

A Temperature Twist Again!

Srinagar Outshines Lucknow in Winter Warmth



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Continuing its unusual turn of events, Srinagar has once again defied winter norms, this time showcasing warmer temperatures than Lucknow. In an unexpected twist, the Kashmiri city is experiencing milder weather this winter compared to other regions.

The maximum temperature in Lucknow was recorded at 11.8°C, while in Srinagar the maximum temperature was 12.4°C.

"The temperature in Lucknow was 10°C below normal. In Srinagar, the maximum temperature was 6°C above normal," Faizan Arif, an independent meteorologist said.

"Lucknow city has been engulfed in low level fog for the past two days. As a result of the snowless winter, Kashmir continues to remain engulfed in warm temperatures. This

situation can end if Western Disturbance brings snow to the Himalayas," he added.

Srinagar also recorded a warmer day than the winter capital, Jammu. Jammu City has recorded a maximum temperature of 10.3°C.

Similarly, some other parts including Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir, Kupwara in north Kashmir and Kokernag in South Kashmir also recorded a warmer day than Jammu today as a maximum temperature of 11.6 °C, 12.5 °C and 11.4 °C were recorded in these areas respectively.

Tamil Nadu's Ooty district is also experiencing an unusual cold spell as temperatures have dropped to zero degrees Celsius. Frost-covered lawns and dense fog had led to reduced visibility.

The minimum temperature improved in most parts of Kashmir on Saturday, providing a slight relief to | [More on P6](#)

Digital Attendance Of Students Soon In J&K Schools

Observer News Service

Srinagar: From the new academic session, attendance of students shall be recorded digitally and School Management system shall be in place for digital admission process. This was informed by Secretary School Education, Piyush Singla, who reviewed the progress on establishment of Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The initiative, which aligns with the National Education Policy 2020, is aimed at to ensure real-time monitoring of various projects and activities under the Samagra Shiksha program besides leveraging data and technology to bring a big leap in learning outcomes", maintained the Secretary while assessing progress on



creation of this vital utility in the region.

Piyush Singla said that setting up of VSK is an innovative project driven by the Prime Minister, being replicated across the country. VSK will cover data of all schools, students and teachers, for meaningful analysis through big data analysis, artificial intelligence and machine

learning, he added. He observed that monitoring dashboard along with integration of data analysis-based Call Management Utility and reporting system of VSK shall be helpful in creating a conducive ecosystem in the Education Department.

He said that, with the establishment of VSK, analyzing the | [More on P6](#)

Directions to Schools, Colleges From Govt

Provide Study Material In Indian Languages

Press Trust Of India

The Centre has directed schools and higher education institutions to provide study material for all the courses that they offer in Indian languages digitally within the next three years. The decision has been taken to provide students with an opportunity to study in their language.

"The government has directed all school and higher education regulators like UGC, AICTE, NCERT, NIOS, IGNOU and heads of INIs like IITs, CUs and NITs to make study material | [More on P6](#)

President of UN General Assembly To Visit India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: President of UN General Assembly Dennis Francis will kick-start a five-day visit to India beginning Monday during which New Delhi is expected to press him to make forward movement in long-pending reform of the Security Council.

Besides holding talks with his Indian interlocutors in New Delhi, the top UN official will also travel to Jaipur and Mumbai.

In Mumbai, Francis will pay floral tributes at the 26/11 memorial, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Saturday, announcing his visit from January 22-26.

It said the visit by the President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly (PGA) to India will also be an opportunity to enhance the country's collaboration with the global body. "The PGA's visit to India presents a unique | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly Election Unlikely In 2024: Report

Agencies

Srinagar: The much awaited assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are unlikely to be held in 2024, top sources revealed on Saturday.

A Kashmir based news agency quoting sources said that there are bleak chances of holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir in 2024. They said the polls may likely be deferred to next year owing to upcoming

Parliamentary elections and subsequent annual Amarnath Yatra, which usually remains in place for two months.

Dispelling rumors, the sources said there are bleak chances of Assembly elections in 2024, and added the authorities have enough tight schedules this year that they can't concentrate on local elections. They also said that there is no question of holding Parliamentary and Assembly | [More on P6](#)

'Tagging of Private Schools'

JKBOSE Not Adhering To Orders: HC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has said that the BOSE chairman and other parties were not adhering to its orders with regard to providing of provisional accord of recognition and affiliation of some private school.

Besides, the learned counsel said that the petitioner of the case submits that the direction of the High court has gone begging as the respondent (BOSE Chairman) have not bothered to act in compliance to the



direction ordered by the court.

The High Court in an order said, "A pending writ petition, this court by virtue of an order dated 18th November, 2023 come to direct the writ respondents to provisionally accord

recognition and affiliation to the petitioner's school and also to release the Registration Return Forms with respect to the students of the petitioner's schools."

It said that the learned counsel for the petitioner herein submits that the direction of this Court has gone begging as the respondents herein have not bothered to act in compliance to the direction so given by this Court. "Hence, a case for non-compliance of the court direction is made out."

In this regard, the High Court has issued | [More on P6](#)

ARMS SEIZURE CASE J-K Police Files Chargesheet In NIA Court

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said it has filed in an NIA court here a charge-sheet in an arms seizure case.

Of the two accused -- Arfat Yousuf Khan and his associate Yawar Shafi Bhat -- in the case, Bhat was killed in an encounter with security forces in 2022.

The charge-sheet, which was registered under the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, was filed in the Court of NIA, Srinagar, on Friday, a police spokesman said.

While Khan is a resident of Pethgam Rajpora, Bhat belonged to Kalampora Pulwama, he said.

The case is related to the seizure of arms and ammunition by the Batamaloo police from the accused, the spokesman said.

He said during the course of investigation, a link was established between Khan and Bhat on the basis of call detail records and Internet Protocol | [More on P6](#)

SIA Files Chargesheet Against 12 In KP's Killing

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir, has filed a charge-sheet against 12 accused in connection with the murder of a Kashmiri Pandit ATM guard in February last year, officials said on Saturday.

Sanjay Sharma was shot dead at Achhan Pulwama in south Kashmir on February 26, 2023, with officials saying investigation hints at a broader conspiracy from across the border.

"The SIA Kashmir has filed a comprehensive charge sheet against 12 individuals in connection with the brutal murder of Kashmiri Pandit Sanjay Sharma. The case, initially registered at Police Station Litter Pulwama under FIR No. 14/2023, was later transferred to the SIA Kashmir for specialised investigation," an official said.

The charge-sheet has been filed before the Special Designated Court under the NIA (National



Investigation Agency) Act at Pulwama.

The accused include Pakistan-resident Khalid Kamran; Shopian-residents Jazim Farooq Wani alias Abrar, Shameem Ahmad Bhat alias Uncle, Danish Ahmad Thokar, and Ubaid Ahmad Paddar; Anantnag-residents Zaffar Hussain Bhat alias Khursheed Kashmiri, Nassir Farooq Shah, Aamir Hussain Wani, Towseef Ahmad | [More on P6](#)

From PoK To Ayodhya Via Britain

Muslim Man Sends Water From Sharda Peeth Kund For Ram Temple Consecration

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A Muslim man collected holy water from the Sharda Peeth Kund in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and sent it to India via Britain, through a chain of carriers, to be used in the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22.

Save Sharda Committee Kashmir (SSCK) founder Ravinder Pandita said the holy water had to take the circuitous route due to the suspension of postal services between India and Pakistan since the Balakote airstrikes after the 2019 Pulwama



terrorist attack.

"The holy water of the Sharda Kund at the Sharda Peeth PoK was collected by Tanveer Ahmed and his team. Our civil society member across the LoC (Line

of Control) carried it to Islamabad, wherefrom it was sent to his daughter Maghribi in the UK.

"Maghribi, in turn, handed it over to Sonal Sher, a Kashmiri Pandit activist who | [More on P6](#)

Govt Asks Media Not To Publish False Content

Press Trust Of India

The government on Saturday issued an advisory for the coverage of the Ram Temple event, asking media outlets and social media platforms to refrain from publishing false and manipulated content related to the grand ceremony. The Ram Temple will be inaugurated on January 22 with a grand ceremony featuring Lord Ram Lalla's pran-pratishta. The pre-consecration | [More on P6](#)

LG Releases Devotional Video Song

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released the devotional video song 'Ram Bhajo Re' by NGO Healthy India Stronger India, at Raj Bhawan today. The LG congratulated the team of Healthy India Stronger India and conveyed his best wishes to them. The song is sung by Hira Lal Abrol, Chairman of the NGO and composed by Brij Mohan and Kuldeep Sapro. Sukhmandan Choudhary, former | [More on P6](#)

सत्यमेव जयते

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Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship for Fall 2024 to Spring 2025

Description: The J N Tata Endowment invites loan scholarship applications from Indian students who wish to pursue higher studies overseas. Students who are selected for the loan scholarship may be recommended for a partial 'Travel Grant' and a 'Gift Award' which is linked to their academic performance in their overseas studies at the sole discretion of the Trustees of the concerned Trusts.

Eligibility: Open for Indian citizens who have completed at least one undergraduate degree OR students who are in the final year of any undergraduate programme at a recognised university/college/institution in India.

Candidates must be interested to pursue Postgraduate/Doctoral/Postdoctoral studies abroad.

Candidates who are at the end of the 1st year and entering into the second year of their overseas studies (Fall 2024 - Spring 2025) are also eligible to apply. This is applicable only if the minimum duration of the course is 2 years and there

is at least one full academic year remaining to complete at the time of award of the loan scholarship, which is normally by July of any calendar year.

Candidates must have scored at least 60% marks on average in their undergraduate or postgraduate studies.

Candidates must not be older than 45 years as on June 30, 2024.

Prizes & Rewards: Loan scholarship of up to Rs. 10 lakhs
Last Date to Apply: 15-03-2024
Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/JNT8

Scholarship Name 2: V Able - Vidyadhan Disability Scholarship for Graduates 2023-24

Description: V Able - Vidyadhan Disability Scholarship for Graduates 2023-24 is an opportunity offered by the Sarojini Damodaran Foundation (SDF), a non-profit organisation based in India, to Class 12 passed students facing disability.

