped Multidimensional Poverty in last 9 years

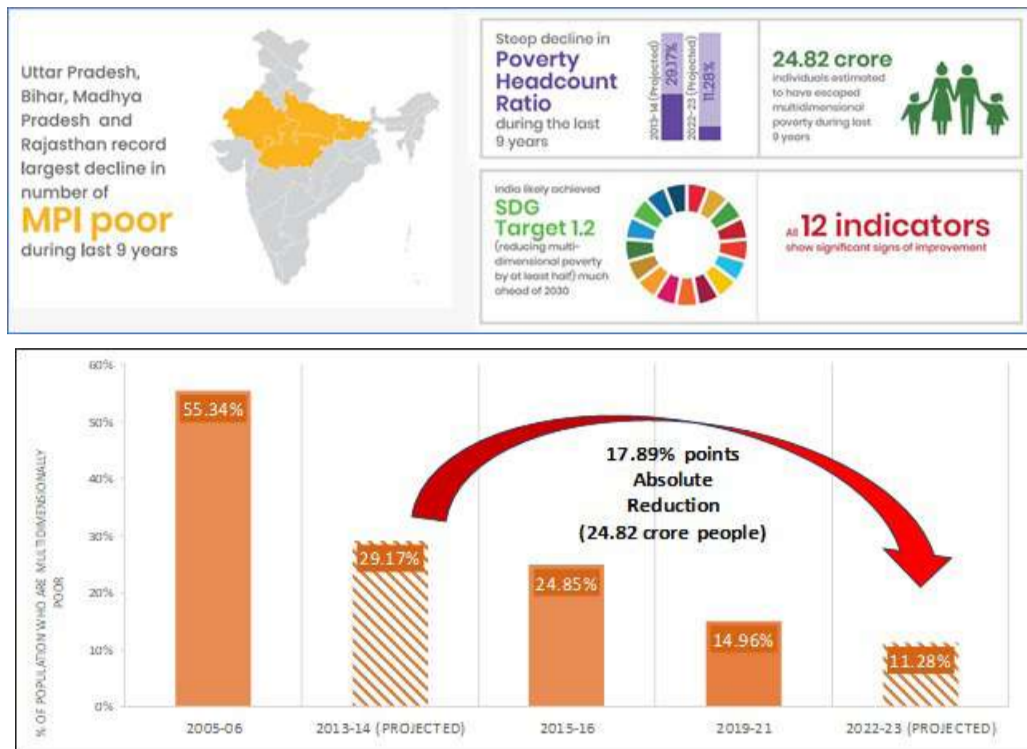
Agencies

New Delhi: 24.82 crore people escaped multidimensional poverty in last nine years. Findings of NITI Aayog's Discussion Paper 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06' give credit for this remarkable achievement to significant initiatives of the government to address all dimensions of the poverty between 2013-14 to 2022-23. The discussion paper was released today by Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog in presence of Shri B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, CEO NITI Aayog, Oxford Policy and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have provided technical inputs for this paper.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a globally recognized comprehensive measure that captures poverty in multiple dimensions beyond monetary aspects. MPI's global methodology is based on robust Alkire and Foster (AF) method that identifies people as poor based on universally acknowledged metric designed to assess acute poverty, providing a complementary perspective to conventional monetary poverty measures.

According to the Discussion Paper, India has registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty in India from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 i.e. a reduction of 17.89 percentage points. Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in the number of poor with 5.94 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty during the last nine years followed by Bihar at 3.77 crore, Madhya Pradesh at 2.30 crore and Rajasthan at 1.87 crore.

The paper also shows that the pace of decline in poverty headcount ratio using exponential method was much faster between 2015-16 to 2019-21 (10.66% annual rate of decline)



compared to period 2005-06 to 2015-16 (7.69% annual rate of decline). All 12 indicators of MPI have recorded significant improvement during the entire study period. To assess the poverty levels in the year 2013-14 against the current scenario (i.e. for the year 2022-23), projected estimates have been used due to data limitations for these specific periods.

Significant initiatives covering all dimensions of poverty have led to 24.82 crore individuals escaping multidimensional poverty in the last 9 years. As a result, India is likely to achieve its SDG target of halving multidimensional poverty well before 2030. The Government's persistent dedication and resolute commitment to enhancing the lives of the most vulnerable and deprived have been instrumental in this accomplishment.

