

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday 24 January 2024 | Srinagar | Vol: 27 | Issue: 20 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

## Anticipation Peaks In Kashmir

# Winter Bliss Expected By Month-End



Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** As people are longing to bid adieu to the prolonged dry spell in Kashmir, the weather office has forecasted the possibility of light snowfall at places in the valley from Thursday afternoon to January 31. Residents eagerly prayed for a respite from the impact this extended dry period has had on various sectors, the upcoming snowfall holds the promise of answering those heartfelt prayers.

The delay in snowfall has created a sense of longing among tourists also who had envisioned a snowy landscape during their visit to Kashmir. Media reports quoted many tourists hoping that the magic of winter will soon unfold.

The Met has said that the dry weather is likely to continue till January 24.

A private weather forecaster (Kashmir Weather) on Tuesday predicted a possible light to moderate snowfall

over high reaches of Kashmir under the influence of first Western Disturbance, while it said the higher reaches of Ladakh may witness light snowfall between 25th and 26th January.

While ruling out any major weather disturbance said that light rain/snow showers can occur over plains of Kashmir on 26th of January.

He said the second Western Disturbances are expected from 28-January to 30th January, which may cause moderate snowfall over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir with Doodhpathri, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Gurez, Sinthan Top and Peer Ki Gali having chances of heavy snowfall.

During the second Western Disturbances, the plains of Kashmir may witness light to moderate rain/snow with few inches of snowfall possible over some plains. Jammu may witness light to moderate rain showers and snowfall over the higher reaches | [More on P6](#)

## Public Grievances Redressal Programme In South Kashmir 90% Of Terrorism Originates From Outside J&K : DGP

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Cross-border infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir remains a challenge for the forces, but the security situation is under control, Director General of Police R R Swain said on Tuesday.

"The security situation is under control. The biggest aspect of security is law and order, and we think that we have been able to control the public order on roads, etc," Swain told reporters on the sidelines of a Public Grievances Redressal Programme at Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The DGP said cross-border infiltration is a challenge for the security forces.

"Yes, it is a challenge for



us that a few terrorists are coming in from outside. They are infiltrating and then along with some people here, they try to vitiate the atmosphere. It is a challenge - one which we see with a different perspective.

"We see it the way that our own | [More on P6](#)

## 1200 Applications Received, Concerns Addressed

**P**ublic Darbar held by the Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain is emerging as a beneficial initiative, providing a direct platform for the public to raise concerns, seek assistance and engage with law enforcement. People say this approach promotes transparency and community involvement, and further strengthens the relationship between the police and the public. According to the news agency | [More on P6](#)

# Women, Youths Can Rid Country Of Corruption, Dynasticism: PM

Says We Have The Capability Of Providing Solution To World's Challenges

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said nepotism, dynasticism and corruption in politics impeded India's development after independence and called on people, especially women and the youth, to end these "evils".

Speaking at a function to celebrate the 127th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Modi said the twin evils of nepotism and dynasticism started dominating India's democracy after independence.

"Netaji had said that if we want to make India great, the foundation of political democracy and democratic society should be strong. But unfortunately, after independence, his idea came under severe attack," the



prime minister said.

Modi said Netaji understood very well the challenges facing the country and warned everyone about them.

"After independence, evils like nepotism and dynasticism started

dominating India's democracy. This has also been a major reason why India could not develop at the pace it should have," Modi said.

He said India's youth and women power can free the

**6 AFTER INDEPENDENCE, EVILS LIKE NEPOTISM and dynasticism started dominating India's democracy. This has also been a major reason why India could not develop at the pace it should have."**

## Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas Inspired By Lord Ram: PM

Observer News Service

**New Delhi:** The mantra of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas' is inspired by Lord Ram, wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi in response to President Droupadi Murmu's letter to him. "The results of this mantra are visible everywhere today. In the last decade, the country, it has succeeded in bringing 25 crore people out of poverty," he wrote.

"Lord Ram has given the inspiration of sabka saath, sabka saath, sabka vishwas aur sabka prayas (everyone's support, everyone's development, everyone's faith and everyone's effort)," he said. "The ideals of Lord

Ram give us constant energy to work for welfare and empowerment of the poor".

**I have returned from there with an Ayodhya in my heart."**

Ms Murmu had written a two-page letter to the Prime Minister on the eve of the inauguration of the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya and called the nationwide celebratory atmosphere around the event an "uninhibited expression of the eternal soul of India". [PM Modi | More on P6](#)

## Ladakh Bodies Submit Draft To Home Ministry Demand Statehood, Sixth Schedule

KO Web Desk

**Srinagar:** The Apex Body of Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance have submitted a detailed draft to the Ministry of Home Affairs and urged the government to grant full statehood and 6th Schedule for Ladakh. This was informed by Chering Dorjee, Co-Chairman of the Apex Body while addressing a press conference.

This comes after a meeting was held on December 4, which was chaired by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai. Both bodies were asked to submit a comprehensive draft of demands to the ministry.

The draft explains that keeping in view history,



strategic importance, environmental significance, similarity with other States in the North East and various other parameters, Ladakh deserves to be granted statehood.

"Doing so will not only enhance the political representation and empower the locals, but it will also help

the locals manifest their aspirations within the democratic framework and also foster a sense of belonging and participation in the nation-building process," claimed Chering Dorjee.

Stating that Ladakh is a Tribal majority area with a fragile environment, he said that | [More on P6](#)

## FCIK Seeks Financial Amnesty for J&K Industries

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has solicited endorsement of the LG administration to the Union government for the grant of amnesty concerning defaults in Goods and Services Tax (GST), Employees Provident Fund (EPF), Employees State Insurance (ESI), and Income Tax.

The FCIK statement was released on the heels of a scheduled meeting of a delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir government, under the leadership of the Chief Secretary,

with the Union Finance Ministry in connection with interim budget consultations.

While reiterating these demands, FCIK stated that due to the intensification of perpetual stress over the past several years, a substantial number of industrial enterprises in Jammu and Kashmir had defaulted in regular filing of returns and remission of timely payment towards GST, EPF, ESI, and Income Tax.

"These defaulters include those units which have been under perpetual stress for a long time and have also rendered sick for multiple | [More on P6](#)

## Republic Day Function Multi-layer Security Apparatus In Place Around Venues

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Security has been tightened in Kashmir ahead of Republic Day to ensure smooth and peaceful celebrations in the valley, with police and other security personnel carrying out sanitisation and area domination exercises, officials said on Tuesday.

Police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in the city and other district headquarters, they said. Checkpoints



have been established at various places in Srinagar,

especially at the entry points of the city and other

districts, they said.

Security forces were conducting random checking of vehicles and frisking of people to thwart the movement of subversive elements, they said.

While the main Republic Day function will take place in Jammu which will be presided by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the biggest function in the valley will be held at Bakshi Stadium here. Similar functions will be

## Police To Conduct Anti-Sabotage Check At Railway Stations

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Security has been tightened in Kashmir ahead of Republic Day to ensure smooth and peaceful celebrations in the valley, with police and other security personnel carrying out sanitisation and area domination exercises, officials said on Tuesday.

Police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in the city and other district headquarters, they said. Checkpoints

**A**mid major security beef-up ahead of Republic Day celebrations here, the Jammu and Kashmir police will be conducting an anti-sabotage check of railway assets. These directions were passed by Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Railways, Sunil Kumar during a security review meeting here this evening. The ADGP directed all the officers to ensure that Anti-Sabotage Check of railway stations, railway tracks and surrounding areas are being | [More on P6](#)

## Sarpanch's Killing In Bhandarwah SC Upholds Man's Acquittal After 16 Yrs Of Incarceration

M Ahmad

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court of India has upheld acquittal of a man who had "suffered incarceration for nearly 16 years" before walking out of jail in connection with a case regarding killing of a Sarpanch in Bhandarwah district in 2002.

"We have reservation with the observations made in the impugned judgment qua Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which are not in accord with the settled legal position. Even on merits the findings are

debatable," said a bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta.

"However, it is pointed out to us that the respondent, Tariq Mattoo, has suffered actual incarceration for nearly 16 years and is not involved in any other case/ offence. Furthermore, the respondent Tariq Mattoo has not been involved in any offence post his release on the directions of the High Court in the impugned judgment".

In the above circumstances, the court said, "we are not inclined to issue notice in the present special leave petition." "We also | [More on P6](#)

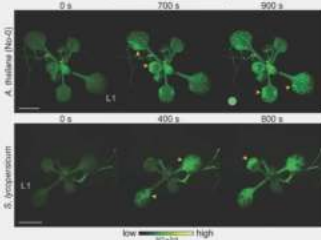
## On Camera: For First Time Scientists Capture Plants 'Talking' To Each Other In Face Of Danger

KO Web Desk

**Srinagar:** Since the 1980s, scientists have known that neighboring plants communicate with each other as soon as any danger or attack is detected in their vicinity. However, scientists didn't understand exactly how plants received these warning messages from their neighbors.

Now, a team of scientists from Japan has made an incredible discovery,

capturing real-time footage of plants "talking" to each other. According to Science Alert, plants are surrounded by a fine mist of airborne compounds that they use to communicate. These compounds are like smells and warn plants of danger nearby. The video recorded by the Japanese scientists has revealed how plants receive and respond to these aerial alarms. This significant achievement, led by molecular biologist



**6 PLANTS PERCEIVE VOCs RELEASED BY MECHANICALLY OR HERBIVORE-DAMAGED neighbouring plants and induce various defence responses. Such interplant communication protects plants from environmental threats."**

Masatsugu Toyota from Saitama University, was published in the journal Nature Communications. Other members of the team included Yuri Aratani, a PhD student, and Takuya Uemura, a

postdoctoral researcher. The team observed how an undamaged plant responded to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released by plants damaged by insects or otherwise. "Plants perceive VOCs

released by mechanically or herbivore-damaged neighbouring plants and induce various defence responses. Such interplant communication protects plants from environmental threats," the authors said in the study.