Eligibility: Open for disabled students who have completed Class 12 and enrolled



in a degree course in the year 2022, with at least 60% marks or a CGPA of 6 in their HSC examination. Students' annual family income must be below 4,00,000.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to 60,000 per annum
Last Date to Apply: 31-01-2024
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/JVDS2

xScholarship Name 3: Tata Innovation Fellowship 2023-24

Description: Tata Innovation Fellowship 2023-24 is an opportunity offered by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, to recognise and reward scientists in the fields of Biology and Biotechnology.

Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals under 55 years of age with a Ph.D. degree in Life Sciences, Agriculture, Veterinary Science, or a Master's degree in Medical Sciences, Engineering, or a closely related field.

Applicants must have at least 5 years of postdoctoral research experience at a renowned national lab, university, or institute.

Students should demonstrate an exceptional record of publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Candidates must have made significant contributions to developing technologies or products.

Prizes & Rewards: A monthly fellowship of 25,000 and an annual contingency grant
Last Date to Apply: 05-02-2024
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TIF1

Office Of The Principal Jehlum Public School

Govt Recognized
 Parimpora Srinagar Kmr
GENERAL NOTICE

The Jehlum public school wish to inform the general public that the BCI school have officially merged with us on 2019 to create a stronger and resilient educational institution. This merger was initiated in response to enforcing challenges including the registration cancellation of BCI school. Administrative and operational aspects of both school are being integrated to create a more streamline educational entity. The notice is intended to provide transparency and keep the general public informed about the ongoing developments. The management of BCI school has sold out the 100% shares of his school to one of the existing partner of Jehlum public school. Requesting the authorities not to grant any registration in the name of BCI Qameerwari Parimpora, srinagar

From
Partner of Jehlum Public School
Qamerwari Parimpora Srinagar nj

Public Notice

The mother's name in Matric Marks Card of my daughter bearing roll no: 132004205 has been written as Sakeena instead of Sheikh Sagira . Now I have applied for the correction of the same . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Raja Sameer Hussain S/o Gh Nabi Sheikh
R/o New Pulwama nj

REMEMBRANCE 2nd Death Anniversary



DAR FAZI

It has been two year since you left us for heavenly abode. Hardly has any day passed when we have not missed you.

May Allah grant you highest place in Jannat.

Missed by
Ishfaq Gull jm

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the licence of my Shikara under name and style " New Nisar Place " issued by tourism Department bearing regd. no: Reg/2935/TS. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Dy Director Tourism Srinagar Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Guchoo
S/o Gh Mohd Guchoo
R/o Guchoo Mohalla Srinagar ng

از عدالت اے کیو کیو جی بیٹ ویجیو اور نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام
 عنوان: درخواست مخائب ارشاد احمد ذوالعزیز بڈگام ساکنہ چنڈہ گج
 تحصیل نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام براد عطائی اجرائی یوم پیدائش سند بحق دختران
 ایشہار براد گامی ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر بڈگام ایک درخواست پاپت حصول
 تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ ساکن یوم پیدائش سند حاصل
 کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ ساکن اس لئے دعویٰ کرتی کرتا ہے کہ
 ڈھار شاد و فضاء ارشاد دختران ارشاد احمد ذوالعزیز بڈگام کی تاریخ پیدائش
 20-08-2010 | 20-08-2010 سے اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو
 مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا
 اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا
 اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار bmg_r

از نیابت پھالپان
 عنوان: درخواست مخائب غلام رسول راتر و لاجہ انام راتر ساکنہ چنڈہ تحصیل بن براد عطائی
 تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ Anjuma Rasool and Aahil
 ایشہار براد گامی ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن کا درخواست بڈگام سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر بڈگام
 میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں ضابطہ رپورٹ چونکہ راتر راتر سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کی دختر
 مورخہ 13-07-2014 کو پیدا ہوئی اور پھر مورخہ 09-06-2017 کو پیدا ہوئے ساکن
 اپنے دختر اور پھر کے حق میں تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص
 کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل
 قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار ph

Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Rafiabad Watergam

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
 FRESH NIT No 49/RNB /Rafiabad/DETD: 20.01.2024

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S. No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Snow clearance winter season for the year 2023-24 Stage - 3	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow	All classes
2.	Snow clearance winter season for the year 2023-24 stage No.11	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow	All classes
3.	Snow clearance winter season for the year 2023-24 stage No.12	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow	All classes
4.	Snow clearance winter season for the year 2023-24 stage No.13	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow	All classes

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
 Table 1:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-01-2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-01-2024
3.	Bid submission Start Date	20-01-2024
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29.01.2024
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.01.2024

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rafiabad Watergam (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/- at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Division Rafiabad Watergam. In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/- at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the contract.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rafiabad Watergam (tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within three days from the date of intimation.
 c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

i. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate" (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

ii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.

iii. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Table 1.

v. All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

vi. All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.

vii. A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.

viii. Treasury Challan/Earnest money

ix. Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card

x. Valid Latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of last quarter or latest month, whichever is applicable, i.e. (October 2023 or July to September-2023).

xi. Illustration: Latest quarter July-September 2023-24 for those who file GSTR-3B quarterly and proceeding month i.e., October 2023-24 for those who file GSTR-3B monthly.

xii. The bidder must make sure to upload scanned copies of all required documents, including the tender documents fee, along with the technical bid. No document(s) that haven't been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy form. However, the bidders will be required to provide original documents in support of the soft copies upon request in the event of any clarification.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option

xiii. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

7. Bidders should be fully cognizant that, in the event that documents uploaded or submitted are discovered to be fraudulent or factually incorrect, the contract would be cancelled, and the Contractor/bidder would be barred from further participation in this Division or Department for a period of three years, in addition to the forfeiture of the performance security deposited for the relevant work.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case, they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. The bidder should, at his own expense and risk, visit the worksite and its surroundings before submitting a bid in order to ascertain any limitations and thresholds. Any consequential claims on this count will not be considered.

11. The DEPARTMENT reserves the right to waive minor irregularities. The DEPARTMENT also reserves the right to waive a mandatory requirement provided that:

a) the requirement is not mandated by law;
 b) all of the otherwise responsive proposals failed to meet the mandatory requirement; or
 c) in the sole discretion of the DEPARTMENT, the failure to comply with the mandatory requirement does not materially affect the procurement or the Department's interests associated with the procurement.

12. In response to the evaluation of bid proposals, the evaluation committee may ask one, some, or all of the bidders to clarify specific aspects of their proposals. A request for clarification may be made to address minor ambiguities, irregularities, informalities, or typing errors. With the exception of apparent clerical errors, deficiencies or material omissions cannot be fixed by clarifications, and proposals cannot be revised or modified. The bidder might be required to make an oral presentation about its bid proposal to the Department. Bidders are not permitted to attend the oral presentations of their competitors. Action by the Department in this regard should not be construed to imply acceptance or rejection of a bid proposal.

SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT & FLEET REQUIREMENTS

13. To fulfil the requirements of this contract, the Contractor will inevitably be required to present documentary proof in support of contractor owned or leased vehicles. The company name must be prominently displayed on both sides of any vehicles used by the Contractor to carry out this contract.

14. All vehicles used in the performance of this contract shall be in operable condition and meet the safety requirements. The Department may inspect the Contractor's vehicles at any time and direct the removal of any unsafe or non-functional vehicles. All vehicles shall be registered, licensed, having Department of Transportation numbers visible and insured, and operated by a licensed driver as required by law; and follow all regulations related to parking, driving, and licensing.

15. The equipment used by the Contractor must be of a caliber, size, and type appropriate for carrying out the required work. The equipment of the Contractor must be in good condition and capable of running effectively and safely.

16. The Contractor's equipment shall be of a quality, size and type suitable for accomplishing the required work. The Contractor's equipment shall be in good repair and able to operate efficiently and safely.

17. The Contractor's equipment shall have the proper safety devices maintained at all times while in use. If equipment does not contain proper safety devices and/or is being operated in an unsafe manner, the Department shall direct the Contractor to remove such equipment and/or operator until the deficiency is corrected to the satisfaction of the Department.

18. The Department may inspect the Contractor's equipment and tools at any time.

19. The Contractor will be required to procure its own attachment compatible with JCB machines and/or use snow plough attachments provided by the DEPARTMENT. The Department will provide the attachment on a nominal rental basis based on the cost of procurement and the functional life of the attachments to be fitted on the Machine/JCB listed on the snow clearing equipment submitted with this bid, and the Contractor must acknowledge receipt of it. The Department may ask the equipment to be returned at the end of the winter season. All equipment shall be subject to inspection, retrieval, repair or maintenance at the end of each snow fall and at any time during this contract period. In the event of any negligence or carelessness in the use and maintenance of the provided equipment, the DEPARTMENT will determine the amount of the loss or value of the damaged equipment, for which the contractor will be charged the replacement cost of the equipment less appropriate depreciation that will be billed to the contractor or deducted from due claims.

20. All required snow plough apparatus shall be properly installed on the Machines, and the Machines will have to be ready to respond to a snow callout by October 15th of each contract year. During each winter season in which this contract is in effect, the equipment shall be installed continuously from October 15th to April 30th of the following year. Machines listed on this contract shall not be used on any other plowing or spreading contracts. The contractor shall not use DEPARTMENT equipment for any purpose other than the plowing of targeted roads and/or as directed by DEPARTMENT representatives. Any violation will result in a minimum penalty of Rs5,000.00 per offense to be deducted from accrued claims in the contractor's account and may result in termination of the contract.

21. The Contractor shall remain in communication with the Department prior to, during, and after each Snow Fall. The Contractor shall report its hourly activities to the Department through Departments online snow clearance management system. The Contractor's reporting must be done "real time" and include: (i) Roads/lengths Cleared (ii) date and time of operations; (iii) quantity of snow and/or ice removed; (iv) equipment and materials used; (v) staff utilized; (vi) challenges or problems encountered during the operations; and (vii) time and date stamped photographs of snow removal operations (including before, during, and after photographs). The Contractor shall submit its claim supported with these documents.