The Government of India has made remarkable progress in improving the lives of people, aiming to reduce poverty in all dimensions. Noteworthy initiatives like Poshan Abhiyan and Anemia Mukta Bharat have significantly enhanced access to healthcare facilities, leading to a substantial decrease in deprivation. Operating one of the world's largest food security programs, the Targeted Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act covers 81.35 crore beneficiaries, providing food grains to rural and urban populations. Recent decisions, such as extending free food grain distribution under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for another five years, exemplify Government's commitment. Various programs addressing maternal health, clean cooking fuel distribution through

Ujjwala Yojana, improved electricity coverage via Saubhagya, and transformative campaigns like Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission have collectively elevated living conditions and overall well-being of people. Additionally, flagship programs like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and PM Awas Yojana have played pivotal roles in financial inclusion and providing safe housing for the underprivileged. While the performance of States varies, some States which were traditionally having high poverty have made remarkable progress in helping people escape poverty, thus reducing inter-state disparities in multidimensional poverty. With this, the fundamental problems in accessing basic services are getting resolved fast so that the country can look towards becoming a developed nation i.e. Viksit Bharat@2047.

India To Include Persian As One Of 9 Classical Languages: S Jaishankar

Agencies

Tehran: In a significant move to deepen cultural ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that the Government of India has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy.

"The government of India has decided to include Farsi as one of the nine classical languages of India in our New Education Policy," said S Jaishankar, highlighting the cultural, literary, and linguistic connections between India and Iran.

S Jaishankar, who is on a two-day visit to Iran, made the above remarks during a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart, H Amir-Abdollahian on Monday.

This recognition reflects a commitment to fostering greater understanding and appreciation of Farsi's rich heritage within the Indian educational framework. Tamil was the first language in India to be accorded classical language status in 2004. Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia are the other languages that have been declared classical languages in India by the central government.

"In addition to these classical languages Pali, Persian, and Prakrit; and their works of literature too must be preserved for their richness and for the pleasure and enrichment of posterity," according to India's National Education Policy-2020. During the press conference, S Jaishankar and Amir-Abdollahian delved into the political and economic aspects of their bilateral relations, emphasising the multifaceted nature of the diplomatic engagement. "The foreign minister and I specifically focused on its political and economic aspects, but



naturally there were other domains as well," the External Affairs Minister said.

The ministers recognised the strength of people-to-people contacts and the profound cultural, literary, and linguistic ties that unite the two nations.

Our people-to-people contacts have long been a strength. Iran and India are united by our deep cultural, literary, and linguistic ties, which create a unique foundation for increasing exchanges of tourists, students, artists, athletes, and scholars. We discussed how we can better link our cultural and educational institutions," stated S Jaishankar, underscoring the potential for enhanced cooperation in various fields.

Addressing the issue of regional connectivity, S Jaishankar reiterated India's strategic geographical position to access markets in Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Eurasia. The ministers explored opportunities to strengthen economic ties and enhance regional connectivity for mutual benefit.

position to access markets in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Eurasia," he added.

S Jaishankar expressed satisfaction with the comprehensive nature of the discussions, emphasising the frequent high-level interactions between the two countries. "My discussions today benefited from the fact that our countries have maintained a regular momentum of high-level interactions. PM Modi and President Raisi recently met in Johannesburg," he highlighted.

Our leaders have been in frequent touch through letters and phones. I also personally maintained regular contact with Abdollahian in recent days. We also held our Foreign Office Consultations just two months ago, and due to the regularity of these exchanges and the guidance provided by our leadership, there is a good basis to expand substantive cooperation in a variety of areas," he also said. S Jaishankar also met Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development on Monday and discussed establishing a "long-term cooperation framework" for Chabahar Port, a strategic maritime facility situated on the southeastern coast of Iran. External Affairs Minister Mr Jaishankar is in Iran as part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between the two sides, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K India's Top

peace in J&K instead of buying it. The LG said that soon after taking the control of J&K, he abolished the annual Durbat Move exercise which was sucking the State exchequer. "I was surprised to see that files are being transferred from Srinagar to Jammu in 217 trucks and 1000 hotels are booked in Srinagar and 800 in after every six months," he said. The LG said that Madhya Pradesh was number one in the country in digital services but J&K has surpassed it and is number one in the country as far as online services are considered. "J&K is also number one in implementing the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) and 866 officers have been fined so far for delaying the public services," he said.

He said that last year 30500 jobs were provided to the youth in J&K while seven lakh entrepreneurs started their ventures. "J&K comprises only one percent of the country's population but continues to be the priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. J&K is the crown of India and is being treated the way it deserves," he said. (with inputs from KNO)

10 Years Of Govt

idol at the temple there, he said the festival is also being celebrated at the homes of these one lakh families who have received the first instalment of fund to construct their own houses.

This is a matter of great happiness for him, the prime minister said.

More than four crore pucca houses have been built for the poor by his government, he said, asserting that those who were always ignored earlier have not only been reached out by him but also worshipped, he said.

During the event, PM Modi interacted with some beneficiaries of PM-JANMAN as they highlighted the positive changes in their lives after they availed of government schemes to get access to cooking gas connection, electricity, piped water and housing.

"It is the endeavour of our government that no one is left out of its welfare schemes," he said.

The first instalment of 540 crore was released to beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin.

PM-JANMAN was launched for the socio-economic welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) on November 15 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.