To capture the communication, these scientists used an air pump connected to a container of leaves and caterpillars, and another box with Arabidopsis thaliana, a common weed from the

mustard family. Science Alert said that caterpillars were allowed to feed on leaves cut from tomato plants and Arabidopsis thaliana, and the researchers captured the responses of a second, intact, insect-free Arabidopsis plant to those danger cues. The researchers had added a biosensor that glowed green and calcium ions were detected. Calcium signalling is something | [More on P6](#)

## J&K's Final Electoral Rolls Out 2.31 Lakh Voters Added Agencies

**Srinagar:** The final electoral rolls have been published here today in all Polling Stations, offices of Electoral Registration Officers, District Election Officers and hosted on the website of Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir with addition of 2.31 lakh new voters.

According to a press hand-out issued by the office of Chief Electoral Officer in this regard, 86,000 names have been deleted because of death, shifting or other reasons besides correction in details of 1.45 lakh electors during the process. As of now, there are 86.93 lakh electors including 44.35 lakh male and 42.58 lakh female voters. The elector population ratio has improved from 0.59 to 0.60 and gender ratio from 924 to 954.

As per the detailed directions of Election Commission of India (ECI), the process of Special Summary Revision of Electoral Roll with qualifying date as 1st January, 2024 was carried out. The process involved two major stages, the first stage was with regard to training of EROs, AEROs, BLOs etc., house to house visits by BLOs and rationalization of Polling Stations which was carried out from June to September, 2023. During the process, as per the criteria of the ECI, 259 new Polling Stations were | [More on P6](#)

## Minor Booked For Derogatory Social Media Post

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** A minor was booked on Tuesday for allegedly posting derogatory content on social media in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, police said.

Acting promptly against a derogatory social media post, an FIR was registered at Chattroo police station against a minor who posted the content, they said.

The police cyber cell is continuously monitoring all social media activities and strict action will be taken against those found violating cyber laws, officials said.









## Srinagar Techies Develop "Rakt Daan" App To Facilitate Blood Donation

Observer News Service  
Srinagar: To ease off the process of blood donation, two techies from Srinagar have developed an app "Rakt Daan" to ensure the accessibility of blood for the needy. Usman Tareen and Naveed Showkat Malik from Srinagar through this app connect donors with individuals in need. "The inaccessibility of blood in Kashmir and the lack of a coordinated blood donation program led to the development of this app. People frequently use social media to request blood and make donations, which is not streamlined. So, we developed this App to make blood donation and its accessibility simpler," Usman, one of the developers said.

Naveed, another developer of the app, said that the app offers a more straightforward registration process for blood donors. "A person can register as a blood donor and provide his location through a fairly easy process. When a recipient in the same vicinity needs blood, his or her name will appear. The beneficiary won't require permission, but we will get in contact with the giver to authorize his registration," he said. The app's developers reported that after a month, they are receiving positive feedback from users. "Rakt Daan is run non-profitably by our company, Web Solved, with a focus on social causes rather than financial gain. We want more people to sign up for this app so that everyone who requires blood is saved," Naveed said. The developers are now planning to make Rakt Daan available throughout India. "We're dedicated to transforming society for the better by applying our knowledge in digital technology. We want to empower communities to save lives together by developing a strong network of blood donors through Rakt Daan," Usman said.



Stray canines in quest of food, made their way to the middle of the Jhelum River, water level of which has dropped to an all-time low amid prolonged dry spell in Kashmir. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Amid Dry Weather, Special Prayers Held On Urs Syed Taajdin

Observer News Service  
Srinagar: The residents of Nowhatta in the old city gathered for special prayers on Tuesday, seeking divine intervention for an end to the prolonged dry spell, during the Urs-e-Mubarak of Hazrat Abul Hassan Mir Syed Taajdin Hamadani (R.A.).

The spiritual atmosphere filled the air as the community came together at the Nowhatta shrine to honor the revered Hazrat Abul Hassan Mir Syed Taajdin Hamadani (R.A.), marking the auspicious occasion of Urs-e-Mubarak.

Devotees said that special prayers were held today amidst the prolonged dry spell in Kashmir. Moreover, Salat-ul-Itisqa to seek rain and snow was offered at multiple places so far while the people also prepared Sas-Ras at different places.

## Noorbagh-Qamarwari Bridge Nears Completion After 13 Yrs

Observer News Service  
Srinagar: The much-awaited Noorbagh-Qamarwari Bridge in Srinagar, a project in progress for nearly 13 years, is finally approaching its conclusion, as per officials from the Roads Building and Bridges (R&B) department.

Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir, Sajad Ahmad Nageeb, informed that the project, which was marred by delays, is now expected to be completed by June this year. Speaking about the project's 13-year timeline, Nageeb said they faced the primary challenge of rehabilitating shopkeepers in the area, which has now been addressed. "The construction is in full swing, and we hope the long-awaited project will be completed by June of this year," the Chief Engineer said.

## NIT Srinagar ECE Student Dies Of 'Heart Attack'

Observer News Service  
Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday condoned the sudden demise of Samridhi Gupta, a student of the Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) Department, who left for heavenly abode on Monday. Hailing from the Bakshi Nagar area of Jammu, Samridhi was a 7th Semester student from the ECE 3030 Batch and was in her final year. As per the family, she succumbed due to cardiac arrest. Describing Samridhi's passing away as both untimely and sorrowful, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath conveyed his deep grief and offered prayers for peace and mercy for the departed soul. He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for them to find the strength and forbearance to cope with the loss.

اورنگ تاجب تعمیرات گہری  
معاون مہتمم درخواست لائسنس لاء گہری دھگر جب تعمیر گہری ساگر گہری پورہ  
تفصیل گہری برآمدگی CBC سرٹیفیکیشن تین فرسٹ مسٹ جان

ایشیاد برآمدگی کالی برنامہ دام  
معاون مہتمم ان الصود میں دروست مسکن خزانہ میں نہ کاروائی ہے اس سبب پڑاری  
مقرر سے پورٹ نہیں مقرر ہو سکتا ہے۔ یہ کارڈ پڑا جب تک کہ اس سے کہاں ہوتے کہ سرائل  
موشی گہری پورہ تعمیر گہری کارکنوں سے کہیں سالانہ آمدنی مبلغ  
390380 روپیہ تک ہے۔ کہہ سگیاں بڑی فراہم مہتمم ہے۔

لاہور سرائل گہری دھگر جب تعمیر گہری 35 سال  
دور کھوجہ جیٹا سرائل گہری 50 سال  
گہری کھوجہ  
مسٹ جان پڑا سرائل گہری 31 سال  
گہری کھوجہ  
پورہ سرائل گہری دھگر جب تعمیر گہری 27 سال  
گہری کھوجہ  
گہری سرائل گہری دھگر جب تعمیر گہری 25 سال  
گہری کھوجہ

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی فراہم نہیں ملتا اور کیا ہے سرٹیفیکیشن اور پورٹ اور کرنے میں  
اگر کوئی بھی فراہم نہیں ملتا اور کیا ہے سرٹیفیکیشن اور پورٹ اور کرنے میں  
کریں۔ یہ کارڈ کرنے کے بعد کوئی پڑا سرائل گہری قابل قبول اس ہوگا۔

تاجب تعمیرات  
kri

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Tel: 01933-247954/247955 Website: www.iust.ac.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/23/TEND/TOE-WALL/13, Dated: 23-01-2024.

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K UT, E-Tenders (In Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with JSK UT Govt. / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following work.

Name of work: Construction of Toe Wall and Stone pitching at Girls Hostel site at IUST Campus-II.	
Advertised Cost of Construction	Rs. 19,90,141/-
Class of Contract	Class "B & C".
Bid submission Start Date	23-01-2024.
Bid submission End Date	03-02-2024 Up to 6:00 pm.
Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy).	05-02-2024 From 10:00 am Up to 4:00 pm

Bids shall be opened at IUST on **06-02-2024 at 11:00 am.**  
Tender document can be downloaded from website. (<https://itenders.gov.in>)  
Detailed Tender Notice is available on university website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in)

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer, IUST

DIPK-NB-5359/23 dated: 23-01-2024

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora**  
Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: xephemchsouthawp@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE 5th

Subject: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora under JIM.

Reference: This Office ENIT No: 3s of 2023-24 Dated: 24-11-2023 Issued vide No.: JS/DMSA/5045-63 Dated: 24/11/2023.

Due to poor/no response of the above subjected works, advertised vide this office eNIT under reference, the date of opening/bidding of the bids of these works is hereby extended upto 03/02/2024 (04:00 PM) and the opening date of the Technical Bid is 05/02/2024 (2:00 PM). Other terms and conditions of the ENIT shall remain same.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division  
South Awantipora

No: MDSA/6518-20  
DIPK-15526/23 Dated: 23/01/2024

GRATITUDE

We are grateful to all those who offered condolences by visiting us or through other means on the sad demise of late Ajaz Hussain of 88 Balgarden, Srinagar on 18th January 2024. We deeply appreciate your expression of sympathy. Thank you for your support at this difficult time. Thank you all for your prayers and thoughts.