22. The Contractors personnel should have the necessary experience and licenses to perform the required work. Key personnel shall include, at a minimum, the individual who has the authority and responsibility for ensuring that the Contractor's responsibilities are properly discharged and will be responsible for dispatching crews and equipment; and the key foreman who will oversee and supervise the work in the field. The Contractor will not be permitted to reassign any of the key personnel unless the Department approves the proposed reassignment and the proposed replacement. Besides the Contractor shall have to designate two Key Personnel to be available to communicate with the Department by telephone and email twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week over the course of the contract.

23. Upon execution of the Contract, the contractor and all its member firms, if any, and each of its Subcontractors (if any permissible) shall submit to the Department a list of current employees that will be assigned to the Contract, the date they were hired and whether or not they live in the UT. The Contractor shall maintain detailed records relating to the general hiring of community residents and non-residents.

24. The Contractor will be required to maintain the following types of insurance throughout the life of the contract.

a) Commercial general public liability insurance ("Liability Insurance") against liability for bodily injury, death and property damage arising from any one occurrence and from the aggregate of all occurrences within each policy year. The policies shall contain blanket contractual coverage (including coverage for the indemnity clauses to be provided under the Agreement) and completed operations coverage (for 3 years).

b) Workers' compensation providing statutory benefits for all persons employed by the Contractor, or its contractors and subcontractors (permitted, if any) and in connection with the work.

c) Automobile Liability, including Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability for each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage

25. The Contractor shall perform the work with its own forces. In the event that the Contractor desires to engage one or more subcontractors to assist with the work, it shall obtain the Department's written approval of any such subcontractor. All subcontractors shall be required to comply with the insurance requirements set forth herein. In addition, the Contractor shall be responsible for all work performed by the subcontractors and shall assume the risk of the subcontractors' non-performance.

26. The Contractor shall submit with each claim cost backup supporting such claims.

27. The Department will notify the Contractor within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving any claim for payment of any defect in the claim or the work which may result in the Department's declining to pay all or a part of the claimed amount. The Department may withhold payment from the Contractor, in whole or part, as appropriate, if any.

28. The Contractor shall perform the Services hereunder in accordance with all applicable local and Union statutes, laws, codes, ordinances, regulations, rules, requirements and orders ("Applicable Laws").

29. CONTRACT TERM

i. The initial contract term shall be one (1) year from the date of execution with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year terms upon written agreement by both parties.

ii. Time is of the essence with respect to the contract. In order to efficiently and expeditiously complete the clearing of snow and ice from the Targeted Roads (and, if instructed, Targeted Roadways and Additional Roadways), it is necessary to establish a completion schedule. It is understood that weather conditions, particularly in winter, are difficult to predict, and that each snow fall has a number of variables; e.g., depth, length of snowfall, falling or rising temperatures, time of day or night, early, mid or late winter, and traffic impact. Nonetheless, some requirements are necessary. Therefore, it is expected that, in most instances, the Contractor will complete all Services required of it herein with respect to its awarded Stage within twelve (12) hours after the end of a Snow fall. The Department shall have priority over any other similar contract held by the Contractor throughout the course of the contract. As such, the Contractor must dedicate such personnel and other resources as are necessary to ensure that the required Services are completed on-time and in a diligent, skilled, and professional manner.

iii. Snow Clearance operations on targeted Roadways and/or Pedestrian walkways shall have to commence when the snowfall has stopped and/or accumulated snow depth of 100mm has been recorded on target areas, and operations shall begin no later than 6 a.m.

30. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT

Note: The Department Shall be at liberty to add or Delete a Road or a stretch there off from the listed Stage Contract scope

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Rafiabad
Watergam

DIPK-15467/23
dated: 20-01-2024

Seizure Of Masjid Bank Account Sparks Protest At Nowshehra

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Protests erupted in Nowshehra area in Srinagar on Saturday after the authorities seized the bank accounts of Khawaja Habibullah Nowshehri (RA) Masjid here following the allegations of misappropriation of funds.

The local inhabitants expressed resentment and stated that some people for their vested interests have been putting their efforts to take over the Masjid and thus simultaneously have been making false allegations to create ruckus.

Showkat Ahmad, president of the Masjid, said such is the interference that the prayer leader, who served for 25 year now, is being asked to vacate.

"We have kept the details of each and everything. There is no misappropriation of funds at all," he said, adding that

some people with vested interests have been making false allegations in this regard.

Another local said the Masjid is not Waqf notified, but some people are trying to create disturbances by claiming that the issues of misappropriation have taken place. "The Masjid in which the people from almost 10 areas offer prayers on a regular basis have never raised the voice against the Imam (prayer leader), but the voices of only a few vested interests are being heard and the majority is being neglected. Even the bank account has been seized on their interference," he said.

Moreover, Waqf Board Chairperson, when contacted said the Masjid is not Waqf notified, but they have got a complaint about the misappropriation of funds following which the local administration was directed to investigate the matter.



Smart Cities India Expo Srinagar Smart City Bags 'Best Smart Urban Mobility Award'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Adding another accolade to its achievements, Srinagar Smart City Ltd. has clinched the "Best Smart Urban Mobility Award" at the Smart Cities India Expo in New Delhi.

The city's innovative urban mobility initiatives stood out among leading smart cities across the country.

Dr. Owais Ahmad, Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and CEO Srinagar Smart City Ltd, expressed his elation at the recognition. "It is indeed a moment of pride for Srinagar city to have won the 'Best Smart Urban Mobility Award' at the Smart Cities India Expo in New Delhi today. This accolade is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the citizens of Srinagar and the tireless dedication of the entire smart city team," he stated.

The award-winning initiatives reflect the city's commitment to leveraging technology for efficient and sustainable urban mobility solutions.

Over Rs 60 Cr Allocated For Pedestrian, Cycling Tracks

Srinagar: The Srinagar Smart City has allocated over Rs 60 crore for the comprehensive development of pedestrian footpaths, cycling tracks and illumination along the bustling stretch from Dalgate to Habak Crossing including Nishat Sathu, officials said. A senior official said approximately Rs 20 crore has been dedicated to enhancing pedestrian footpath infrastructure on both sides of the road from Dalgate to Habak crossing.

Srinagar's smart city projects have not only enhanced the quality of life for residents but have also positioned the

city as a leader in the national smart cities landscape.

Dr. Owais credited the citizens of Srinagar for their active participation and cooperation, acknowledging their role in making the city's urban mobility strategies successful. He also commended the hard work and dedication of the smart city team, whose relentless efforts contributed to this significant achievement.

The "Best Smart Urban Mobility Award" recognizes Srinagar's commitment to incorporating innovative, people-friendly and technology-driven solutions to address urban mobility challenges.


As the city continues to advance its smart city initiatives, this recognition serves as a motivation for sustained efforts in creating a smarter, people-oriented, and a more efficient urban environment. The entire team involved in these endeavors received heartfelt congratulations for their dedication and success.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Bi-Annual 2021 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Afshana Bano
S/o : Khurshheed Ahmad Mir
Roll No : 12618423
Year & Session 2021 Bi-Annual



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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Board Of School Education
Sub Office Bandipora

NORTHERN RAILWAY

INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 16/2023-2024 Dated : 20.01.2024
Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N. Rly. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, Invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items :-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1	62245025	Set of head stock assembly complete (L.H 02 nos/set & R.H 02 nos/set) for BVCW wagon conforming to RDSO drawing no. WD - 15009-S-5, alt.5, item no.3 Material Spec :- IS:5986 Fe360	400 Sets	15.02.2024
2	62245006	Centre Sill (CRF Section) for BVCW Wagon, WD-15009-S-05, Alt. 5, Item No. 2 Material Spec: IS 2062 E 450 BR with Cu.	400 Nos.	19.02.2024
3	62245028	Items for BVCW Body Assembly As per Annexure- I	400 Sets	19.02.2024

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

24/6/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Anantnag

NIT NO 197 OF R&B/Anantnag/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/19370-79 DATED 18-01-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of drain from H/o Mohd Yousuf Pathan to downwards at Gaziabad Lane Ashajipora (Phase-1st)	3.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST:2.55 + (18% GST Amount 0.45)	200	6000	30 Days	Normal Resources	Accorded Vc/Order No.MC/ANG/288 Of 2023, Dated 26.08.2023	DEE Class Only

Project Authority: Municipal Council Anantnag.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-01-2024
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 19-01-2024 To 25-01-2024
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 19-01-2024 To 25-01-2024
4.	Bid Submission End Date	25-01-2024
5.	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	27-01-2024 (11:00AM)

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M.No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 days after fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance Security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

6. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

10. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

11. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

12. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

14. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-15447/23
dated: 20-01-2024

(Er Syed Ishfaq Ahmad)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Your FINANCIAL

Don't Mix Investment With Insurance!

Irshad Mushtaq

Banks play a crucial role in the financial system by accepting deposits from the public and providing loans and other financial services. However, in recent years, some private banks have expanded their services to include insurance products. This shift has led to a situation where innocent investors are being lured into insurance policies without fully understanding the implications.

Many investors fall victim to emotional sales techniques that promise guaranteed returns, bonus benefits, and assured incomes. However, they often fail to consider the lock-in period, charges, and overall returns associated with these policies. It is essential for investors to spend quality time researching and understanding the intricacies of any investment, especially when it comes to insurance products.

One common example is investing Rs. 10,000 per month, which amounts to Rs. 1.20 lakh per annum and would result in savings of Rs. 12 lakh in 10 years. With an expected rate of return of 15%, the maturity amount would be around Rs. 26.30 lakh. However, by investing the maturity amount into a liquid fund with an expected return of 6%, one could generate an annual income of Rs. 1.56 lakh for a lifetime, in addition to the saved amount. This demonstrates the importance of carefully considering investment options and not succumbing to emotional sales tactics.

One key piece of advice is to never mix investment with insurance. While insurance has its own importance, it should be kept separate from investment decisions. For insurance, term insurance or health insurance are the most suitable options.

Investors should avoid schemes that restrict their ability to exit or involve excessive charges, as these can have detrimental effects on their financial planning. It is imperative for individuals to be well-informed and cautious when making investment decisions. Long-term, high-quality investments with low costs and flexible exit options, such as mutual funds, are recommended. Ultimately, taking the time to thoroughly research and consider all aspects of an investment decision is crucial. Once a decision has been made, it is important to stay committed to the long-term plan and avoid being swayed by emotional sales tactics. By following these principles, investors can achieve their financial goals and secure their future.