PM-JANMAN, with a budget of approximately 24,000 crore, focuses on 11 critical interventions through nine ministries and is aimed at improving socio-economic conditions of PVTGs by saturating PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, electricity, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Amit Shah Bereaved

crematorium in the afternoon," he said. Shah, who represents Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, was in Ahmedabad since Sunday to celebrate Makar Sankranti with BJP

supporters.

On Monday, he was scheduled to attend two events in Banaskantha and Gandhinagar districts.

In Banaskantha, Shah, who also handles the Cooperation portfolio, was scheduled to inaugurate various projects of Banas Dairy at Deodar village.

In the afternoon, he was scheduled to inaugurate various developmental projects at Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar.

Potential Power

these projects is the Baglihar power project built on Chenab River in the Doda district. The project has a total capacity of 900 MW.

The Sumbal power projects produce 17 MWs, followed by the Kangan power project and Lower Jhelum project generating 105 MWs each. Upper Sindh-I contributes 22.6 MWs, Upper Sindh-II in Kangan produces 105 MWs, the Old-Ganderbal power project generates 15 MWs, and Pahalgam Powerhouse produces 4.5 MWs. The Karnah Powerhouse has a capacity of only 2 MWs.

In Jammu province, the Chenani-I Hydroelectric Project generates 23.30 MWs, while Chenani-II produces 2 MWs, and Chenani-III generates 7.5 MWs. The Bhaderwah power project generates 1.5 MWs, and the Seva Project-III produces only 9 MWs. The other projects fall in Ladakh UT.

All these projects don't cover the demand of the electricity in the winters due to "less water" in the UT as a result the PDD has to purchase the electricity from the Central grid, New Delhi.

"The water level in these hydro projects is minimum as of now and we are generating about 250MWs, however if the climate remains dry, it will impact in next year," Prasad said, adding, "anything happening in J&K will have impact on other states as National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) supplies power to other state of the country"

Prasad claimed that the NHPC also supplies around 60 percent of the electricity to the UT as well.

In December 2023, H Rajesh Prasad told reporters that water shortage in the valley that year brought down J&K's power generation by 85 percent. a

"From the state pool, we have a power generation capacity of 1200 MWs. However, due to the shortage of water, we are generating only 150 MWs during the ongoing winters," Prasad had told a news agency.

An official said that in winters the UT was able to generate only 250 MW of electricity against the demand of over 1800 MW's through hydroelectricity, however, if it doesn't snow in peak Chillai-Kalan, the situation can be "unimaginable".

Notably, Prasad had blamed rainfall deficit and the melting of glaciers as the reason for less generation of electricity, last year.

Prasad added that the UT is able to generate 600 MWs of electricity as of now.

According to the Meteorological department the Union Territory recorded 100 percent less rainfall from the last two months.

The data available with Kashmir Observer reveals that almost all the districts record less

rainfall. Sources have said that the low water levels in the Jhelum and other tributaries lead to difficulties in electricity generation

On Monday, the water level in the Jhelum hit the lowest due to a prolonged dry spell. "River Jhelum was flowing at -0.75 feet at Sangam (Anantnag district) and -0.86 feet at Asham (Bandipora district) on Sunday morning. This is the lowest water level in the river," an official said.

Govt To Regularize

regularization efforts. Addressing reporters during his Public Darbar in Kupwara, he said that the decision to relocate from Srinagar was made to actively engage with the public, promptly address their grievances, and provide immediate relief.

The DGP lauded the Police force for its exemplary performance in handling public matters with professionalism, emphasizing the core responsibility of serving the public, and highlighted the effective identification and actions taken against anti-social elements

"We discern the distinction between those radicalizing innocent individuals who fall prey to their influence, and we extend opportunities to those making mistakes for the first time. Individuals who exhibit responsible and respectful behavior will receive double respect from our side," he remarked.

"Interacting with the public is a fundamental responsibility, and my senior officers consistently emphasize this. Commending the conduct of the people of J&K, they assert that individuals who act responsibly and respectfully towards them will receive respect in return, multiplied tenfold," the DGP said.

RR Swain directed officers of his department to provide excellent services to the people and help them in getting justice. He said that people go to police stations with the hope of getting their problems solved. "It is then an opportunity for police officers to ensure justice," he said.

The police, as an enforcement agency, has the duty of helping people in getting justice, the Director General of Police said, adding that the force is entrusted with immense responsibility and it must act within the boundaries of law and uphold the principles of justice and fairness.

"Provide excellent services, work closely with the public, maintain a strong system of accountability, and transparency, and help in providing justice to people who seek your assistance," Swain said.

He also directed the police department to identify officials who have put in their best efforts in ensuring better service and justice to the people and they would be rewarded. (with inputs from PTI)

Situation In J&K

(LoC), but from the attempts made to infiltrate, it is clear that the terror infrastructure across the border is intact. Attempts to infiltrate have been foiled by the Army," he said.