BEREAVED FAMILY  
Fazal Ali (son)  
Cell: 9419015630  
Suhail Murtaza (son-in-law)  
Cell: 9419010238

Your FINANCIAL FIX

Investing Ethically  
Sharia-Compliant Banking In India  
Irshad Mushtaq

Sharia-compliant banking, also known as interest-free banking, operates based on the principles of neither charging interest to depositors nor billing borrowers for any interest on loans. Islamic finance includes various products such as Mudarabah (profit sharing), Musharakah (joint venture), Murabahah (cost plus profit), Ijara (leasing on lease), Takaful (Islamic insurance), and Sukuk (Islamic bonds).

Reports indicate that approximately 300 banks and 250 mutual funds worldwide adhere to Islamic ethics, expanding beyond Muslim-majority nations to include China, Germany, the UK, and the US. While the Reserve Bank of India has decided against introducing Islamic banking for the time being, individuals in India can opt to invest in Shariah-compliant mutual funds or directly in Shariah-compliant shares (Halal Shares). Stock screening services are available through Taqwa Advisory And Shariah Investment Solutions (TASIS) at tasis.in to assist in this process, making it accessible to individuals. Furthermore, the Shariah Board of TASIS, considered highly qualified and experienced in the field of Fiqh Al-Madani (Islamic jurisprudence of commerce and finance), provides Shariah consultancy services in Europe, North America, and Africa.

The establishment of the Shariah 50 Index and CNX 500 Shariah Index by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in India follows the guidelines of the Indian Shariah advisory board. Notably, shares from companies involved in prohibited activities such as alcohol, conventional banks involved in interest, insurance, gambling, and related activities are excluded from Shariah-compliant shares, while businesses involved in sectors like automobile, construction, software, cement, oil, paint, electrical, etc., remain permissible under Sharia Law.

Historically, Shariah-compliant shares have shown outstanding investment performance over the long term, surpassing records across all asset classes in the Indian stock market. Companies involved in activities such as conventional banking and debt are excluded from Shariah-compliant shares, while well-established Shariah-compliant companies are recommended for potentially substantial long-term returns, despite potential short-term volatility. Additionally, investing in Shariah-based mutual funds, such as the Tata Ethical Fund, is recommended due to its Shariah compliance and strong fundamentals.

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

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- FD: 0194-2452023
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service : +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS  
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 0194230331

RAILWAYS  
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259  
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243  
BARAMULLA: 01994-102029  
BISHERA: 01932-228243  
PAMPPORE: 01933-294132  
PATTAN: 01954-293507  
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATIONS  
Sgr-Jammu Highway - (Open)  
Mughal Road - (Open)  
Srinagar-Leh - (Open)

PRAYERS  
FAJR 6:06  
ZUHR 12:43  
ASR 4:15  
Magrib 5:56  
ISHA 7:19

HIJRI CALENDAR  
12 Rajab  
1445



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Wednesday | 24-01-2024

## Towards Democracy

Jammu and Kashmir has registered a total of 86.93 lakh voters, as of the qualifying date on January 01, 2024. Chief Electoral Officer P K Pole on Monday revealed that the current count comprises 44.35 lakh male and 42.58 lakh female voters, bringing the electoral population ratio to 0.60, a slight improvement from 0.59. The gender ratio has increased from 924 to 954. This marks the third revision of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir, following the completion of the delimitation exercise on May 05, 2022.

This should hopefully pave the way for the long-awaited Assembly elections. The democratic representation of the people in Jammu and Kashmir is currently facing a hiatus across various institutions. The absence of Rajya Sabha members, impending conclusion of the tenure of all 5 Lok Sabha representatives, abolition of the 36-member J&K Legislative Council in August 2019, and the prolonged 10-year gap before the upcoming elections for the 90-member J&K Legislative Assembly by September 2024, all contribute to absence of regional voices in democratic processes.

Moreover, the terms of the 4,100 Panchayats with 40,000 Panches and Sarpanches have expired, along with the conclusion of terms for all Block Development Councils (BDCs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), including the prominent Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Jammu Municipal Corporation. The only exception lies with the 3rd tier of Panchayati Raj Institutions, the District Development Councils (DDCs), which have a remaining term of two years.

The looming question in 2024 revolves around whether elections will be conducted across these democratic institutions, with the exception of DDCs. The necessity for timely elections in J&K is critical to reinstating a functional and representative democracy in the region. It is crucial to address the current void in various legislative bodies and local governance structures, ensuring that the people of the union territory regain their rightful representation in the democratic framework.

True, the upcoming parliament polls offer an opportunity to people in the UT to exercise their democratic. But the delay in Assembly elections prolongs the absence of a locally accountable government, which does impact the implementation of policies tailored to address the unique challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir. Like the rest of the country, the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a democratic government for voicing their grievances and aspirations through elected representatives who can engage in legislative processes and policymaking.

# J&K DGP's Public Grievance Redressal Programme

This is best example of community policing which must be replicated by District SP's , SDPOs and SHOs as well



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Accumen Fellow. He is Founder and Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement  
Feedback: bhatajammuzaffar@gmail.com

Soon after assuming charge of the Director General of J&K Police (DGP) R R Swain announced that he will hold two-hour public grievance meetings twice every month. J&K Police spokesperson on November 18th 2023 in an official statement said: "On learning that many citizens have been coming to the Police Headquarters to get their grievances redressed, with some of them raising concerns over lack of clarity about the procedure to meet the DGP, it was decided that on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, two hours would be reserved (2 PM To 4 PM) for meeting persons who have grievances pertaining to police administration".

While stressing upon the aggrieved people to first approach the field officers like SHOs, Sub Division Police Officers-SDPOs or District SPs, the police spokesman in the statement added that directly approaching the DGP without giving an opportunity to the officers concerned in the field is not a healthy practice.

"Hence, it was decided that priority would be given to those who had approached field police units and yet their grievances remain unresolved", the statement added.

The DGP started his public grievance redressal program from Srinagar and then held another one at Jammu. This was followed by several other programmes in Srinagar, Jammu and at district level as well. He visited Kupwara and Awantipura to meet the people. On December 16th 2023 around 300 persons attended the public grievance redressal camp at PHQ Srinagar.

Aggrieved citizens who visit these grievance redressal camps appreciated the DGPs approach and social media, news channels carried several such interviews.

All Mohammad an aggrieved citizen while talking to a local news agency KNO said:

"It could have taken me months to get a meeting fixed with the DGP to seek redressal of my grievance, but this programme has brought a platform for the people to seek the intervention of top authorities to get their issues resolved within a shortest possible time."

The public outreach programmes are unique and previous DGPs were not focussed on such interactions and that is why these meetings continue to receive an overwhelming response. In PHQ Jammu on December 23rd 2023 DGP met the public for 5 hours and during this time he met with 237 individuals, including women and senior citizens. In many cases

the DGP issued on-spot orders to various police wings to ensure redressal of the grievances.

### Community Policing

The DGPs interaction with aggrieved citizens is not only meant to address their grievances but he gets a great public feedback as well about functioning of the police department and its different units. These meetings with different people from different backgrounds and areas give it a shape of Community Policing which is held in collaboration and partnership with the community as a whole. The essence of community policing is to reduce the gap amongst the police and citizens to such a degree that the policemen become a combined part of the community which they serve. They get recognition and confidence from the society which further results in unstructured collaboration and cooperation from the people. The community policing does bridge the gap between amn and police but at the same time this sends warning signals to the criminal elements as well. Due to lack of interaction between common man and police, the blue-eyed people or influential people get access to police which is not at all good for better policing. This leads to corruption and favouritism as common man feels isolated and develops negative perceptions about police, especially at Thana level.

Community Policing first demands that everyone in the police department and the civilians must investigate ways to translate the philosophy of power-sharing into practice. This demands making a subtle but sophisticated shift so that everyone in the department understands the need to focus on solving community problems in creative, and often ways, that can include challenging and enlightening people in the process of policing themselves.

Community policing implies a shift within the department that grants greater autonomy (freedom to make decisions) to line officers, which also implies enhanced respect for their judgment as police professionals. Within the community, citizens must share in the rights and responsibilities implicit in identifying, prioritizing, and solving problems, as full-fledged partners with the police.

### Building Public Trust

The community involvement in policing has a tremendous importance for building public trust and increasing police capabilities to fight crime. This will also help to build an effective police-public relation as well. The important

and key element in community policing is to build public trust and the proven path to this is right composition of the Civil Society Committees, and by having regular meetings attended by both the public and police. I would appreciate it if the initiative taken by DGP R R Swain is replicated at Thana level, sub division level or district level as well. It needs dedicated meetings between police and public spirited citizens held at least once or twice a month. Such meetings will help promote cooperation between the police and the public in fulfilling the needs of the community regarding policing. This will also promote communication between the police and the community and improve the rendering of police services to the community at the state, district and local level. Lastly, it will improve transparency and accountability of the police before the community and promote joint problem identification and problem-solving by the police and the community.

### Conclusion

At a time when Jammu & Kashmir is facing several societal challenges like drug abuse, substance use, cyber crime, burglary, criminal intimidation etc the relationship between law enforcement agencies especially the J&K Police and the communities needs to be strengthened. The concept of community policing emerges as a beacon of hope and a transformative approach to law enforcement. The public grievance redressal camps are held by DGP R R Swain at Police Headquarters in Srinagar and Jammu plus other districts, this is indeed appreciable. The incumbent DGP who is known for his honesty and uprightiness has already made it clear that corruption and misgovernance in police force won't be tolerated and I believe this is the right time our Station House Officers-SHOs, Sub Division Police Officers-SDPOs and District Superintendents of Police -(SPs, SSPs) should chalk out a strategy that focuses on developing relationships with community members. Traditional policing models have often left communities feeling disconnected, mistrustful, and marginalized. However, the tide is shifting as more law enforcement agencies acknowledge and recognize community policing across the world.