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

از نیابت کلتزہ

درخواست منجانب شہیر احمد پرے ولد محمد افضل پرے ساکنہ کوئٹہ

برادار جانی لیگل سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتیہار بمبرادہ گاہی ہر خاص وعام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل دفتر پانڈا میں زیر کارروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کا والد برطانیہ ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ مورخہ 16-04-2016 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ ستوتنی کے وارثان بذیل ہے

شہیر افضل پرے پسر ستوتنی 23 سال مزدوری
سجاد افضل پرے پسر ستوتنی 19 سال مزدوری
عاقب احمد پرے پسر ستوتنی 17 سال زرتعمیم
منظور افضل پرے پسر ستوتنی 15 سال زرتعمیم
فاطمہ بیگم بیوتوتنی 45 سال گھریلو کام

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں تھلا یا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذریا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

از نیابت کلتزہ

درخواست منجانب منظور احمد چچام ولد محمد اکبر چچام ساکنہ ڈنڈموہ

برادار جانی لیگل سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتیہار بمبرادہ گاہی ہر خاص وعام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل دفتر پانڈا میں زیر کارروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کا والد برطانیہ ڈیوٹی سرٹیفکیٹ مورخہ 27-04-2023 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ ستوتنی کے وارثان بذیل ہے

منظور احمد چچام پسر ستوتنی 33 سال دکا تدار
جان بیگم بیوتوتنی 45 سال عمر سیدہ

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں تھلا یا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذریا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 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 : 07
ZUHR	12:42
ASR	4: 11
Magrib	5:52
ISHA	7: 16

HIJRI CALENDAR

09 Rajab
1445

Forest Fires in Jammu & Kashmir

Roles, Responsibilities and Legal Commitments

The prolonged and unprecedented dry spell in the Himalayan region is attributed to the absence of active strong western disturbances, prevailing El Niño conditions, and a robust jet stream. This has transformed the once snow-covered mountains and plains into a brown and barren landscape, creating a dry, desolate, and visually depressing scene. The altered weather pattern is impacting various aspects, ranging from hydrology to the agro-economy of the valley, and has also contributed to a recent surge in forest fires in Jammu and Kashmir. Fortunately, the reported forest fires have primarily been ground fires or surface fires without causing any major damage.

According to numerous research articles, approximately 1-2% of the world's forested areas are engulfed by forest fires annually. Some forest fires are beneficial for ecological renewal, nutrient recycling, control of Alien invasives, pests and diseases but the vast majority of fires are associated with their destructiveness. These fires contribute to an annual carbon emission ranging between 2.5 to 4.0 billion tons of CO₂, resulting in significant losses in both flora and faunal diversity. Moreover, the repercussions extend to long-term effects on human health and well-being.

In technical terms, the occurrence of any fire necessitates what is referred to as the combustion or fire triangle. This triangle comprises three essential components: air/oxygen, fuel and ignition or heat. The fuel in forests of J&K comprises dry broad leaves, debris of pine needles with highly flammable resins/oleo-resins, fallen branches and twigs, dry grasses, and shrubs.

In our forests, air is omnipresent and fuel is abundant, with the initiation of a fire dependent on the third element: ignition or heat. This ignition or heat source can originate either naturally or through human activities, categorizing forest fires as either natu-

Faisal Farooq



Addressing forest fires involves a dual approach: the response from the relevant forest department and the proactive stance of citizens, marked by environmental awareness and responsible behaviour. Preventing forest fires hinges on the environmental consciousness and responsible actions of citizens

ral or man-made. According to reports from the Forest Survey of India (FSI), approximately 95% of forest fires are of anthropogenic origin i.e., attributed to human activities. Natural forest fires result from occurrences such as lightning, rolling stones, or the friction of dry grasses and shrubs. Conversely, human-induced fires can be attributed to carelessness or intentional actions. Deliberate fires are often set for charcoal production, as acts of hostility and retribution against forest officials, or to eliminate evidence by setting fire to stumps of illegally felled trees. Additionally, intentional fires may be employed as a modus operandi to encroach on forest land by setting nearby vegetation ablaze. Unintentional forest fires may arise from neglected campfires, the disposal of burning matchsticks and cigarette butts, or unattended fires caused by graziers.

Addressing forest fires involves a dual approach: the response from the relevant forest department and the proactive stance of citizens, marked by environmental awareness and responsible behaviour. Preventing forest fires hinges on the environmental consciousness and responsible actions of citizens.

Forest fire prevention and management strategy: - the forest department must have a comprehensive and holistic prevention and management strategy which includes

- **Pre fire season strategy** (creating fire lines, reducing the fuel load, controlled burning, awareness campaigns, establishing Fire control rooms, mock drills, preparedness and interdepartmental coordination etc.)
- **During-fire season strategy** (forest fire detection based on SMS based alerts by FSI, near real time monitoring of

forest fires based on MODIS and SNPP-VIIRS, rapid response teams and forest fire suppression measures)

- **Post-fire season strategy** (investigation, assessment of loss and ecological restoration measures).

The lack of precipitation due to prolonged dry spell has rendered the forests of Jammu and Kashmir exceptionally dry, making them susceptible to major fires from even a single spark. In light of this, it is imperative to refrain from entering wildlife protected areas in particular, and forests in general, during this period. Additionally, it is crucial to avoid starting campfires near vegetation, choose open locations for campfires, ensure campfires are completely extinguished before leaving, and refrain from smoking cigarettes while navigating through forests.

It is pertinent to mention that forest fires in the valley are occurring in challenging terrains, necessitating considerable time and a substantial workforce to reach and extinguish the fires. This stands in contrast to fires in the plains, which are easily accessible to humans and fire service vehicles.

Legal provisions and penalty -

Besides various provision in IPC and CrPC, the Indian forest act, 1927 and wildlife protection act, 1972 provides legal protection to the floral and faunal diversity of India. Section 26(1)(c) of IFA, 1927 provides that any person who kindles, keeps or carries any fire except at such seasons as the Forest-officer may notify in this behalf with in a reserved forest shall be punishable with imprisonment, or with fine, or with both. It makes the offence a non-bailable cognisable one. Similarly, section 33(1)(d) and 33(1)(e) of IFA, 1927 provides for the same with respect to the protected forests.

Duties of the citizens and concessionists

Article 51-A of the Indian Constitution mandates every citizen to fulfill the responsibility of safeguarding and enhancing the natural environment, encompassing forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, while also fostering compassion for living creatures. Aligned with the Forest Rights Act, Section 5(a) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, imposes an obligation on holders of any forest rights to actively participate in the protection of wildlife, forests, and biodiversity.

The Maharaja era Kashmir Forest Notice of 1912 extends concessions to legitimate users, particularly those whose village boundaries are within three miles from the demarcation line of the designated forest. Simultaneously, it outlined specific duties and responsibilities for these concessionists. Rule 21 of the Kashmir Forest Notice stipulates that concessionists are obligated to promptly inform relevant officials about forest fires. They are also expected to assist in extinguishing forest fires or fires outside the forest that could potentially spread into forest areas they are also required to provide information about individuals involved in forest fire offenses. It is emphasized that individuals failing to provide such assistance are subject to legal consequences. Upon conviction by a magistrate, they may face fines, imprisonment, or both.

In conclusion, forest fires can be effectively prevented and managed through the implementation of proactive strategies by the Forest department and the active involvement of citizens, especially forest concessionists.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. Faisal Farooq works at J&K Forest Department.

The lack of precipitation due to prolonged dry spell has rendered the forests of Jammu and Kashmir exceptionally dry, making them susceptible to major fires from even a single spark. In light of this, it is imperative to refrain from entering wildlife protected areas in particular, and forests in general, during this period. Addi

WHEN I MISSED THE BOY

S.Sarwar.Malik

Though internet surfing had somewhat soothed my eyes in the wee predawn hours (- & confessed some words like *freezing... night temperature dipping to minus 5.4* weren't comforting at all) but THAT FEEL of paper didn't grace my fingers... (How shall I describe it?) ...a yearning it was...that led me ultimately to the gate, today, a number of times; as unexpectedly late IT was today.

Men connected to 'newspaper business', both chair-wielders and those up on their legs most of the time, being lettered, do, at times write about the vagaries of this profession but an important section who face the streets every day & suffer silently, are hardly ever mentioned.

True dozens of youngsters; led by graying heads, probably, do expend sweat and gray-matter-cells, from morning till late hours, that deserves appreciation but *salutation* is the only word that escapes my lips when I imagine the *delivery boy* with some sheafs of newspapers, walking or cycling his way, whatever be the season, though belly-fire is the lone reason that draws him to our threshold or to the market squares, road intersections, bus stands and where not; (-after all how many vendors afford a shop?).

Discomfort, at times, disturbs when one ponders how poor is readership in this *age of internet* but anger unsettled heart when one thinks how queerly a significant-segment of readers behaves.

To begin I share with readers, a portion of what I scribbled some minutes back; followed by a true incident of 1980- both pertaining to the lowest rung of 'Newspaper-dom'.

*Rain, sunshine, wintry chill
Stomach cramps, aching limbs
Rabid canines and posturing cops too*

*...he who braves them all
did not sound the cycle bell.
Severed, incarcerated, incommunicado*

*I felt it during the morning hours,
Today.*

*I missed his stubbly face,
Unkempt attire
And the skinny hand...
-that delivers me the newspaper
around 7 am.*

*.....
Who will design a cheap*



*roofed motorized bicycle?
Who will initiate a welfare fund?
Who will provide an insurance cover?
Who will make an affordable ki-
osk type news-stand?
.....for my newspaper vendor
...when...
his bruised body
even lens man pooh-poohs
as 'unfit for publication'://*

FLASH BACK
Clouds thundered like hell that morning, followed by drizzle. Co-passengers stopped the curses in time that they were about to let loose, otherwise, on the stubborn bus driver, waiting endlessly for the eight (8) vacant seats to get occupied.
Though visibility was poor I saw



Though visibility was poor I saw him materialize out of cascading rain. Drenched he was from head to toe. Curiously I watched him tucking-out something from his inner sleeveless garment, baend; that he carefully guarded from the downpour

him materialize out of cascading rain. Drenched he was from head to toe. Curiously I watched him tucking-out something from his inner sleeveless garment, *baend*; that he carefully guarded from the downpour.