The Army chief underlined that the number of terror-related incidents has seen a significant drop in the interior areas of Jammu and Kashmir due to the continuous efforts of the security forces.

"We are working with all the stakeholders in a committed manner to uproot the terror network from the country," he said.

General Pande also said important peace accords have been signed and peace dialogues held with insurgent groups in the northeast in the recent past.

"As a result of this, there has been a positive development in the region. The proactive policies of the government have played a major role in restoring peace," he said.

The Army chief said the situation in ethnic strife-torn Manipur has been brought under control as the government was proactive and due to the efforts of the Army.

He said the soldiers have shown maturity in a sensitive atmosphere, adding that "concrete efforts are on to establish peace and harmony in the state".

The Army is "fully ready and competent to deal with any situation" on the northern borders, he added.

"To develop our capability on the northern borders, we have taken a number of concrete steps. Through the provisions of emergency procurement, we have got a number of modern equipment, including arms and weapons with niche technology. Special attention has been paid to develop critical infrastructure in border areas and good progress has been made," General Pande said.

"Today, we pay tribute to those bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives for the country's security. The tales of their sacrifice and bravery will always inspire us. I would like to assure their family members that they are an important part of the armed forces family and their welfare is our priority," he said.

The Army chief pointed out that last year onwards, the Army Day parade was being held outside Delhi and expressed happiness that this year, Lucknow was chosen as its venue.

"The history of this city and region is full of tales of bravery of bravehearts, who had contributed in the freedom struggle. This programme is dedicated to the struggle and sacrifice of those soldiers," he said.

General Pande also said the efforts to make the Indian Army a more powerful ("prabal"), competent ("saksham") and alert ("tatpar") force will continue.

He said the Army has focused on force restructuring and optimisation, technology infusion, and making systems, processes and functions more effective.

The Army chief also mentioned other initiatives of the armed forces, such as the Agnipath scheme and women empowerment through posting women officers in operational theatres like Siachen.

General Pande concluded his address by saying the Army has established a position of trust for itself in every citizen's heart and called upon all personnel to rededicate themselves to "Naam, Namak, Nishaan" and the service of the nation.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and other senior military personnel attended the parade.

The Army Day celebrations commenced with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Smtitika

War memorial here to honour the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the country.

Twenty-three foreign service attaches from 19 countries attended the parade, which was also witnessed by veterans, NCC cadets, school children, soldiers and their families.

Around 500 soldiers of the Indian Army were part of the parade.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the Army personnel on the occasion of Army Day.

"Greetings to the Army personnel, veterans and their families on Army Day! The Indian Army has a long tradition of exemplary bravery, guarding the nation's borders with utmost dedication. Their patriotism remains a great source of inspiration for all citizens," Murmu said on X.

"On Army Day, we honour the extraordinary courage, unwavering commitment and sacrifices of our Army personnel. Their relentless dedication in protecting our nation and upholding our sovereignty is a testament to their bravery. They are pillars of strength and resilience," Modi said on the microblogging platform.

The Army Day is celebrated on January 15 every year to commemorate the achievements of the first Indian commander-in-chief of the Army, General (later Field Marshal) K M Cariappa. On this day in 1949, General Cariappa, who led the Indian forces to victory in the 1947 war, took over the command of the Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British commander-in-chief.

Maintain Peace

ground-zero visit to review the security situation and operational preparedness of troops in the Jammu region.

"Lt Navin Gen Sachdeva GOC, White Knight Corps visited Counter Insurgency Force (Delta) to ascertain operational preparedness in the Doda and Kishtwar region," the White Knight Corps said on X.

The GoC complimented the force and the units for high standards of operational preparedness. He directed them to remain steadfast towards maintaining peace and tranquility in the region, it said.

Delta Force is part of the Rashtriya Rifles looking after the operational area of the Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu region.

HC Stays Order

and support of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) which also finances the State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks all over the country.

"The petitioners continued to be pressed with attainable targets and thus faced multiple issues especially with regards to the Deposits and Lending, being eventually blamed for poor performance," the petitioners said.

The Bank authorities, they said, over the years regularly issued circulars whereby target goals for deposits were set up and emphasis was laid on the recovery of NPAs. "That it was also accentuated in the Circulars that failure to meet the set targets would result in strict disciplinary action against the employees," they said.

Banihal Highway To Close For 6 Hours On Two Nights

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The traffic movement on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway will remain closed for six hours on two consecutive nights to facilitate essential construction work.

"Based on the recommendation of Project Director, NHAI, PIU Ramban, vide above-quoted reference and in order to ensure the safety and well-being of the general populace/travelers/drivers, sanction is hereby granted in favour of NHAI, PIU Ramban, for taking six-hour traffic haltage from 0000 hours to 0600 hours on 16.01.2024

to 17.01.2024 (intervening night) and traffic haltage from 0000 hours to 0600 hours on 17.01.2024 to 18.01.2024 (intervening night), for launching the girders at MNB 19 & installation of ventilation/jet fans in Tunnel T5, in strict adherence to the conditions outlined in the aforementioned communication from the Project Director NHAI, PIU Ramban," reads an official order.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban and Senior Superintendent of Police, NHWS, Ramban, shall implement the above orders in letter and spirit, the order further reads.