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

### OTHER OPINION

## Stellar show

Direct tax collections in the current year so far have been nothing short of stunning. Till January 10, the number was Rs 14.7 trillion, hitting 81% of the budget estimate (BE) of Rs 18.2 trillion. It is the personal income tax (PIT) collections that have stolen the show, having grown at a brisk 27.3% compared with the targeted growth rate of 10.5%. The main reason for this has been better compliance. Thanks to the efficient tracking mechanisms, it is near impossible to evade taxes. The shift to the new regime is also believed to have helped boost collections. Going by the current trends, the BE for PIT of Rs 9 trillion is sure to be exceeded. While the tax collections from corporations were initially slow, they too have picked up smartly. The growth has been until 12.4% year-on-year so far, ahead of the targeted pace of 10.5%. This is good news for the exchequer since direct taxes account for 54% of the gross collections.

One expects the increasing formalisation of the economy will help grow the taxpayer universe. In FY19, the number of income tax filers was 85 million, which increased to 96 million in FY23. While the actual taxpayers are barely a third of this, at some point they should start contributing to the collections. Direct taxes are probably the most effective way to transfer funds from companies and individuals to the government. Given how private sector firms are unlikely to add too much fresh capacity—except probably by way of acquisitions—for the next few years, the burden of capex will fall on the government. The government will need resources to meet its expenditure not just on infrastructure and public goods but also defence, education and health.

Indirect taxes in the current year aren't doing too well; they were targeted to grow at 11.8% but have reported a run rate of 6% y-o-y until November. GST collections, however, have surprised on the upside and have grown at a very smart 13.4%. The average monthly GST collections until December have been 1.67 trillion. Reports to the effect that consumer spends having tapered off, post the festive and holiday seasons, are worrying.

While the budget estimates for the current year assume a tax buoyancy of 1.2, it could turn out to be better as the figure in the first half has been close to 2. The actual number is sure to touch a new peak even if it eases in the second half. While buoyancy was 1.8 in FY22, it was largely because the nominal GDP grew 18.4%, on a negative base and taxes also grew 34% because of a very low base. Ignoring this, the highest buoyancy was seen in FY16 when it was 1.6 and, before that, in FY07 and FY08, when it was 1.7.

Financial Express



# LIKE, SHARE & SUBSCRIBE THE ART OF DIGITAL BEGGING

Breaking the Spell: Escaping the "Time-for-Money" Trap of Digital Begging

Mohd Younus Bhat

In the wild world of online content creation, the sacred trinity of "Like, Share, and Subscribe" functions as a virtual pied piper, the term "Pied Piper" is often used metaphorically to describe someone who is charismatic or persuasive and leads others, often unwittingly, into following them or adopting their ideas. Here, the digital creators like a "Pied Piper" lead unknown audience into a time-for-money trap. These digital wizards have transformed the art of interaction into a mystical dance in which your valuable time is killed wisely.

Consider vloggers to be modern-day magicians, wielding content wands and enticing viewers with promises of digital wonders. As they work to turn your time into a golden goose, it's like watching a monetization magic show - "Abracadabra, your minutes are now my treasures!"

Remember, you are the hero of your own screen time story on your digital journey. Travel intelligently through the tempting maze of online content, and don't let the enticing chant of "Like, Share, Subscribe" convert you into a pumpkin at the digital ball. After all, in this enchanted realm, laughter is the finest armour, and a well-timed emoji can be your trusted sword. As producers work to monetize your time, it's critical to understand the signals of this digital fascination and find ways out of this alluring maze.

**What you should take care of to be an informed and smart digital content consumer:**

#### THE TIME-FOR-MONEY SPELL:

Imagine this - you stumble upon a video that promises entertainment, but before you know it, you're knee-deep in a digital rabbit hole. The vlogger, armed with charm and charisma, keeps you hooked with the perpetual cycle of likes, shares, and subscriptions. While it may seem harmless, it's essential to recognize that your time is becoming the currency, and you're unknowingly contributing to the monetization of every second spent watching.

#### THE WAKE-UP CALL:

Recognizing the time-for-money trap is the first step. When the desire of engagement becomes a devouring force, and you find yourself spending more time than you anticipated on digital connections. Awareness is the key to breaking the spell.

#### SETTING BOUNDARIES:

Regaining control over your time requires establishing clear boundaries. Consider setting time limitations for your internet activities. Set aside a specific time to watch content, and then resist the impulse to go down the content rabbit hole.

#### DIVERSIFY YOUR DIGITAL DIET:

Break the monotony by diversifying your digital diet. Explore content



beyond the realms of endless engagement requests. Seek out educational, informative, or thought-provoking content that adds value to your time spent online.

#### UNSUBSCRIBE AND UNFOLLOW STRATEGICALLY:

Review your subscriptions and followers. Unsubscribe or unfollow creators who primarily engage in the relentless pursuit of likes, shares, and subscriptions. Choose creators whose content aligns with your interests and values without bombarding you with constant demands.

#### DIGITAL DETOX:

Periodically start a digital detox to reset your engagement habits. Take a break from the relentless pursuit of likes and shares to reevaluate your relationship with online content. Use this time to engage in offline activities that bring you joy and fulfillment.

#### BE A MINDFUL CONSUMER:

Practice mindful consumption by actively engaging with stuff that speaks to you. Rather than mindlessly adding to the engagement frenzy, choose to interact with material that

truly brings value to your life.

To put it simply, while vloggers use the "Like, Share, Subscribe" motto to monetize their time, it is critical to understand the possible risks of falling into the time-for-money trap. Setting limits, diversifying your digital diet, and being a conscious consumer will help you take control of your online experience and break free from the trap of constant digital pleading. Remember, your time is valuable, and it is up to you to determine how to spend it in the huge world of online content.

#### CHECK THE ONLINE WORLD WITH PURPOSE AND INTENTION:

Escape the digital cyclone and take control of your own online future. Instead of being a mere spectator in the vast spectacle of digital connection, explore these practical tactics for creating a more intentional and satisfying online experience. Let us begin on a journey to break free from the digital beguilement and transform your screen time into a catalyst for personal growth and fulfillment, starting with expert time management and strategic content planning and ending with meaningful connections and offline rituals.

The vlogger, armed with charm and charisma, keeps you hooked with the perpetual cycle of likes, shares, and subscriptions. While it may seem harmless, it's essential to recognize that your time is becoming the currency, and you're unknowingly contributing to the monetization of every second spent watching

Are you ready to take control of your digital ship? Let the journey begin!

#### SKILL UP AND UTILIZE YOUR TIME WISELY:

Instead of succumbing to the endless loop of digital engagement, consider using your time for personal growth and skill development. Identify areas of interest or skills you've always wanted to acquire. Whether it's learning a new language, picking up a musical instrument, or honing your culinary skills, invest your time in activities that contribute to your personal development.

#### CREATE A CONTENT CALENDAR:

Take charge of your online experience by creating a content calendar. Plan your online engagements strategically, ensuring a balance between entertainment and productivity. Allocate specific time slots for watching content, engaging with creators, and, most importantly, dedicating time to activities that contribute to your well-being and growth.

#### ENGAGE MEANINGFULLY:

When interacting with content, strive for quality over quantity. Instead of mindlessly clicking the like button, leave thoughtful comments that contribute to meaningful con-

versations. This not only enhances your digital experience but also fosters a sense of community around content that resonates with you.

#### EXPLORE EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS:

Consider exploring educational platforms and online courses that align with your interests and career goals. Platforms like Coursera, Udemy, or Khan Academy offer a plethora of courses that can help you acquire new skills and knowledge. Utilize your screen time for educational purposes, transforming your online experience into a valuable learning journey.

#### SET DIGITAL GOALS:

Define clear goals for your digital interactions. Whether it's staying informed on current events, networking with like-minded individuals, or simply finding joy in entertaining content, having purpose-driven goals will help you navigate the digital landscape more intentionally.

#### ESTABLISH OFFLINE RITUALS:

Create rituals that involve stepping away from the digital realm. Whether it's a morning routine, an evening walk, or a weekend hobby, establishing offline rituals provides a healthy balance and ensures that your time is well-spent both in the virtual and physical worlds.

#### PRACTICE THE 5-MINUTE RULE:

Implement the 5-minute rule whenever you are tempted to skim through stuff mindlessly. Allow yourself a maximum of 5 minutes to engage with a certain piece of content. If it does not pique your interest within that timeframe, go on to other worthwhile pursuits. You may avoid the digital begging trap by navigating the internet realm with skill, setting limits, and making the most use of your time. Remember that, when utilized properly, the internet may improve your life. Take charge of your digital experience and turn your screen time into a beneficial resource for personal development and enjoyment.

#### CONCLUSION

In the dynamic digital landscape, seize control of your fate. Avoid the time-for-content trap by setting limits, diversifying your online consumption, and engaging meaningfully. Transform your screen time into a tool for enrichment, skill development, and joy. Become an active architect of your online journey, shaping a digital world that aligns with your goals. Your decisions in this vast space can influence the trajectory of your journey—make them count.