Clothes he wore on his small frame had tell tale signs, here and there. The sparkle that should have been in his eyes, at his age, wasn't

there. Could he be a pickpocket in making? Could he be just another beggar boy fallen prey to easy earnings with requisite skills up in his sleeves? Or could he be a school drop-out, forced by circumstances back home?.... I began to venture a guess.

Pulling up his wet shirt, he placed the folded sheaves on left

forearm and with the right one mopped his nose.

"*Akhbaar hay akhbaar...*" reached my ears, while I watched him from the rear seat: traversing the passage of the inter district bus ...searching twenty two (22) pairs of eyes, expectantly.

Heads turned in disinterest except the two 'takers'. The poor vendor made another round, with back towards me calling, "*Aaj ki tazah khabar*". Near the landing step he stopped for a while, hoping for some more response.

With dampened spirit he eyed the raindrops crackling on the ground beneath.

"Was he exercising choice between head and papers, for safeguarding"?, my foolish heart whispered.

With sudden jerk and triple spew,

"*trathh yeth kaaras*", he jumped out... as the sheaves landed inside ... on the floor of the bus.

To my surprise the passengers, who were uninterested some minutes before, soon scrambled and jostled for the booty.

"*Mofteik akhbaar chhinna... laanat ----*" escaped my lips, uncontrollably and so did the admonishing words of an aged man, a co-passenger; busy folding the newspaper that he had grabbed for himself from the booty.

"*Rut haz per taam...di paanus akhbarus nazer.... bo parre garre vaatith*".

My weak spine was a shiver and tramp like eyes grew hazy. Bad mood wrecked havoc on my office work that day.

I know not whether the boy ever returned to the business since that day of 1980, but knowing what colossal strength some people exhibit at stormy junctures, (-the brave struggle that an 'editor-friend' exhibited, when circumstances forced him to leave a paper he had worked for, many years comes to my mind...that story i must keep for some other day, my brain said in soliloquy...) in this newspaper business, I came to harbour a special relation with *akhbaar wallas*, in general... silently, by and by. Not that they are "*butaan-e-hind*" but they do remind me of trees amidst barren tracts- that I would have loved to cling, if I had requisite professional skills. [Above all other more captivating things hold me back as more engaging they are than my "*ghamm-e-ishq*".

O, readers! Does this tale mean anything to you? Sit up please... for it is a true story... that I may not forget even when dementia sets in with age. Take it as my sit-in against the *muft-khori*, most of us resort to, by saying "*Tal haz boti dimha ath akhbaras nazer*"; even when our newspapers cost 3-5 rupees only.

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

E-Books' Case Against Paperbacks

Firdous Ahmad Mala

Though One cannot overlook the pleasure of having a book with physical pages in hand, one must acknowledge that the possibility of carrying a library with you wherever you go and that of affording books that only a few had access to is awesome and a dream-come-true feeling, to say the least. Gone are the days when to read a book one was sometimes required to travel thousands of miles to a library. Now, the same is available at clicks of fingers.

It should not take one long to understand that the conventional definition of a book is a bygone tale. Having a material existence is no longer a need when it comes to being a book. A book no longer requires to be between two physical covers, and yet it can be covered from cover to cover.

As per research published by Pew Research Center, "Thirty per cent of those who read e-content say they now spend more time reading, and owners of tablets and eBook readers particularly stand out as reading more now." They further noticed, "In a head-to-head competition, people prefer eBooks to printed books when they want speedy access and portability, but print wins out when people are reading to children and sharing books with others."

If you own a Kindle or any other electronic book reader, you have the potential of owning not just books, but libraries. You have access to some of the rarest masterpieces that humankind has ever produced. It does not matter whether you read on

paper or on some device as long as one is inclined to reading. For J. K. Rowling, "We should be delighted people still want to read, be it on a Kindle or a Nook or

electronic ones fail to appreciate that it is the content and not the material that matters. In the words of Douglas Adams, "Lovers of print are simply confusing

some trees in the forest too.

It might astonish the readers that nowadays some books, magazines and newspapers are available only in the electronic ver-

only after the invention of eBooks. There would not have been very good reasons for choosing the print over the electronic. In the words of Mokhonoana, "If

only reason for not abandoning eBooks."

When it comes to reproducing copies similar to the actual one, eBooks are unbelievable. Remember that if you own a printed book, reproducing it is costly and difficult. If you have an eBook, you have not one but as many copies as you seek. You can gift your eBook to a thousand people and not need a return. You can provide access to awesome stuff at no or low cost. You can lend a book without ever needing or losing your copy of the book. Those who have a craving for reading books; those who are bibliophiles know well that the problem is not the physical or virtual, the problem lies with passing the material for the content. In the words of Laszlo Krasznahorkai, "Devices are not dangerous for literature. People can be dangerous for literature. People, for example, who do not read."

Those who are or will be filled with the reminiscence of the feel, the smell and the pleasure of printed books will hopefully not regret the option of turning to eBooks for the pleasures- the ease of access, the availability and the benefit of being light on pocket- they offer. The print lover will soon be inclined towards the electronic love for the temptation is hard to resist. In the words of Craig Mod, "Nostalgia is very quickly replaced with convenience." With the advent of eBooks, one is no longer required to lick the tips of one's fingers to turn pages.

The author is Assistant Professor Government Degree College, Sopore



whatever the latest device is." Those who remain rigid in the choice of printed books over the

the plate for the food." One must not miss the forest for the trees. Jocularly, eBooks can help save

It is somewhat tickling to imagine the fate of printed books had they come into existence

eBook readers were invented before print books, the smell of ink would have been some people's

AC authorises JKPTCL to take up projects worth Rs 1190 Cr through TBCB route

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha authorized the Board of Directors (BoD) of Jammu & Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (JKPTCL) to take up the Critical Intra-State Transmission Projects estimated cost of Rs1190 Cr through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) route in the UT.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG attended the meeting.

These projects include Grid Station at an estimate cost of Rs. 99.20 Crores at upcoming Industrial Estate of Bhagthali, DisttKathua. Besides Bhagthali, the other two projects approved

for execution under TBCB route are Laying of Downstream Transmission Network from upcoming 400 /220 kV Grid Sub-station Siot, Rajouri (ISTS) with an estimated cost of Rs. 790 Crores and construction of Grid Sub-Station at Wahipora and Sallar, Kashmir and allied transmission system within estimate cost of Rs. 300 Crores. Union Power Ministry officials in various review meetings have advised the UT Government to execute transmission projects through TBCB/JV mode.

Moreover, in the draft of new Electricity Policy, it has been mentioned that all future intra-state transmission projects shall be developed through competitive bidding process except for the projects having an estimated capital expenditure below a threshold limit, and projects of

strategic importance as decided by the State Government.

Finance Department has also advised PDD to utilize PMC for 2 of the 3 projects and execute 1 project using the model TBCB document on its own. This will help in building internal expertise.

AC also authorized JKPTCL to engage Power Finance Corporation Consulting Limited (PFCL) or any other CPSU authorized by Ministry of Power as Bid Process Coordinator (BPC) on nomination basis for undertaking the above said transmission projects through TBCB route.

Professional charges payable to the CPSU engaged as BPC may be decided by JKPTCL through limited tender enquiry amongst eligible CPSUs while adhering to the guidelines of TBCB issued by Ministry of Power.

AC approves revamping of ICT set-up & VC project for High Court

JAMMU, JANUARY 20: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved revamping of ICT Setup & Video Conferencing Project of High Court of J&K at an estimated cost of Rs.61.78 Crores.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG attended the meeting.

The project shall be executed after considering the observation of Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC) and in Principle agreed by the High Court. The High Court may consider reimbursement of amount under e-Court Mission Mode Project-II as per procedure provided therein.

This project has been necessitated by the fact that recent times have noticed a paradigm shift for legal proceedings. The physical presence has been getting replaced by virtual presence through the use of newer technologies. Digital transformation is helping to improve the justice system and it is expected that virtual collaboration should remain a permanent part of it.

The instant project includes various interventions like Hybrid Courtrooms, Connected Courts, Next Generation Network, Connectivity, Audio Setup etc. that incorporates both in-person and online aspects of Court communications. The aim and objective of project is to provide speedy justice to the litigants of the UT at lower cost.

AC adopts recommendations of SNJPC regarding cadre strength of Distt Judges



JAMMU, JANUARY 20: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved enhancement of the cadre strength of District Judges (Selection Grade) to 35% from existing 25% and District Judges (Super Time Scale) to 15% from existing 10% w.e.f 01-01-2020 in view of the recommendations of Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC).

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG attended the meeting.

This proposal of Law Department was approved by AC to implement the Second National Judicial Pay Commission recommendations, which has been accepted by the Supreme Court in Case WP (Civil) No. 643/2015 titled All India Judges Association Vs Union Of India and Ors.

Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India vide its communication No. L-19018/1/2017-Jus-I dated 08-08-2023 has also conveyed the approval of the competent authority regarding implementation of the recommendations of Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC).

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Srinagar Outshines

residents from the prevailing intense cold conditions, officials said here.

Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 3.7 degrees Celsius, up from minus 4.9 degrees Celsius the previous day, they said. Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4 degrees and the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, the officials said. They said Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 4.7 degrees Celsius. Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period when a cold wave sweeps through the region and temperatures drop considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes. The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period. This time, however, Kashmir is witnessing a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December while there has been no precipitation in most parts of the Valley in the first 20 days of January.

A dry and largely snowless winter has resulted in freezing nights and warmer-than-usual days. The maximum temperatures recorded on Friday across Kashmir were 4.7 to 7 degrees above the normal for this time of the season.

The meteorological department has said there is a possibility of light snow and rain in the Valley next week which would bring an end to the prolonged dry spell. It also said that while the dry weather is likely to continue till January 24, there is a possibility of light snow at isolated places in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir on January 25.

From January 26-28, light rain or snow is likely over scattered places in J-K, while from January 29-31, as per the indications of different models, the possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at many places is very likely, the Met office said.

Digital Attendance

areas for decision-making and implementation shall become easy. VSK shall increase accountability among all the field-level staff/administrators, HoDs in monitoring the real-time status of various project components under the ambit of School Education, he maintained.