Tribunal To Adjudicate If Alam's MLJK Should Be Declared Banned

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday constituted a tribunal consisting of a Delhi High Court judge to adjudicate if there is sufficient ground for declaring the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir, headed by pro-Pakistan separatist leader Masarat Alam Bhat, as a banned organisation.

The Jammu and Kashmir-based group was declared outlawed by the government on December 27 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for five years.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said exercising the powers conferred by subsection (1) of section 5 read with subsection (1) of section 4 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the central government constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal consisting of Justice Sachin Datta, Judge, High Court of Delhi, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (MLJK-MA) as an unlawful association.

The organisation was declared banned in response to the outfit's involvement in anti-national and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, with the intent to create a reign of terror in the country.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while announcing the

ban, had emphasised that the Modi government's message is clear: those who act against the unity, sovereignty, and integrity of the nation will face the full wrath of the law and will not be spared.

He said the organisation and its members were involved in anti-national and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, supporting terrorist activities, and inciting people to establish Islamic rule in the Union Territory.

Masarat Alam Bhat is known for his anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda.

He became the chairman of the headline faction of the Hurriyat Conference following the death of Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Bhat has been in jail since 2010 for his alleged involvement in violent protests in the Kashmir valley.

The home ministry had said the objectives of the MLJK-MA are to attain freedom for Jammu and Kashmir from India, merge it with Pakistan, and establish Islamic rule.

The organisation's members have been involved in secessionist activities, raising funds through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organisations, to support terrorist activities and sustain stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

The home ministry emphasised that the MLJK-MA and its members show disrespect towards the constitutional authority and setup of the country.



PEOPLE ENJOYING LEISURE time around Lal Chowk's Ghanta Ghar on a warm Monday afternoon. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Railway Security In Jammu Reviewed Ahead Of R-Day

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Ahead of the Republic Day, the railway security in Jammu region was reviewed on Monday and police were directed to remain alert to avoid any untoward incident, officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Railways), Jammu, Mohan Lal Kaith, chaired a high-level meeting and discussed operational preparedness of police at assets of railways in the region, they said.

According to the officials, security measures taken for rail tracks, bridges, tunnels, trains and other installations were discussed in view of prevailing security scenario and forthcoming Republic Day.

"All the officers were asked to remain alert to avoid any untoward incident in view of the Republic Day function on January 26," an official said.

The SSP (Railways) stressed upon augmenting the security measures on ground and remaining extra vigilant and alert.

In the meeting, it was emphasised that round-the-clock patrolling be conducted jointly by officials of the Government



Searches In Poonch After Suspicious Movement

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The security forces launched search operations in several villages in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday following reports of suspicious movement in the area, officials said on Monday.

The search operations were undertaken in Sawjian areas of Mandi tehsil, they said, adding that sniffer dogs and aerial surveillance were used in it. Meanwhile, a search operation was underway in Krishnagati, Dharti, Dhara, Magnad and Jallas areas of Poonch to track down the terrorists, who had fired on a convoy of the Army vehicles on Friday, the officials said.

The troops are using sniffer dogs and aerial surveillance to comb the area, which has dense forest, they said.

Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) so that it becomes more effective, the officials said.

Ram 'Bhajan' Sung By Uri Teenager Wins Hearts Online

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A Muslim teenager from Jammu and Kashmir's Uri tehsil has become the talk of the town after her melodious rendition of a Ram 'bhajan' in Pahari language went viral online ahead of the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Syeda Batool Zehra (19), a college student who belongs to the Syed community, was inspired by a 'bhajan' sung by singer Jubin Nautiyal.

"Recently, I sang a Ram Bhajan which has gone viral," Zehra told reporters in Kupwara, where she had come to meet Director General of Police R R

Swain at a public durbar organised by the police department, on Monday.

She said a Ram 'bhajan' sung by singer Jubin Nautiyal in Hindi inspired her to create her version of it in Pahari.

"I came across a Hindi bhajan by Jubin Nautiyal on YouTube. I sang it in Hindi first and I felt good about it. Then I thought of singing it in my Pahari language. I translated it, used various resources to write this four-line bhajan and posted it online," she added.

Zehra said she did not see anything wrong in singing a 'bhajan' despite being a Muslim. "Our LG is a Hindu but he

does not discriminate against us on the basis of religion while carrying out development work. Our Imam Hussain has also taught us that the followers of the Prophet love the country in which they live. Loving one's country is part of being faithful," she said.

"The LG is going from place to place to solve the problems of people and Modi ji is giving priority to Jammu and Kashmir. It is also our duty to cooperate with them because I believe that Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians are brothers," she said.