Researcher, GSIR-NET, Gold Medalist, IIST-INSPIRE fellow & Pursuing Ph.D at "Pondicherry Central University", Founder: Goodly Learning Solutions. Email: yunusbhat27@gmail.com

## Why Your Period Symptoms Might Be Worse In The Winter

Jahnvi Daru  
Ewelina Rogozinska  
Varsha Jain

Period symptoms are frustrating no matter the time of year. But those who menstruate might feel like certain symptoms are worse during the winter months, when the weather is gloomy, the days are short and cold and flu seem to always be lurking. This phenomenon has even been dubbed "winter period fatigue syndrome".

Unfortunately, there's no evidence that such a thing as winter period fatigue syndrome exists. There's also no good evidence to suggest changes in the seasons can worsen period symptoms. But that doesn't mean there isn't a scientific explanation for why you might feel some of your period symptoms are

worse during the colder months.

Symptoms such as fatigue, irritability, poor concentration and a weaker immune system, may in fact be pointing to the body needs iron in order to function.

Iron helps produce red blood cells, which carry oxygen throughout the body. But many people don't get enough iron in their diet. In fact, iron deficiency is the most common nutritional deficiency in the world.

Alongside the symptoms that iron deficiency can cause, low iron can also lead to anaemia - a fall in red blood cell count. While the symptoms of anaemia can be very similar to those caused by iron deficiency (including fatigue, tiredness, and cold hands and feet), symptoms can be more severe, too - leading to heart palpitations, shortness of breath and even loss of consciousness.

Menstruation is a leading cause of both iron deficiency and anaemia. People with heavy or prolonged periods are particularly at risk as they regularly lose more blood each month than their body can replace. Some studies even estimate that in women who experience heavy periods, 90% are iron deficient and 60% are anaemic.

Those who normally have heavy periods might not realise that this could actually be the cause of their fatigue, irritability and difficulty concentrating. This is because so many who have heavy periods just assume their blood loss is normal. But left unchecked, heavy periods can leave women and people who menstruate trapped in a vicious cycle of progressive blood loss and iron loss, leading to anaemia, which can be difficult to break.

And even though many clinical guidelines for managing heavy menstrual

bleeding recognise the importance of treating iron deficiency and anaemia caused by excessive blood loss, these conditions are still often missed - despite how treatable they are.

Many of the symptoms of iron deficiency and anaemia overlap with other health conditions. This is why it's important to talk to your doctor as soon as symptoms start to make sure you're getting the right treatment.

For example, fatigue, lethargy and changes in mood can also be symptoms of seasonal affective disorder. This is a type of depression that affects some people only in the autumn and winter.

So if you find your symptoms began when the shorter days and colder weather arrived, then exercise, self care (such as resting if you need to and getting plenty of sleep each night) and eat-

ing a balanced diet that contains plenty of fibre, complex carbs and protein may help somewhat. Your GP may also recommend talking therapy.

But if you find you have such symptoms all year round - and suffer from heavy or prolonged periods - this may be a sign you have iron deficiency. Certain symptoms of iron deficiency may also seem worse during the winter months.

Since iron deficiency affects how well your immune system functions, this could explain why you may feel you suffer from more seasonal illnesses during the colder weather. This will require a trip to the GP to be diagnosed, as well as taking an iron replacement if your doctor recommends it. This should significantly improve your quality of life and symptoms.

By arrangements with The Conversation





# Israel Loses 24 Soldiers In Gaza Building Collapses On Unit During Attempted Demolition

Israel: Israel on Tuesday said 24 soldiers were killed in the army's biggest single-day losses since the start of the ground war on Gaza, amid growing pressure on the government to find a way to end the conflict.

Twenty-four soldiers were killed on Monday, with the army saying 21 of them were reservists slain when rocket-propelled grenade fire hit a

bank and two buildings they were trying to blow up. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said an investigation was launched into the "disaster" and that Israel "must learn the necessary lessons".

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said the "deaths of 24 of our fighters, our best sons... is a heavy blow".

Israeli soldiers have detonated a number of civilian buildings in

Gaza, including hospitals, universities and residential blocks, claiming that the buildings were used by Hamas. Observers have highlighted that the use of controlled demolitions indicates the lack of an imminent threat from the now-destroyed infrastructure, as soldiers are required to lay the explosives in and around the target sites.

Videos posted to social media have also shown Israeli troops celebrating the demolition of housing blocks and other civilian buildings in Gaza. Fighting raged in Khan Younis, the biggest city in southern Gaza, which the army says it has "encircled".

Witnesses said powerful explosions rocked Khan Younis, as well as Deir al-Balah in north

Gaza and Rafah in the south. Medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said its staff at Khan Younis's Nasser Hospital left the "groundshaking".

The Palestinian Red Crescent said Israeli forces had hit its headquarters in Khan Younis "resulting in injuries among internally displaced individuals who sought safety on our premises".

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Winter Bliss

of the region, he was quoted as saying.

The forecaster said a third disturbance may affect the region 60-70% from 30th January to 2nd February.

The third Western Disturbance will have a stronger intensity as compared to the first two, he said.

He said no continuous precipitation or snowfall is expected anywhere and that the temperatures will significantly drop from 25th January.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius on Monday, marginally up from the previous night's minus 5.3 degrees, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund town recorded a low of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius and the ski resort town of Gulmarg in north Kashmir reported a low of minus 4.5 degrees, the officials said.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 1.5 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 4.9 degrees, they added.

A dry and largely snowless winter in Kashmir has resulted in freezing nights and warmer-than-usual days as maximum temperatures in Srinagar have been more than eight degrees above normal for this time of the year, the officials said.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell with a 79 per cent rainfall deficit being recorded in December. There has been no precipitation in most parts of the Valley in the first three weeks of January.

There has also been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir while the upper reaches of the Valley have received lesser-than-usual snow. (with inputs from agencies)

### Women, Youths

country's politics from the evils of nepotism and corruption.

"We will have to show courage to end these evils through politics and defeat them," the prime minister said.

The birth anniversary of Netaji Bose is celebrated as Parakram Diwas.

Modi also launched 'Bharat Parv', which will be held till January 31, to showcase the country's rich diversity with Republic Day tableaux and cultural exhibits featuring efforts of 26 ministries and departments, highlighting citizen-centric initiatives, vocal for local, diverse tourist attractions, among others.

It will take place at the Ramliya Maidan and the Madhav Das Park in front of the Red Fort.

The programme this year will be a multifaceted celebration seamlessly weaving together historical reflections and vibrant cultural expressions.

The visitors will get an opportunity to engage with an immersive experience through exhibitions of archives, showcasing rare photographs and documents that chronicle the remarkable journey of Netaji and the Azad Hind Fauj.

### Sabka Saath

said that he "was in a different state of mind" when he received the President's letter: "Your letter helped me to deal with these feelings and to come to terms with them".

Describing his experience at the newly-built Ram Temple, he said that he "witnessed the most unforgettable moments of my life in Ayodhya Dham". "I have returned from there with an Ayodhya in my heart".

"Lord Ram has arrived," the Prime Minister said after leading the grand consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple which was watched by monks, businessmen, sports and Bollywood stars along with millions nationwide.

The Prime Minister went through rituals spanning eleven days in the run up to the temple ceremony which Ms Murmu highlighted in her letter. It is not only a sacred ritual but also a supreme spiritual act of sacrifice and submission to Lord Ram, she said.

"You spoke about my 11-day fasting rituals

and the Yama-Niyams related to it. Our country has been witness to countless people who made many resolutions for centuries so that Ram Lalla could return to his birthplace," he said in response to Ms Murmu's letter.

Traditional clariens played devotional music during the rituals for the 51-inch (130-cm) tall, black stone deity in the event that saw nearly 10,000 guests.

### J&K's Final

created by following process of consultation with the Political Parties. During the house to house visits, BLOs raised awareness among the population. The second stage activity was started with publication of Draft Electoral Roll on 17th October, 2023.

For involving stakeholders including recognized State and National Parties, the District Election Officers (DEOs) held meetings with them, briefed them about the total process to be followed and appealed them to participate in the process by way of appointing Booth Level Agents, so that they can assist the Booth Level Officers in addition/deletion/correction/transposition of eligible voters.

The CEO, J&K has also specifically written DO letters to the State Level functionaries of recognized State and National Political Parties, highlighting the major stages of the revision and solicited their active support in the total process.

In order to make the general public aware about the Revision of Electoral Rolls, necessary press releases/advertisements were given in the leading news papers through the Information Department. Apart from advertisement/news in print media, awareness was also created through the electronic media, social media, hoardings etc.

The general public was made aware with respect to how to apply, where to apply for addition, deletion, correction, transposition in the Electoral Roll. The toll free number and voter helpline app usage was also prominently highlighted while carrying out public awareness campaign. The period for filing claims and objections was up to 30th November, 2023, during this period 4 special camps were held on 4th, 5th, 18th and 19th November, 2023.

The EROs as per the detailed directions of the Election Commission of India accepted claims and objections and following due process decided on them by 12th January, 2024. They also dealt with Demographically Similar Entries and Photo Similar Entries at the Part and AC level.

In order to supervise and closely monitor the total process, 4 Special Roll Observers were appointed in addition to two Divisional Commissioners. The Roll Observers visited the offices of EROs, Polling Booths and also attended the Special Camps. During their field visit and table top exercise, they conveyed the necessary directions so as to make the process complying with the directions of the Commission.

In order to cover the eligible voters of Kashmir migrants, 4 Special AEROs held camps in their areas and the process was supervised by Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrant). The endeavor was made to cover the specially aided persons, elders above the age of 80 years so as to mark them on Electoral Rolls. The weaker and vulnerable sections such as nomads, women and third gender besides others were given sufficient attention.