Secretary also asked the implementing partner to ensure deduplication of data at all the fronts. He reiterated that, tracking of student enrolment, progress in their learning levels, mainstreaming of out of school children, textbook delivery, support required by teachers and schools, etc should be integrated with the VSK. He also said that the aim is to have this state-of-the-art facility operational by February 2024, marking a significant milestone in our efforts to modernize and streamline the education system in Jammu and Kashmir.

Piyush Singla also announced a targeted timeline for establishment of the Command-and-Control Centre (VSK) in Jammu and Kashmir as February, 2024 which shall be made completely operational by 1st of March, 2024. He informed that the Command and Control Centre is expected to enhance efficiency, communication, and data management, contributing to an improved educational experience for students and educators alike.

Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj, apprised the Secretary that VSK is a data repository, powered by Swift Chat AI (Artificial Intelligence), which would enable technology and data-driven systemic change in all schools of Jammu and Kashmir. He informed that, VSK shall be established temporarily in the JK BOSE building situated at Rehari Colony and shall be an iconic project for the UT of J&K. He said that the facility of VSK shall completely transform the education system across the UT. He further apprised that AI chat bots for students, teachers and parents have been created and shall be made live in the coming days for regular exercises, thus enhancing the learning outcome of students.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary, Anu Behl, Joint Director Planning, Parshotam Kumar, DD Planning, Bilal Rashid among others stakeholders from the empanelled firm.

Provide Study

in Indian languages available for all courses in the next three years," says the Ministry of Education (MoE) in a statement.

The statement further states, "UGC, AICTE, and the Department of School Education have also been asked to take up the issue with regard to state schools and universities. The above directions have emerged from the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) for promoting multilingualism in education at every level, so that students get the opportunity to study in their own language, and can have better learning outcomes."

As per the Ministry of Education, the National Education Policy 2020 strongly conveys the idea that the multilingual nature of Bharat is its huge asset and strength which needs to be utilized efficiently for its socio-cultural, economic, and educational development.

The ministry further added, "The government has already been working in this direction during the past two years, with a translation of Engineering, Medical, Law, UG, PG, and Skill books being done through the Anuvadini AI-based App. Competitive exams like JEE, NEET, and CUET are being held in 13 Indian languages."

President of UN

opportunity to strengthen India-UN ties and especially with the General Assembly, which is the most representative organ of the United Nations," the MEA said in a statement.

The UN official is scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on key multilateral issues of mutual interest.

"Discussions during the visit would include India's call for reforms of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, to make it more equitable and representative with a view to enhancing representation of developing countries," it said.

The MEA said Francis' visit will also be an opportunity to enhance India's collaboration with the United Nations on Indian priorities as well as the global challenges being faced by the Global South.

In New Delhi, the PGA will pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

He is also scheduled to attend a round table on India's advancements in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

Francis will also deliver a public address at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on 'Multilateralism and Peace, Prosperity, Progress, and Sustainability'.

On January 26, the PGA will participate as a state guest in the Republic Day Parade of Maharashtra.

Belonging to the diplomatic service of Trinidad and Tobago, Francis has announced his presidency priorities to include peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability.

The theme of his Presidency of the 78th UNGA is 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting solidarity'.

J&K Assembly

polls together as it requires ample manpower and time to make its joint conduct in a smooth manner.

"If Parliamentary elections are to be held in mid 2024, the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) polls may take place likely in September this year, when the annual Amarnath Yatra gets over," sources revealed.

They said the authorities may likely think over the conduct of Panchayat, BDC and DDC polls afterwards which may be held in between October and November 2024. They held that Parliamentary elections are the priority of the central government who can't hamper its smooth process by holding some other election together.

Notably, regional and national mainstream political parties have accelerated their public outreach programs across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of Parliamentary polls, which are likely to be held in April - May this year, while local political parties are making people believe that Assembly elections will also take place this year.

Earlier a five-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by CJI DY Chandrachud had directed EC to hold assembly elections in J&K before September 30, 2024. (KNS)

JKBOSE Not

a notice to the respondents of the case.

The court ordered that the petitioner shall furnish registered postal covers within a period of seven days 'whereupon the Registrar Judicial, Srinagar to issue notices to the respondents'.

"In the meantime, the respondents (BOSE Chairman) are sounded a caution to consider the compliance of the writ court direction as it obtains with respect to the future of the students undergoing their education in the petitioner's schools," it reads.

Pertinently, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) earlier this year has given a nod to enroll secondary and senior secondary level students of sixty private schools to nearby government institutions in view of 'land and affiliation expiry issues'.

The officer in the order had said that the order was accorded with regard to the expiration of affiliation of such private academic institutions of Kashmir Division, in October 2021-2022, coupled with the failure of the concerned managements to submit requisite case files for further extension with necessary certificates and safety documents.

The board authority had also said that the concerned private schools shall remit a tagging fee equivalent to periodical inspection fee for the current academic session viz. 2023-2024, as prescribed by the JKBOSE.

"The defaulter schools are admonished not to enroll any students in classes from 9th to 12th, from the next academic session Viz 2024-2025, without securing formal affiliation and recognition from the board and Government School Education Department respectively," it reads.

The board authorities however had said that the orders shall be subject to the outcome of writ petitions, if any, pending before the competent courts of law.

Meanwhile, the officials of JKBOSE had said, "Under Statutory Order (SO) 177, in the case of those private schools who are running their institutions from the state land and are defaulters, their number is around 200."

The official had said that those owners or functionaries of such private schools were supposed to get their title cleared from the revenue department. "We only need a NOC from them."

In April-2022, the government had notified conditions under SO-177 for private school registration, recognition, and affiliation.

J-K Police Files

Detail Record (IPDR).

Bhat was killed in the encounter at Shah Mohalla Yadipora Palhallan in Baramulla district on September 30, 2022.

The date of hearing in the case has been fixed on February 19, the spokesman said.

SIA Files Chargesheet

Pandith, Sajjad Ahmad Bhat alias Afnan Bhat and Sahil Bashir Dar; and Kulgam-resident Sarjeel Ahmad Bhat.

While investigation continues into the role of Yasir Shabir Wani, eight out of the 13 accused, including three juveniles, are currently under judicial custody, the officials said.

Jazim Farooq Wani, Thokar, and Paddar have been killed in encounters with security forces.

Zaffar Hussain Bhat alias Khurshid Kashmiri and Khalid Kamran are absconding, they added.

"The aim of the accused was to disrupt the revival of peace and communal harmony in the valley, using the murder of an innocent person from the minority community to fuel communal disharmony and sustain terrorism," said the official quote above.

The SIA Kashmir conducted extensive searches across South Kashmir, unearthing vital physical and technical evidence.

"This evidence exposed the accused persons' involvement in the crime, including providing logistical support, harbouring the accused, and concealing evidence. During investigation, the SIA conducted five rounds of extensive searches at 32 locations across the valley, during which evidence in the shape of mobile devices, incriminating documents viz Bank Documents and a Pistol magazine and live cartridges were seized," he said.

The investigation revealed that the accused were acting on instructions from terror handlers across the border and maintaining communication via encrypted online messaging platforms, the officials said.

They said Jazim Farooq Wani, who pulled the

trigger, received weapon handling training from Nassir Farooq Shah on the directives of Pakistani handler Khalid Kamran.

The investigation will continue and the SIA is committed to ensure all the accused who have been a part of the crime in any way are brought to justice, the officials said.

Muslim Man

came to Ahmedbad in India in August 2023. From there, it reached me in Delhi," Pandita said.

He said the holy water had to travel to Europe and back to subcontinent "all because postal services between India and Pakistan are temporarily suspended... after the Balakote operations."

The Sharda Sarvagnya Peeth is inaccessible since 1948 and the SSKC has formed a civil society across the LoC in PoK.

"They sent us soil, shilas and now water from the kund. It is a matter of pride that the same is being used in Ram Mandir pran pratishtha on January 22, 2024. This is second major event after the Sharda temple pran pratishtha on June 5 last year by the Shankracharya of Sringeri," he added.

Pandita said SSKC member Manjunath Sharma handed over the holy water to Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leaders who presented it to senior functionary Koteswar Rao in Ayodhya on Saturday.

He said SSKC member will light diyas on January 22 at the Sharda Temple near the LoC at Teetwal in Kupwara district to celebrate the consecration ceremony.

Govt Asks Media

rituals began one week before D-Day, on January 16. Ahead of the ceremony, several fraudulent links claiming to provide VIP tickets and Ram Temple prasad are circulating on social media.

The advisory issued by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry stated that "certain unverified, provocative and fake messages were being spread, especially on social media, which can disturb communal harmony and public order".

"Further, as part of their due diligence obligations, social media platforms are advised to make reasonable efforts to not host, display or publish information of the nature mentioned above."

E-commerce site Amazon was on Friday served with a notice from the Central Consumer Protection Authority for taking down the listing of 'Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prashad'. Amazon said it is taking appropriate action against such listings in line with its policies.

A few days before, a WhatsApp message with a fake QR code was extensively shared promising instant VIP tickets for the pran-pratishtha event. The Temple Trust clarified that the pran-pratishtha event is invitation-only and the Trust itself sent the invitations to the select guests.

The consecration of the Ram Lalla idol in Ayodhya will take place on January 22, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries in attendance.

LG Releases

Minister; Gourav Abrol Trustee Healthy India Stronger India and other members of the organization were also present.

Aes Kaeshir

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



KO PODCAST

KASHMIR
OBSERVER



KTA Decries Power Curtailment Increase

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) strongly criticised the recent decision to extend the power curtailment schedule by 2.5 hours.

In a statement, Aijaz Shahdhar, President KTA, expressed concerns over the impact of this move on daily life and business operations.

Shahdhar argued that instead of resorting to extended power cuts, the government should consider purchasing additional power from the Northern grid to fulfill the local power demand. He emphasized that such measures are essential to ensure a smooth functioning of businesses and to maintain the quality of life for the residents.

In addition to opposing the power curtailment extension, Shahdhar urged the LG administration to announce a power am-

nesty for commercial consumers. He highlighted the potential benefits of such a move, stating, "It would be a win-win situation for both the government and consumers, as the government would generate revenue, and consumers would be relieved of pending liabilities."