The Ram temple consecration ceremony will be held on January 22.

Drive To Decongest Jammu City Begins

Observer News Service

JAMMU: To improve the city's mobility and curb the menace of encroachment, the district administration Jammu on Monday conducted an anti-encroachment drive across various bazaars in Jammu city.

The drive was carried out collectively by Jammu Municipal Corporation, District Police, Traffic Police and District Administration under the supervision of Additional District Magistrate, Anusya Jamwal, who had earlier chaired a meeting with prominent business and bazaar associations to seek their cooperation and feedback on the issue.

SP City North Kulbir Handa, SDPO North Sunil Kesar, Dy SP Traffic Farah and Chief Revenue Officer JMC Sunil Dogra were prominently part of the drive.

The drive covered bazaars like Gumat, Raghunath Bazaar, City Chowk, Shalamar and Indira Chowk, where public and establishments were appealed not to hinder public passage by encroachment over pavements,

footpaths and improper parking on roadsides.

The drive cleared the roads and footpaths of illegal rehris, hoardings, banners and other obstructions. 74 challans for wrong parking were issued and 2 truckloads of goods encroaching public space were confiscated. Additionally, AC outlets and gensets installed on the footpath were removed with instructions to the JMC to issue notices to their owners.

Anusya Jamwal said that today's exercise was the beginning of rigorous drives in future and that regular efforts would be made to improve public movement in city bazaars and generate awareness. She reiterated the district administration's stance of prioritising sensitisation over punitive actions, emphasising that 'smooth movement of men and materials is pivotal for thriving businesses'.

The articles and goods confiscated by the Jammu Municipal Corporation during the drive can be claimed and retrieved by the proprietors after due procedures.

Property Of Drug Peddler Attached

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday attached an immovable property belonging to an alleged drug peddler, officials said.

"Continuing action against drug peddlers, police in Kulgam attached a property measuring 625 square feet belonging to a

notorious drug peddler Mashooq Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Khudwani Qaimoh, Kulgam, under section 68-F (2) of NDPS Act 1985," a police spokesman said.

He said, prima facie, the property was identified as illegally acquired using money from illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by the owner.

Special Camps For West-Pak Refugees Held In Samba

Observer News Service

SAMBA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, special camps were held to provide guidance and assistance to the unemployed youth and West Pakistani refugees about the government schemes.

The camps were organised in Panchayats of Badheri, Glar, Dhora, Rehian, Chak Gujral of Tehsil Samba, Channi Manhassan and District training institute of Tehsil Vijapur, Palli, Kartholi and Doliian of Tehsil Bari- Brahmana, Panchayat Tappal in Ghagwal, Tehsil office Rajpura, Mawa, and Chachwal.

A mega camp was organized at Samba Tehsil, Panchayat Ghar Chak Gujran on Monday. Tehsildar Shabir Ahmed interacted with the participants and informed them about the government schemes and benefits available for the WPRs, such as financial assistance, education, health, and skill development.

The objective of the camps was to enable the WPR families to run small businesses or self-employment ventures, which can provide them some assured and sustained earnings. The camps also aimed to create awareness and empowerment among the WPRs, who have been living in J&K for more than seven decades without citizenship rights.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION

CS For Laying Focus On Completion Of Schemes

Asks For Enhancing The Capacity Of Locals To Operate The Schemes Successfully

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo while chairing the Apex Committee meeting of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on Monday impressed upon the concerned that after culminating the process of tendering and allotment of works the focus of the mission should be to complete the schemes well on time.

The meeting besides the ACS,

keeping a pool of technically sound people in each village to look after their schemes. He impressed upon enhancing the number of 'Nal Jal Mitras' for accelerating the frequency of testing and better operation of the schemes.

He also called for making provisions for operation and maintenance of the schemes wherever necessary for the panchayats to be declared



Jal Shakti Department was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Rural Development; Secretary, School Education; Mission Director, JJM; Chief Engineer, Kashmir/Jammu besides other senior officers of the department.

While speaking during this meeting the Chief Secretary highlighted the importance of identification of the sustainable water source for each scheme in order to achieve the goal of round the year 'Nal se Jal' for each household. He stressed on carrying out the much requisite feasibility studies to make the schemes successful in providing quality water to its consumers.

Dulloo also asked for enhancing the capacity of locals to carry out the testing of water supplied to them and operation of the allied schemes. He called for training as many locals as possible in the local technical institutions for

as 'Har Ghar Nal se Jal' certified. He called for increasing the IEC activities to generate awareness among the masses besides taking measures for including 'water conservation' in the school curriculum here as desired by the PM.

The ACS, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra informed the meeting about the measures being taken to pace up the progress on this mission. He gave out that till date 76% of the households have been provided with tap connections comprising of 14,23,305 households across the districts of J&K. He further apprised that around 3,27,215 households have been added in the current financial year only.