The weekly status of disposal of claims and objections was put in public domain. The effort was made to make the Electoral Roll healthy. Despite holding special meeting, writing DO letters, few Booth Level Agents were appointed by the parties. However, pro-active involvement of members of Panchayat Raj Institutions and other Village Level functionaries was received.

### Ladakh Bodies

bringing Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule will not only guarantee special protections for the rights of the Scheduled Tribes of Ladakh

but it will also help them make their laws as per the unique requirements of the region.

The Apex Body has also demanded Public Service Commission for Ladakh as the Reorganization Act of Jammu and Kashmir provides for the same for the Union Territory of J&K but the similar provisions were not extended to Ladakh due to which the opportunities for the gazetted posts for the students of Ladakh have become limited.

"There is a need for the formation of the Ladakh Public Service Commission for the gazetted jobs and protection of the non-gazetted jobs and this can be done by having robust institutions in place," said Mr Dorjee, adding that the Apex Body has also stressed that there is a need to enhance the current one seat of the Member of Parliament for Ladakh besides creation of Rajya Sabha seat for Ladakh when a Legislative Assembly is granted.

Chiering Dorjee said that the detailed draft for accommodating these demands has been submitted to the Ministry and they were optimistic for the early fulfillment of these demands of Ladakh people.

It may be recalled that during a meeting with the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on the 4th of December 2023, he had asked the Apex Body to prepare a draft of the demands and submit it to the Ministry to take the talks forward.

### FCIK Seeks

reasons which resulted in their failure in filing GST/ EPPFESI and Income tax returns on time or did not file at all," informed FCIK.

In recognition of and consideration of the grave problems faced by enterprises here, the FCIK has hoped for a positive response by the Union Ministry of Finance and GST Council for the grant of amnesty with 100% waivers on additional tax, penalty, interest, or any other sum levied against MSMEs by reason of non-payment or late payment of any GST payable by them.

FCIK has also demanded an amnesty scheme regarding the defaults of MSMEs in timely remittance of their provision fund contributions, with a waiver of all damages and interest chargeable under section 14B of EPP & Miscellaneous Provisions Act of 1952. FCIK has also demanded the settlement of defaulted principal amounts in easy instalments over the next two years.

The amnesty in favour of MSMEs desperately needed to be recommended for a waiver on imposition and recovery of damages and interest payable under the regulations set by Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) against defaulting MSMEs who have failed in timely contributions of ESI contributions for their employees. Besides, the corporation needed to settle long-pending disputes with the enterprises under a liberal settlement scheme.

FCIK has also demanded a general amnesty scheme for various defaults identified while processing the returns filed by MSMEs with a waiver of interest, penalties, and other damages.

FCIK has also hoped that apart from pushing for the amnesties, the delegation from J&K will also take up other issues concerning industrial growth and promotion in Jammu and Kashmir. The application of the Central Industrial Scheme of 2021 on the rejuvenation and scaling up of existing MSMEs was crucial for building and restoring the faith and confidence of existing enterprises.

### Multi-layer Security

held at district headquarters as well. The security around the venues of Republic Day functions in the valley, including the stadium here, has been beefed up, and a multi-layer security apparatus has been put in place around the venues, the officials said.

Security agencies have been asked to remain alert and not allow anyone to disturb law and order, and violate peace, the officials added.

"The arrangements are in place, the necessary measures have been taken. The security has been beefed up and we will ensure smooth celebrations, be it in Srinagar or elsewhere in the valley," Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, V K Bidi told PTL.

"The field formations are in place and they are taking necessary measures," Bidi said when asked if there were any specific inputs on potential militant attacks.

Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain had on Saturday reviewed security measures across Jammu and Kashmir in a high-level meeting.

"The intentions of the adversary are to be foiled by a proactive approach and by implementing innovative district-level plans," Swain had said.

A full-dress rehearsal is being carried out at Bakshi Stadium and other venues across the valley on Wednesday.

### SC Upholds Man's

notice that there is a delay of 420 days in preferring the special leave petition.

Recording the aforesaid, the special leave petition is dismissed on the ground of delay," the court said.

The Special Leave Petition was filed by J & K government, challenging Mattoo's acquittal after around 16 years by the J&K and Ladakh High Court last year.

In his plea before the High Court, Mattoo had contended that he was falsely and wrongly booked in FIR No. 57/2002 dated 4 July 2002 registered with police station Gandoh Bhalesha for commission of offences under section 302 RPC/4/27 Arms Act r/w 3 PSS Act for the allegations that he along with two other terrorists armed with weapons entered the house of one Sher Mohammad Rather, a Saprancho of Panchayat Halga Pacharhat Changa and brought him out of the house and killing him on the spot.

The trial court had sentenced him to undergo imprisonment for life and imposed a fine of Rs 5000 on 4 June 2014.

### Police To Conduct

done through security gadgets and sniffer dogs, a spokesperson said.

He called for strengthening the overall security setup of all the railway stations and tracks in Jammu and Katra.

The ADGP took a fresh security assessment of preparations put in place and necessary feedback from officers of General Railway Police in the region.

He stressed that communication networks should be made more efficient, active and strengthened for prompt dissemination of important and urgent information.

At the end of the meetings, the ADGP exhorted the officers to maintain close liaison with sister intelligence agencies and various wings of police to avert any untoward incident.

The ADGP interacted with all the participants and took stock of security arrangements being made in their areas of responsibility in view of the Republic Day celebrations and consistent intelligent inputs being shared by different sister agencies regarding the threats of terrorists and anti-social elements.

### 90% Of Terrorism

boys are not joining them, or a smaller number of them are. A few people can be with them, but a majority of the public is not. We keep that in mind when we say that we have control over the security situation," Swain added.

Asked about targeted attacks in the Union Territory, the J&K police chief said "about 90 per cent of the root and origin of the problem is outside".

"A person sitting outside, not from Jammu and Kashmir, a Pakistani comes here somehow whether by infiltrating or digging up tunnels, and then fights us. It is a challenge. Though their numbers are now less, this is a challenge.

"The cross-border infiltration is a challenge

in Poonch-Rajouri and to some extent here as well. We will be able to control it when the atmosphere improves gradually and we are hopeful that the people themselves will hand them over to us," he said.

It was the DGP's first Public Grievances Redressal Programme in south Kashmir. He has addressed such programmes in north Kashmir's Kupwara and Srinagar, apart from Jammu region.

A large number of people turned up for the programme with different kinds of grievances like robbery, domestic violence, and land disputes

### 1200 Applications

—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), hundreds of people on Tuesday gathered at District Police Lines (DPL) Awantipora to present their issues to DGP J&K and seek resolution.

Approximately 1200 applications were spotted during the Darbar, with on-the-spot directions given in many cases to address the concerns. DGP assured that for pending cases, a committee would be formed.

"This is the first grievance redressal in South Kashmir. Lot of people had come to participate in this. There are different issues like cheating, domestic violence, land disputes, and a wide range of issues. We are trying our best to resolve the people's issues," DGP said.

A woman from Anantnag district shared her ordeal to KNO, saying that her husband was killed by terrorists two years ago, and her son was also attacked but he survived. "For the last two years, I have been moving from pillar to post, seeking employment for my son under SRO," she said.

Expressing gratitude after meeting DGP, she expressed hope that her matter would be resolved soon. "The DGP Sahab assured me that my son would get a job," she said.

"An elderly man from Budgam raised concerns about an officer unlawfully claiming ownership of his land. He credited DGP's public Darbars for providing a platform to address such issues."

"DGP Sahab assured me that justice will be done. I'm hopeful that action against the involved person will be taken soon," he said.

Another person from Pulwama said he has been struggling for the last eight months to get his issue resolved. He alleged that an official was asking him to make him a distributor of his company.

"DGP Sahab directed the concerned authorities to take immediate action against the official," he said, adding, "Such Public Darbars must be held in every district as they are crucial for the timely resolution of issues faced by the less privileged."

The attendees of the Darbar said similar redressal programmes must be held in every district so that the issues and concerns of the people are swiftly resolved

### On Camera: For First

human cells also use to communicate.

As seen in the video, the undamaged plants received the messages of their injured neighbours, and responded with bursts of calcium signalling that rippled across their outstretched leaves.

"We have finally unveiled the intricate story of when, where, and how plants respond to airborne 'warning messages' from their threatened neighbours," Mr Toyota said.

Analysing the airborne compounds, researchers found that two compounds called Z-3-HAL and E-2-HAL induced calcium signals in Arabidopsis.

"This ethereal communication network, hidden from our view, plays a pivotal role in safeguarding neighbouring plants from imminent threats in a timely manner," the researcher added.

The team used a similar technique to measure calcium signals released by Mimosa pudica (touch-me-not) plants, which quickly move their leaves in response to touch, to avoid predators.

## Aes Kaeshir

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



KO PODCAST

KASHMIR OBSERVER





## Young Rabab Player from Baramulla Wins Pradhan Mantri Bal Puraskar

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a moment of triumph for Kashmir, thirteen-year-old Rabab prodigy Ishaq Hamid, hailing from Kreeri Baramulla, has been bestowed with the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Bal Puraskar Award.

The award was presented by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, at Vigyan Bhawan on Monday, adding another feather to Ishaq's cap and bringing pride to the region.

Ishaq, a sixth-standard student, expressed his gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for recognizing his talent. His journey into the world of Rabab began when he observed his cousin mastering the art, inspiring him to embark on his musical journey.