The KTA has already submitted a memorandum to the administration, addressing the need for a power amnesty specifically for commercial consumers. The alliance is hopeful that this appeal will be considered seriously.

Furthermore, the KTA appealed to LG Sinha for immediate intervention to address the concerns raised by the trade community. As the situation unfolds, the business community in Srinagar awaits a response from the administration to mitigate the challenges posed by the extended power curtailment schedule. (KNS)

DC Kulgam Holds Back-To-Back Grievances Redressal Camps



KO NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM: Taking governance at the doorsteps of people, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Saturday chaired back to back Public Grievance Redressal Camps at Devsar and Zungpora to take appraisal of public issues for early redressal.

Among others, ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACD, ACR, Executive Engineers, CMO and other Officers attended the Public Grievance Redressal Camp.

Flagging-off their issues, people at Devsar demanded establishment of Zonal Agriculture Office and Establishment of veterinary Centre. Delegation from the Auqaf Committee demanded upgradation of PHC and augmentation of medical staff at health institutions.

They also put forth demand for construction of a new building for BMS Devsar and upgradation

of Girls Middle School to High School. People from Maskhud demanded construction of Agro Check to Maskhud road. A delegation from Palpora demanded macadamisation of roads.

People from Devsar and other areas also raised various issues and put forth other demands of public importance.

At Zangalpora people demanded allotment of land to flood affected families at safer places for construction of residential houses and construction of the rest part of the flood protection bund.

People also demanded augmentation of health facilities and LT/HT power networks in the area to streamline the power scenario of the area.

DC member Devsar also putforth demand for construction and development of the playground at Gund and other demands. A delegation of farmers demanded restoration of Bakshi Canal for Irrigation purposes.

DC Shopian Finalizes Republic Day Celebration Arrangements



KO NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb on Saturday chaired a meeting of officers, here to finalise the department wise arrangements to be put in place for ensuring Republic Day, 2024 celebrations.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on arrangements to be put in place at the venue including security, seating, transportation, illumination of buildings, refreshments, water and power supply, Public Address System, medicare facilities and other facilities.

The DC instructed the concerned to organise scintillating cultural programmes to mark the event with vibrancy along with an impactful presentation

of March Past and called upon officers to put in place elaborate arrangements for smooth conduct of the function.

On the occasion, department wise responsibilities were finalised for adherence, and directed to ensure celebrations at sub divisional, tehsil and village levels and institutional levels besides the main district level function.

The DC called upon departments to make fool proof arrangements for Republic Day celebration and Full dress rehearsal especially heating and seating arrangements.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ASP, Shopian, Naresh Kumar; Principal IMGDC, CPO, ACR, and other district officers and sectoral officers.

Govt To Construct 100-Bedded Hospital At Baltal For Pilgrims

"Multi stakeholders meeting held at BALTAL for upcoming hospital"



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is all set to construct a 100-bedded hospital at Baltal, for pilgrims during the annual Amarnath.

According to a statement from the health department, a significant site inspection was conducted on Saturday for the proposed hospital.

The inspection team, composed of Director health services Kashmir Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rathar, K. N. Rai, Member of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, representatives from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), and officials from the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) including Hashmat Ali, additional development commissioner Ganderbal and other top ranked officers from various departments who assessed the infrastructure and facilities

required for the envisioned hospital.

"The visit aimed to ensure the highest standards of healthcare for devotees embarking on the sacred Amarnath Yatra. The meeting brought together key stakeholders to meticulously examine various aspects, including medical facilities, logistics, and emergency response capabilities," the statement reads.

As per the statement, K. N. Rai, emphasized the importance of this hospital in catering to the health needs and requirements of the devotees, providing top-notch medical services throughout their journey.

Director Health Services Kashmir, expressed optimism about the project. "The thorough inspection undertaken today will pave the way for a comprehensive healthcare infrastructure that aligns with the spiritual significance of the

Amarnath Yatra. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all pilgrims," he affirmed.

The representatives from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) highlighted their support for the project, acknowledging its importance in enhancing healthcare accessibility for the pilgrims. The collaboration between different stakeholders is a crucial step in realizing this noble endeavor.

"As the team meticulously examined the proposed site, it reinforced the commitment to creating a hospital equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and a robust emergency response system," the statement reads.

It further added, "The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to ensuring the success of this project for the benefit of all pilgrims participating in the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra."

Special Lok Adalat On Criminal Compoundable Cases Held Across Kashmir

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In pursuance to the J&K Legal Service Authority calendar for the year 2024, a Special Lok Adalat was held on Saturday across all the districts of Kashmir, by the respective District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), for amicable settlement of cases of Criminal Compoundable nature.

The Lok Adalat was held under the able directions of

Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron in Chief), J&K Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

Lok Adalat for criminal compoundable cases serves as a transformative

mechanism for resolving disputes and promoting social harmony. By providing a platform for parties to settle their differences amicably, Lok Adalats contribute to a more just, peaceful, and equitable society. Lok Adalats continue to be an integral part of the justice delivery system, by virtue of their commitment to resolve disputes promptly and affordably and also alleviating the burden on the formal court system.

J&K Bank Q3 Net Profit Up 35% To Rs 421 Cr, 9-Month Net Jumps 57%

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Net Profit rose 35% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 421.08 Cr for the October-December Quarter (Q3FY 2024) when compared to Rs 311.59 Cr registered for the same period last fiscal. The bank announced the results today after its Board of Directors reviewed and approved the numbers for Q3 and 9-months for FY 2023-24 in a meeting held at Bank's Zonal Office in Jammu.

The bank's profit for 9-months has jumped 57% in Q3 to Rs 1128.60 Cr from Rs 721.05 Cr clocked during nine-months of the last financial year.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

For the quarter, Gross NPA Ratio of the Bank has come down to 4.84% i.e. 241 basis points (bps) YoY and 42 bps QoQ. The Net NPA ratio has also remarkably reduced by 125 bps YoY and is below 1% at 0.83%. Provision coverage ratio (PCR) of the Bank has vastly improved by 678 bps annually to 91.61% for the quarter ended December, 2023 from 84.83% recorded last year.

Commenting upon the Bank's asset quality, MD & CEO said, "Asset quality continues to be our star metric and the numbers are fast converging towards the best in the industry. Backed purely by steady recoveries coupled with lower-to-negligible slippages, our GNPA has further reduced and we remain on track to meet our annual market guidance of GNPA around 4.5% while our net NPA is already below 1%. In terms of provisioning too we are very comfortably placed at PCR of above 90% after a very long time."

OPERATING NUMBERS

On the back of recoveries, the Bank's Profit after Tax (PAT) for the Q3 increased by 35% to Rs 421.08 Cr while as the 9-month net figure jumped 57% to Rs 1128.60 Cr.

B'pora District Admin Hosts Awareness Camp on Employment Schemes

Observer news Service

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora on Saturday organised a day long awareness camp at mini secretariat, here.

Issues related to delay or rejection of sponsored cases of various schemes, guarantor and other bank related issues faced by the general public, especially youth, were discussed during the program.

The program also discussed youth raised various issues which they face while applying for various employment generation schemes. The program aimed to generate comprehensive awareness for promoting various employment generation schemes initiated by the government highlighted a range of schemes, including skill development programs, entrepreneurship initiatives, and job creation projects across different sectors.

various cases that are pending at the departmental level or at banks.

Speaking on the occasion, the VC-DDC said that schemes initiated by the Government have potential to transform lives and contribute to economic growth. She said that such programs are fruitful for youth who want to avail benefit from various employment generation schemes. Kousar also appreciated the proactive role of the District

Administration for organising such programs through which various grievances of youth were redressed and awareness was provided about different schemes.

Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, who is also holding charge of Handicrafts and Handloom Muzaffar Hussain, deliberated about various employment generation schemes of Government available and procedures to avail the benefits.

DC Kupwara Chairs Public Darbar Near LoC



KO NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA: In an extraordinary display of dedication and commitment to public service, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Aushi Sudan on Saturday chaired a Public Darbar in an inaccessible and far-flung area, Jumagand, to listen to the grievances of the people.

Despite the logistical challenges posed by the location near the LOC and the harsh winter conditions, the DC along with SSP Kupwara, Yugal Manhas, ACD Kupwara Dr Mudassir, Tehsildar Tregham and all other concerned officers of the District Administration, successfully conducted the Public Darbar.

During the Public Darbar, residents had the opportunity to voice their grievances directly to the DC on wide variety of issues ranging from road, electricity, promotion of tourism, shortage of staff in School,

non-availability of ambulance, scaling up of the ration quota to old age pension etc.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that it is encouraging to see youth showing interest on wide variety of the issues. She assured the locals that a special Kisan Sampark Abhiyan will be carried out in the Area and Viksit Bharat Van will also be coming again to generate awareness among the masses about welfare schemes of the govt.

DC said that all the corrective measure will be taken to address issues of Education, Health and electricity etc and tourism infrastructure will also be created to bring this area at par with other border areas like Keran and Karnah. However, she emphasised that given the unique geographical challenges of the area, agriculture and education are the two very promising areas to invest in for the economic development of the area.

Baramulla Figures Among Top Performers Under ADP; Report

KO NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: Under the Aspirational Districts Programme, District Baramulla has ranked among top performers under key thematic area of 'Basic Infrastructure' as per the report issued by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), for the month of September 2023.

Baramulla District as such has secured an additional funding of Rs. 3 crore from NITI Aayog for the developmental purposes under any of the already set 5 thematic areas viz. Education, Health and Nutrition, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, Basic Infrastructure, and Agricultural and Water Resources.

In acknowledgment of this remarkable achievement, the Additional Secretary NITI Aayog, Venn-

ecaganti Radha, IAS, has extended her congratulations and appreciation to the District Team responsible for execution of the programme and Central Prabhari Officers for outstanding performance.

District Administration Baramulla, conveyed heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, and Chief Secretary Atul Dullo for the unwavering support extended by the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration in accomplishing this significant feat.

While congratulating the district team for their accomplishment, the DC underscored that this achievement was a product of the combined efforts of its officers and expressed his confidence that, collectively, the District can chart a course toward elevated development.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

REGAL LANE LAL CHOWK SRINAGAR
Email: -eerrwsmc@gmail.com

FRESH SHORT TERM
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No. 46 of 2023-2024 | Dated: 16.01.2024

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on a percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned works.