Regarding the execution of works the ACS revealed that the progress is satisfactory as 6478 (98%) of works already stands allotted and 5806 (88%) works started on ground and 1571 works completed by the executing agencies.

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE

In the case of: Saleem Jan
S/o Mohammad Aslam Zargar
R/o Akhoun Sahib Gajwara Srinagar
Caveator
VS
Public at large...
Non caveator
In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A
The caveators may have apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
FKO Sd/petitioner

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL BEMINA, SRINAGAR (J&K)-190017.

Subject: - Cancellation of e-NIT.
Reference: - 1. e-NIT No. SKIMS MC (Estt) 04 of 2023 31-07-2023.
2. Tender ID: 2023_SKIMS_J220645_1.
3. Approval of Principal, SKIMS MCH, Bemina, Dated 06-01-2024.

This above referred e-NIT published on jktenders.gov.in. for "Transportation, Treatment & Disposal of Biomedical Waste" in SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina Srinagar" is hereby cancelled, due to technical reason.

No. SKIMS-MC (Estt)/ 52- 57 Estate Officer
Dated: - 09/01/2024 DPK-NB-5247-23 SKIMS Medical College,
DT: 15/01/2024 Srinagar

JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

Exhibition Ground, Srinagar, Kashmir- 190009. | Ph.: 0194-2458005. Fax: 0194-2451665, 2483378.
Ashok Nagar, Srinagar, Jammu-180004. Ph.:0191-2430548, Fax: 0191-2435403
E-mail: jkspdc@gmail.com, md@jkspdc.com Website: www.jkspdc.nic.in

TENDER NOTICE
E-NIT NO: 01 of 2023-24 Dated: 13-01-2024

For and On behalf of Managing Director JKSPDC, Corporate Office Exhibition Grounds Srinagar, J&K, fresh tenders are invited by the General Manager Estates Special Sub-Division Srinagar through e-tendering mode (In Single Stage Two-Cover system) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Central or State/UT Government Departments/PSU, CPWD, Railways and MES for the below mentioned work:-

S.No.	Particulars of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs)	Cost of Document (in Rs)	Earnest Money @2% of Estimated Cost (in Rs)	Time for Completion	Class of Contractor
1.	Repair and Renovation of Office Complex at GT Pampore	9,96,150/-	500	19,930/-	30 Days	"CEE" & "DEE"
2.	Face-lifting of Officers Hall at JKSPDC Corporate Office Srinagar	1,67,468/-	500	3,350/-	15 Days	"CEE" & "DEE"

1. Position of AAA/ CEC:- Accorded
2. Position of Funds: -- Available.

S.No.	Particulars	Sequence Of Events	Date	Time
1	Date of publishing on(www.jktenders.gov.in)		13-01-2024	18:00 Hours
2	Bid documents download start date		13-01-2024	18:00 Hours
3	Bid documents submission start date		15-01-2024	10:00 Hours
4	Bid documents download end date		02-02-2024	16:00 Hours
5	Bid documents submission end date		02-02-2024	16:00 Hours
6	Technical Bid Opening Date		03-02-2024	12:00 Hours
7	Price Bid Opening Date	The Date and Time of Opening of Price Bids Shall be Intimated to the Technically Qualified bidder later on.		

No:- ESSD/SGR/240
Dated:- 13/01/2024
DIPK-NB-5251-23
DT: 15/01/2024

General Manager
Estates Special Sub-Division,
JKPC Srinagar

Syed Tajudin FC Natipora Clinch Swadhinta Cup 2024



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Syed Tajudin FC, a Natipora, Srinagar-based football club, lifted the All India Football Tournament 'Swadhinta Cup' 2024 title on Sunday, in Mairhar, Madhya Pradesh. STFC Natipora took on MEG Bengaluru in the final and came out on top in a 1-0 triumph.

The J&K Football Federation congratulated the team for its

success.

"In the face of formidable competition from prominent clubs across India, Syed Tajudin FC Natipora displayed skill, determination, and true passion for the game. This achievement not only brings glory to the club but also reflects the prowess of Jammu and Kashmir's football talent on a national stage," the FA said in a statement.

Ahmed Wins Pencak Silat Gold At Beach Games

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Twelve-year-old Ahmed Taha Masoody, a Grade 5 student from Srinagar, made waves at the Beach Games held at Daman and Diu from January 4th to 11th, 2024, in which 1200 players of eight games participated. Taha was the youngest player of the tournament and clinched a gold medal with highest score of the event in the challenging discipline of Pencak Silat Martial Art. This remarkable achievement adds to Ahmed's growing list of accolades, solidifying his status as a rising star in the world of martial arts.

Ahmed Taha Masoody's journey in the world of Pencak Silat began at a tender age, driven by an innate passion for the martial arts.

Over the last four years,



he has amassed a total of 25 medals in Pencak Silat. Among these, an astounding 20 are gold medals. Additionally, he has secured 2 silver medals and 3 bronze medals.