The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Sh. Manoj Sinha, took to social media to congratulate Ishaq, acknowledging his significant achievement. Sinha tweeted, "Congratulations to young maestro Ishaq Hamid on winning Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar! Your achievements in the field of art & culture have



brought immense pride to J&K. May your success continue to inspire others to pursue their artistic passion."

Ishaq's success not only showcases his individual prowess but also serves as a source of inspiration for aspiring artists in the region. As J&K revels in this moment of cultural pride, Ishaq Hamid stands as a testament to the rich artistic heritage of the Ishaq family and the vibrant cultural landscape of the region.

## DC Kulgam Instructs To Carry Intensified Sanitation Drives

KO NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Tuesday chaired a meeting of officers and officials of Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) at mini-secretariat, here to review functioning, progress and implementation status of various schemes in the district.

During the meeting, ACD, through a PowerPoint presentation apprised the chair about the progress made under various schemes like MGNREGA, PMAY-G, District Capex, etc and informed that there are 55000 job cards and 45800 are verified and active job cards.

The DC instructed concerned people to verify the unverified job cards within a few days. During the meeting the chair was also informed that 4322 works under MGNREGA were completed during current FY, with an expenditure of 67 crore, and against the target of 5845 units under PMAY-G, 3183 units have been completed.

It was also given out that under District Capex, out of 1904, 1756 works were completed

with an expenditure of Rs. 23 crore. The DC instructed the concerned to expedite the pace of works under District Capex, PMAY (G), MGNREGA and other works. He also instructed ACD Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) to submit a weekly progress report of PMAY-G.

While reviewing progress under SBM, the chair was informed by ACP, that under SBM II, 11671 BHHL, were constructed and against the target of 83 Community Sanitary Complexes 64 are completed.

He directed officers to carry intensified sanitation drives in all Panchayats of all 11 blocks of district to remove the legacy waste and clean water bodies, roadsides, markets and other public spaces and stressed to call public participation in making these drives sustainable.

He called for timely completion of all the works with judicious utilization of funds, while ensuring quality of work, in order to create durable assets. The meeting was attended by ACD, Showkat Ahmad Rather; CPO, Zahid Sajid ACP, Shurjeel Ahmad; Exen Rew, BDOs and other officers and officials.

## Locals Demand Action Over Firefighters' Delay



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Following a devastating fire incident that resulted in the loss of a 26-year-old man's life in Khambiyar Pattan, Baramulla district in north Kashmir, residents are calling for decisive measures against the Waniganam Fire Station.

Allegations of negligence and delayed response have prompted the local community to seek accountability. As per the news agency, locals said that the fire tender from Fire Station Waniganam arrived very late at the incident site after the breaking of the fire, resulting in the death of a man, Adil Kamran Dar, who

was sleeping in his room of the house which was engulfed by the fire, purportedly spreading from a fault in an electric blanket used by the deceased person.

"The fire tender from Fire Station Waniganam did not immediately reach the spot of the incident after the flames engulfed the house. If the firefighters had arrived a bit earlier, maybe the life of the youth could have been saved," said a local.

He also alleged that they had informed the Fire Service Department in time "but unfortunately the firefighters turned up late despite calling them several times. Locals also demanded an

impartial investigation and suspension of irresponsible employees of the Fire and Emergency Services for their "carelessness" and "delay".

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla along with the concerned ADC, SDM and Tehsildar Pattan also visited the site and assured a transparent investigation into the incident. It has been learnt that the Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services has constituted an inquiry committee to investigate the allegations leveled by them.

The DDC Member Arin, on the occasion, presented a detailed overview of Arin block and also detailed charter of demands including enhanced services of power supply, healthcare, education, skill centers, veterinary centers and roads besides other issues.

Other demands put forth by the representatives of various departments included establishment of Girls High School, Degree College, receiving station, disposal of pen-

## Heli-Skiing At Gulmarg A New Tourist Attraction, Trial Run Begins

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Taking adventure to another level, the tourism department with the active support of district administration Baramulla is all set to start heli-skiing at Gulmarg.

As per news agency, the service is being introduced by the tourism department in collaboration with the Baramulla district administration to cater to adventure seekers from across the world.

"All approvals are in place and the service will take off soon. Gulmarg has been a favourite skiing destination for skiers from across the world. As such, the introduction of heli-skiing will further promote Gulmarg at an international level," official sources said.

They said the service is being run by a private player adding the trial runs for the same have already started.

"This service will be run by a private player who will take into consideration every aspect, to come up to the expectations of the adventure seekers. The trial run for the service has already started and the experts as well as tourists are very much satisfied with the service," sources added.

Gulmarg, a high-altitude skiing destination in north



Kashmir, is renowned for its breath-taking landscapes and world-class skiing slopes. With the introduction of heli-skiing, the region's status will be further elevated as a premier destination for winter sports enthusiasts.

Heli-skiing involves using helicopters to take participants to some of the most challenging and breath-taking terrains, offering a unique opportunity to

carve through virgin snow in an untouched alpine environment," official sources said. Officials said the department has assured that safety measures will be paramount, with experienced guides and rescue teams accompanying participants to ensure a secure and enjoyable adventure.

In the absence of snow, the service provider has started the service by taking tourists to the sunshine peak. Tourists, who availed the service, expressed their excitement and thrill for the aerial journey to the highest peaks of Gulmarg.

"It is a good idea to start heli-copter services at Gulmarg. We were able to visit Sunshine Peak, which is completely snow-clad. It was a joyous trip," said Pooja Kapoor, a tourist. —(KNO)

## NHM Mission Director Chairs Mega Public Darbar In Kokernag

KO NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Nazim Zia Khan, on Tuesday chaired a mega public darbar at Kokernag aimed to address public grievances, review development activities and tackle issues affecting the community. Nazim Zia emphasized the pivotal role of such outreach programs in bridging the gap between

the administration and the citizens for effective implementation of government schemes. He highlighted the significance of senior government officials engaging directly with the people to address and resolve their concerns besides obtaining feedback on welfare and development programmes being launched in the area. Heads of various departments including Revenue,

Police, Power, Health, Education, Public Works, Agriculture, and allied wings were present during the camp to address sector specific concerns of local populace. Nazim Zia, after hearing grievances and demands of the public, sought on the spot response from the concerned district officers present in the grievance redressal camp. He assured the people that all

their demands and issues will be looked into on priority for redressal. He also gave on the spot directions to the officers for ensuring time bound redressal of the public issues. He emphasized on cent percent implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes on ground for overall development and welfare of the people while stressing on saturation of Social Security Schemes.

### THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

#### NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice claiming to have lost his original marks certificate of class 12th session Bi-Annual 2018-19 issued by the Board of School Education with the following particular:

Name: Firdous Ahmad Bhat  
Parentage: Ab. Ahmad Bhat  
Roll No: 2612533  
Year / Session: Annual Bhat 2018-19

Now the candidates have applied for the duplicate marks card, Anybody (if) having my objection may file the same with undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Dated: 23-01-2024

Sd/- Assistant Secretary  
Board of School Education  
Sub-Office Bandipora

### THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

#### NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice claiming to have lost his original marks certificate of class 12th session Bi-Annual 2017 issued by the Board of School Education with the following particular:

Name: Waseem Ahmad Mir  
Parentage: Ghulam Muhammad Mir  
Roll No: 2609510  
Year / Session: Bi-Annual 2017

Now the candidates have applied for the duplicate marks card, Anybody (if) having my objection may file the same with undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Dated: 23-01-2024

Sd/- Assistant Secretary  
Board of School Education  
Sub-Office Bandipora

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that there is an error in my driving licence bearing No. JK-0120020055745 where in my name has been wrongly entered. The correct information reads as follows:

Name: Muhammad Ishaq Wani  
Father's Name: Late Gh. Rasool  
Residence: Pandrethan, Tehsil Pantha chowk, Srinagar

The correct information should be:  
Name: Mihal Ishaq Wani  
Father's Name: Late Gh. Rasool Wani  
Residence: Pandrethan, Tehsil Pantha chowk, Srinagar

I intend to correct this mistake at the Regional Transport Office, Srinagar. If anyone has any objections to this correction, please contact the Regional Transport Office, Srinagar, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the stipulated period, no objections will be entertained. **WFO**

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited  
Zonal Office  
Srinagar

### Extension of Time

With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/23 -0T-26-12-2023, issued by this office, regarding advertisement for outright purchase/ on lease basis for housing its Branch at Laxjan, Srinagar, the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Bank's official website www.jkbank.com. The parties who have already applied in response to the tender notice No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/23 -0T-26-12-2023 need not apply again.

Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/24  
Date: 20-01-2024

DPW-NB-5365-23  
Dt: 23/01/2024

Sd/-  
Zonal Head  
Zonal Office Srinagar

### BEFORE THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR & LADAKH AT SRINAGAR

In the case of:

- Taufiq Yousof Rather S/O Mohamud Yousof R/ O Kalaythan District Baramulla
- Reshwar Singh S/O Bhram Singh R/ O Pragaiga District Doda
- Rahul Sharma S/O Bilal Lal Sharma R/ O Dharwad District Kathbar
- Zulfikar Alam Khan S/O Sale U Rahman R/ O Wanyol District Ganderbal
- Waseem Ahmad Mir S/O Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/ O Kangan District Srinagar
- Qasim Ahmad Rather S/O Abdul Majeed Rather R/ O Majora District Baramulla
- Anqal Shan S/O Wirod Shan R/ O Budosa District Doda
- Sahar Agarwal S/O Mohd Agarwal R/ O Kangan District Doda
- Benoir Ahmad S/O Mohd Ahmad R/ O Kangan District Doda
- Sahar Agarwal S/O Fida Mohd Wani R/ O Rajgarh District Baramulla

.....(Caveatant)

V/S  
PUBLIC AT LARGE  
.....(Opponent, non Caveatant)

In the matter of:- Application under section 145-A of the code of civil procedure S.V. 1937 (1920 A.2)

May it please your honour:-  
That the applicant most humbly submits as under:-

- That the Caveator prays that no Ex parte order be passed in any suit/ Appeal/ Application for Injunction/ any Interlocutory Order to be notified by anybody from general public before this Hon'ble Court.
- That the address of the Caveator for service of notice/ summons of the proposed suit/ Application of the opponents above named is as per the title clause of this application.