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in lacs	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender documents	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor	AA order No	T.S. Order No. dated
01	Typical Ramp at Makarpora Khanyar (community Hall at Makarpora),	0.31	208	620	02 Weeks	Internal Resource	DEE	Order No. 1691 of 2023 dated: 19.12.2023	Technical Sanction No. 542of 2023-24 Dated:-20-12-2023
02	Construction of ramp at polling station for person with disabilities at various spots at Lal Chowk (Municipal office Saddar Court, Court Road) and at Batpora Community Hall)	0.63	212	1260	02 Weeks	Internal Resource	DEE	Order No. 1691 of 2023 dated: 19.12.2023	Technical Sanction No. 546of 2023-24 Dated:-20-12-2023

Position of AAA: Accorded, Technical Sanction: Accorded

The NITeT consists of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the date schedule given below:-

S. No.	Particulars	Date from to
1	Date of publication of e-portal	16.1.2024
2	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said e-NIT	16.1.2024 from 06:00 PM
3	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	16.1.2024 from 06:00 PM
4	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission Ends	24.1.2024 at 06:00 PM
5	Date of Bid opening	25.01.2024 at 11:00 AM
6	Date of Submission of Uploaded documents (Hard Copies) by Successful Bidder including Bid Security (CDR/FDR), Tender document fee.	27.01.2024 up to 04:00 PM

Note: - (The Date of EMD/Challan must be from the date of start of bid upto Bid Submission End date, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any scheduled Bank without which no tender will be entertained. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 021601020000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned and Division name Viz RWRD) and Earnest Money/ bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earnest money/bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date). The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F./A/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Details as given below:-
- Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/ Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT No, SNO and RWRD viz. NIT 03, SNO. 10, RWRD)
- For one particular work, only one Bank Receipt / challan (not more than one) of the exact amount of tender fees (neither lesser nor greater) as shown against that particular work must be paid and uploaded with the tenders. The same tender fees paid / uploaded for a particular work should not be again used / uploaded for any other work in the NITeT (i.e. one Bank Receipt / Bank Challan for one work only)
- Tender Fee and other relevant documents including Bid security (CDR/ FDR) duly filled up, if found uploaded, with any ambiguity or in-attended correction /over writing for any work such tender /bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action under rules shall be initiated.
- Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided.
- The participating agencies/ contractors are advised in their own interest not to resort to any cheating while submitting and uploading the tender document Fees or any other document.

The bidders are requested to upload following documents:
 Tender fees.
 EMD in the shape of CDR and FDR.
 Registration card and its latest renewal.
 Verification of Registration Card from competent Authority Latest GST clearance.
 PAN Card.
 Correspondence Address of the Agency with active Mobile No.
 Bank Account details (16-digit Bank Account No, Branch office, IFSC code)
 Any other document required to be uploaded as per the NITeT.

- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an E-mail message on their email address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer, Right River Works Division, SMC (Regal Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar) or in the office of the Informatics officer, SMC (Karan Nagar Srinagar). In case of holidays/ offices happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, or there is any Net problem the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The lowest successful bidder has to furnish 5% of the contract value/ allotted cost as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR immediately after opening of tenders. The performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after DLP is successfully over. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR shall be released after performance security is received. The earnest money in favour of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Bank Receipts/challans.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if -
 a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications to the terms and conditions of the bid.
 b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No: SMC/EERRWD/2219-25 Sd/-
 Dated:- 16-01-24 Executive Engineer
 DPK-NB-5330-23 Right River Works Division
 DT: 20/01/2024 Srinagar Municipal Corporation

J&K Junior Girls Cycle Polo Team Leaves For Nationals



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Junior Girls Cycle Polo team has embarked on a journey to Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, to participate in the 26th Junior National Cycle Polo Championship 2024. The championship, organised by the Cycle Polo Federation of India and Madhya Pradesh Cycle Polo Association, is scheduled from 20th to 22nd January 2024.

The talented team was selected through rigorous trials at Gindun Stadium, Raj Bagh, and team screening at Bakshi Stadium by J&K Sports Council. The Junior Girls Cycle Polo team comprises Bibi Toyeeba, Dar Iflah, Fiza Kounsar, Dar Jaziba, Taheera, Sadaf Arif, Dar Irtiza and Nihana Nazir. The team is under the guidance of coach Vilayat Hussain and team manager Iqra Mushtaq, and they were ceremoniously flagged off by General Secretary Sheikh Zulfikar.

TATA Group Retains IPL Title Sponsorship Rights

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Saturday that the TATA Group will now have the title rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL). It added that the TATA Group has retained the title rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL). It added that the TATA Group will now have the title rights for the 2024-28 cycle for a record-breaking value of INR 2500 crore—the highest-ever sponsorship amount in the history of the league.

"We are elated to announce the partnership with the TATA Group as the Title Sponsors of the IPL. The league has transcended borders, captivating audiences worldwide with its unmatched blend of skill, excitement, and entertainment. Similarly, the TATA Group, rooted in India, has emerged as a symbol of excellence, making its mark across diverse global sectors."



"This collaboration embodies the spirit of growth, innovation, and a mutual dedication to excellence. The unprecedented financial commitment reflects the immense scale and global impact of the IPL on the international sports stage," said Jay Shah, Honorary Secretary of BCCI, in a statement. The TATA Group previously held the title sponsorship rights for the IPL in 2022 and 2023, as Chinese smartphone company Vivo chose to withdraw from the deal. It is also the title sponsor of the Women's Premier League (WPL), which was launched in 2023. The TATA Group paid INR 670 crore collectively for the last two IPL seasons title sponsorship.

J&K Sniff Victory In Ranji Tie Against Odisha

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K senior men's cricket team capped off two brilliant days of Ranji Trophy cricket to enter Day 3 against hosts Odisha in a strong position at DRIEMS Ground in Tangi, Cuttack. After bowling out Odisha for 130, the team ended Day 1 precariously placed at 45/4, with all opening four batters gone. J&K's lower-order came to the rescue and was ably led by all rounder Abid Mush-



taq 50 (51) and Umar Nazir Mir 25 (23) to bring them to 180/10 in 45.4 overs. For Odisha, Rajesh Mohanty picked

up 5 wickets.

With a slender 50 runs lead, the J&K bowlers had reduced Odisha to 126/7 in 43 overs at the end of Day 2. Rohit Sharma, Umar Nazir Mir and Aquib Nabi took 2 wickets each, while Umran Malik chipped in with 1 wicket. For Odisha, Sandeep Pattnaik 47* (108) was holding the fort, as the team led J&K by 76 runs.

J&K would hope to keep the chasing total to under 100 runs, as the wicket at DRIEMS Ground seems to favour pace.

U-19 WC: India Outclass Bangladesh

Press Trust of India

BLOEMFONTEIN: Left-arm spinners Saumy Kumar Pandey and Musheer Khan headlined a dominant Indian performance as the defending champions outclassed Bangladesh by 84 runs in their opening game of the ICC U-19 World Cup here Saturday.

While the total of 251 for 7 didn't look big, the two Indian spinners choked the run-flow, shooting out 'Tiger Cubs' for a meagre 167 in 45.5 overs.

Skipper Uday Saharan (64 off 94 balls) and left-handed opener Adarsh Singh (76 off 96 balls) hit half-centuries after Bangladesh invited the holders to take first strike.

Saumy (4/24) was economical and bowled the lethal arm ball with a skiddy action while all-rounder Musheer (2/35) tossed it up and got enough drift to tighten the noose around Bangladeshi batters.

Musheer, younger brother Mumbai's domestic stalwart Sarfaraz Khan, was a livewire on the field. He also effected a run-out.

What was impressive to see was no overt celebrations from



either Saumy or Musheer, who carried on their job like thoroughbred professionals.

It was a fairly ill-tempered match with players from both sides indulging in sledging as the two teams have history of tension across senior men, senior women and U-19 level.

For Indian team, it was a sweet revenge after losing the Asia Cup semi-final to Bangladesh.

While the Indian batters found it difficult to get boundaries, the target was never below par as average score of teams batting first in Youth ODIs (U-19 ODI) at this ground was 201, and the

highest successful chase being 243.

In fact, India's 251/7 on the day was the third highest score at this ground.

The team's designated finisher Sachin Dhas showed admirable technique and temperament during death overs with a nice little unbeaten cameo of 26 off 20 balls that took the score past 250-run mark. The pulled six off seamer Rohanat Doullah Borson was a treat for the eyes.

This despite allowing Bangladeshi bowlers to bowl dot balls worth 26 overs during their innings.

After Divorce With Sania Mirza, Shoaib Malik Ties Knot With Actor Sana Javed



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan's former captain Shoaib Malik announced on Saturday that he has married a second time to the country's popular actor Sana Javed in Karachi after getting divorced from Sania Mirza.

The cricketer who was previously married to Indian tennis star, Sania, with whom he has a son, released a photograph on a social media platform with his new wife, with the words "And We created you in pairs".

Their five-year-old son Izaan lives with Sania.

Sania's father Imran Mirza told PTI that "it was a 'khula'", which refers to the right of a Muslim woman to unilaterally divorce her husband.

There have been strong rumours since 2022 about differences between Shoaib and Sania leading to a split, and they have rarely been seen together in the last couple of years.

Just a few days back Malik also unfollowed the Indian star on Instagram.

Shoaib and Sania had got married in Hyderabad in the Indian player's hometown Hyderabad in April 2010 and they

used to live in Dubai. But, two months earlier, reports about their divorce emerged.

Sania, one of India's greatest tennis players has announced her retirement last year.

In a career spanning 20 years, where she won 43 WTA doubles titles and one singles trophy, Sania was seen as a trailblazer for women in sport.

PCB Chief Zaka Ashraf Resigns Over Lack Of Power

Pakistan cricket chief Zaka Ashraf resigned on Friday citing lack of powers to administer the board, meaning a fourth change will come into force in 13 months.

A ten-man management committee took over the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after former captain Ramiz Raja was sacked as chairman in December 2022.

Ashraf left the post after a management committee meeting in Lahore on Friday.

"We can't work with our hands tied, so I am resigning from the post," Ashraf told local media. "I wanted to do work for the betterment of cricket in Pakistan."

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR

— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —

DIL KE EHSAAAS

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