J&K-Delhi Ranji Match Drawn

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Yash Dhull's susceptible technique against raw pace was exposed by J&K pacer Umran Malik as Delhi's young batting stars collectively struggled in seamer-friendly conditions with only 42 overs played across four days of a Ranji Trophy Group D game here.

Having lost to Puducherry in the opening game, Delhi under new skipper Himmat Singh logged home their first point of the season as the match ended with visitors tottering at 134 for six.

Jammu and Kashmir also got a point.

However, the worrying point was another failure by the Delhi top order against a tier-2 domestic side like J&K after being bowled out for less than 200 in both innings against Puducherry in Delhi.

After only three overs of play was possible on first three days, Delhi's batters got some chance of a hit with 39 overs being sent on the day.

Debutant Salil Malhotra (1) was bowled by Rohit and Dhull, who hit four boundaries, was beaten for pace by



Umran.

Dhull's struggles against express pace have come to light in his stint with Delhi Capitals in the IPL and he even had a hard time putting bat on ball against Anrich Nortje at DC nets.

His sequence of scores in the Ranji Trophy this season is 2, 23 and 18. In his last 10 completed innings across three formats, Dhull has failed to get a single fifty-plus score.

In fact, DDCA sacking him from captaincy hasn't changed his fortunes and there is a feeling in DDCA corridors that Dhull, who is more comfortable against slow bowlers, could come down the order at No. 4 or 5 to re-

gain some form.

Vaibhav Kandpal (0), who has the right kind of backing from the powerful quarters of DDCA, found his defence breached by Rohit while skipper Himmat (8) also was adjudged plumb in front. Once dependable duo of Jonty Sidhu (16) and Ayush Badoni (12) were also gone, Delhi were reeling at 60 for 6.

It was Anuj Rawat (47 not out) and Hrithik Shokeen (25 not out), who added 74 for the unbroken seventh wicket and saved Delhi from further embarrassment.

Delhi 1st Innings 134/6 in 42 overs (Anuj Rawat 47 not out). Match drawn. Points: Delhi 1, J&K 1.

LG To Lay New Baramulla Football Field's Foundation Stone Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K LG Manoj Sinha will visit Baramulla today, Tuesday, January 16, to lay the foundation stone to the recently commissioned synthetic football turf at Azad Gunj in Baramulla.

District Football Association Baramulla announced the



event on Monday, stating that LG Sinha will do the honors at

General Bipin Rawat Stadium (Jhelum Stadium) at 11:00 AM. The DFA has asked club presidents and players to attend the ceremony.

The J&K Administration recently announced that three football fields will be constructed in three districts of Kashmir Valley, with Srinagar and Shopian being the other two.

Real Madrid Rout Barcelona 4-1 In Spanish Super Cup Final



Agencies

RIYADH: Vinicius Júnior did his best Cristiano Ronaldo impression in Saudi Arabia, scoring a hat trick and leading Real Madrid to a 4-1 rout of Barcelona and the Spanish Super Cup trophy.

Vinicius scored his three goals in the first half as Madrid beat Barcelona to lift its first trophy of the season on Sunday. After his first goal, the Brazil forward imitated the trademark celebration of the former Madrid great, with Ronaldo reportedly at the Riyadh stadium.

"It was for Cris, because he is my idol and now he is playing here," said Vinicius, who was named the best player of the final. "I'm very happy with myself and with my team. It's not easy to play against Barcelona and to win 4-1 is tough. We played an almost perfect match."

Rodrygo also scored for Madrid, which now has 13 Super Cup trophies, one less than the Catalan club. It was Madrid's second Super Cup triumph since the tournament was moved to Saudi Arabia four years ago. Robert Lewandowski scored Barcelona's goal to make it 2-1 in the first half.

The "clasico" between the Spanish powerhouses was a rematch of last year's Super Cup

final that Barcelona won 3-1 for its first trophy with coach Xavi Hernández and without Lionel Messi.

Madrid had also won at Barcelona in the first "clasico" of the season in October in the Spanish league.

Barcelona played a man down from the 71st after defender Ronald Araujo was shown a second yellow card for a foul on Vinicius. Madrid was already winning 4-1 at the time.

The victory added to Madrid's momentum as Carlo Ancelotti's team remains unbeaten in 21 consecutive games in all competitions. Its last setback was a 3-1 loss at Atletico Madrid in the Spanish league in September.

In contrast, the defeat adds to Barcelona's troubles and increases the pressure on Xavi, whose team hasn't played well recently. It trails second-place Madrid by seven points in the Spanish league, with Catalan opponent Girona another point ahead at the top having played an extra game.

"We are disappointed and sad," Xavi said. "We were hopeful of another victory, but in the end it was our worst match. We didn't get off to a good start and were never comfortable. We have to congratulate Madrid because it deserved to win."

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR

— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —

DIL KE EHSAAAS

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