In the premises, it is therefore prayed that the caveat application be admitted and no Ex parte injunction or order be passed against Caveator without due notice of the proposed suit/ Application.

Caveator through counsel,  
Advocate Naveed Riz  
Email Id: Shaahab@gmail.com | Phone No: +919984720323

### THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

#### NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice claiming to have lost his original marks certificate of class 10th session Bi-Annual 2009 issued by the Board of School Education with the following particular:

Name: Waseem Ahmad Mir  
Parentage: Ghulam Muhammad Mir  
Roll No: 407456  
Year / Session: Bi-Annual 2009

Now the candidates have applied for the duplicate marks card, Anybody (if) having my objection may file the same with undersigned within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Dated: 23-01-2024

Sd/- Assistant Secretary  
Board of School Education  
Sub-Office Bandipora



## Indians Dominate ICC ODI Team Of The Year

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Rohit Sharma was, on Tuesday, named captain of the ICC ODI Team of the Year, which featured five other Indians including star batter Virat Kohli and the pace duo of Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj.

The team mostly included the World Cup finalists Australia (winner) and India (runner-up) besides players from semi-finalists New Zealand and South Africa, the ICC said in a statement.

The top order includes openers Rohit and Shubman Gill. While the Indian captain accumulated 1,255 runs at an average of 52 runs last year, the latter struck a brilliant 208-runs against the Kiwis and also finished as the highest run-scorer (1,584 runs) in the format.

At number three was Travis Head, who was consistent throughout the year and performed exceptionally well during the global event, with his 137 runs in the final being the highlight.

The middle order comprised Indian stalwart Kohli, followed by Daryl Mitchell, Heinrich Klaasen and Marco



Jansen. Kohli finished as the second-highest run-scorer of the year in ODIs (1,337 runs) and slammed six centuries during the year. He surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record of most international tests, besides winning the Player of the Tournament award during the World Cup.

Mitchell scored five centuries and accumulated 1,204 runs at an average of 52.34 runs and a strike rate of 100.24.

Klaasen too dominated

the whole year with the bat, with his highlight being the match-winning 174 runs versus Australia in Centurion.

The bowling attack was made up of Australian Adam Zampa along with the Indian trio of Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Shami.

Zampa took 38 wickets in the entire year at an average of 26.31 and also fetched a four-for in three successive World Cup fixtures, besides finishing as the second-highest wicket-taker in the

competition. Siraj came up with 44 wickets in the year, the high point being six for 21 against Sri Lanka during the Asia Cup final that India won deservingly.

Kuldeep captured 49 ODI wickets last year, with his best figures being five for 25 versus Pakistan during the Asia Cup's Super-Four stage.

Shami was dominant throughout the year, claiming four fifties, while his best figures were seven for 57 against New Zealand during the World Cup semi-final.

## Won't Be Ultra-Attacking, But Won't Take Backward Step: Rahul Dravid



Press Trust of India

**HYDERABAD:** Head coach Rahul Dravid did not see Indian batters replying to England's 'Bazball' in kind but he said they will not be taking a backward step in the five-match Test series beginning here from Thursday.

Dravid said India will formulate their game plans as per the situations that the match throws up at them in the rubber.

"I don't think we are going out there to try to be ultra-attacking. I think we look to play what's in front of us, what the situation demands. But by nature, if you look at our top six-seven batsmen, there are a lot of guys who are naturally positive and look to take the game on.

"So, they're not going to be looking to change that in any particular

way. There'll be some different situations in which we may need to look to push the game along or we might have to bat for long periods.

"But I can't see any of my batsmen taking a backward step or look to be defensive," Dravid said in an interaction here on Tuesday. However, Dravid did not have much doubt that England would come hard at the hosts in the series, and the head coach hoped that his team would use the experience in these conditions to respond positively to the challenge.

"It's been exciting to watch them play and you know they've had success playing like that. They've done well in Pakistan. They've won in New Zealand and they had a really exciting series against Australia in the Ashes as well. So, we have to respect that.

"But we know that it's going to

be a challenge for them in these conditions because these are conditions we know very well. We've got a lot of experience in our attack. I'm looking forward to seeing how our boys respond, because I know that we will be put under pressure," said Dravid.

Dravid also termed the five-match series a fine chance for Indian players — experienced and upcoming — to set some splendid markers as India are poised to play a few more Tests in the upcoming months in the current World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

Star batter Virat Kohli will skip the first two Tests against England owing to personal reasons.

Dravid said while the team would miss the presence and experience of Kohli, his absence is a chance for some other player to step and prove himself.

## Ayeera & Ansa To Compete In Moscow Stars Wushu C'ship



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar-born Wushu athletes and sisters, Ayeera Chishti and Ansa Chishti, are set to represent India at the Moscow Stars International Wushu Championship, scheduled to take place in the Russian capital from February 28 to March 5. The prestigious championship will draw athletes from more than 30 countries.

Ayeera Chishti and Ansa Chishti

took part in selection trials in Chennai on January 22, competing against the best athletes from various states. Ayeera and Ansa, born to an engineer father and a professor mother, demonstrated exceptional prowess during the trials, engaging in three bouts each against competitors from Haryana and other states. The sisters showcased outstanding skills to secure their spots in the International Wushu Championship.

## J&K Admin Seeks Deferment Of Khelo India Winter Games: Report



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Amid a lack of snowfall in Gulmarg and Leh, the J&K has reportedly written to the Government of India to defer the five-day Khelo India Winter Games.

There has been no official word yet, and the concerned departments have already finalised all preparations for the event, slated to take place from February 2 to 6.

As per news agency KNO, sources say that while the

scheduled dates are inching closer, the event would unlikely take place on the particular dates due to the absence of snowfall at Gulmarg.

"Although the snowfall is expected by the end of this month, it would take time to set the stage for different events, slated to be held under the five-day Khelo India," a source told the agency.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary for Youth Services and Sports, told KNO a decision on Khelo India National Winter Games

will be made after a thorough review of the weather conditions.

"The decision will be taken at an appropriate time. I would not like to speculate prior on any of the happenings. We don't know how the weather is going to behave. We are watching the weather reports," he said.

Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Secretary, Nuzhat Gul said all arrangements for the event have been completed.

## India Out Of Asian Cup After 1-0 Loss To Syria

Press Trust of India

**AL KHOR:** India's wait for a maiden knockout round berth in the Asian Cup continued as they crashed out of the continental football showpiece after suffering a 1-0 defeat to Syria in their last group match here on Tuesday. Substitute Omar Khribin scored the all-important goal in the 76th minute to keep Syria in contention for a round of 16 berth.

India finished at the bottom of the four-team Group B after losing all their three matches



and without scoring any goal. Tuesday's match will certainly be the swansong Asian Cup game for talisman Sunil Chhetri, who had appeared in the two earlier editions also — in 2011 and 2019.

The 39-year-old Chhetri, who is in the twilight of his illustri-

ous career, has scored four goals — two each in 2011 and 2019 — in nine appearances to be the highest scorer from India in the continental showpiece.

India had also failed to make it to the knockout round in 1984, 2011 and 2019 editions of the tournament. The country had finished runner-up in 1954 when the winner was decided after a round-robin league among four participating teams.

India, under Igor Stimac, will thus return home after yet another disappointing show in the continental showpiece. The

Indians had won one match — against Thailand (4-1) in the 2019 edition, but this time, they fired a blank, returning home without any point.

The Indians had lost to Australia (0-2) and Uzbekistan (0-3) in their earlier two group matches.

## Liverpool Defends Salah Against Accusations He Is Not Committed To Egypt After Injury

Agencies

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool defended Mohamed Salah against accusations he was showing a lack of commitment to Egypt by returning to his club from the Africa Cup of Nations to get treatment on a hamstring injury.

Salah, one of the most high-profile players at the Africa Cup, is scheduled to fly back to England on Wednesday and will "begin an intensive rehabilitation program," Liverpool said, in an effort to get him healthy again before the end of the competition.

Liverpool assistant coach Pep Lijnders said on Tuesday that Salah has a "proper tear in his hamstring" which is expected to keep the winger out for three to four weeks, backing up a timeline given by Salah's agent on X, formerly Twitter.

Former Egypt international Ahmed Hassan said in British newspaper The Daily Mirror that Salah should be staying with the Egypt squad "no matter what, even if he only had one leg to stand on," adding that the team captain "was plotting his departure from the Egypt camp."



Lijnders was quick to downplay those comments.

"The one you should never doubt the commitment of is Mo Salah," said Lijnders, who was speaking at a news conference a day before Liverpool plays Fulham in the English League Cup semifinals.

"I've never met a guy — a player but also a human being — who is more committed to the life of being a professional football player.

"I know the country is devastated at losing him. We were devastated to hear he got injured. He plays their first (group) game, scores and assists and is captain. He's massively important, of course. But the only reason why our medical team and their medical team decided for him to come back is to give him the best possible chance to be available in the final, if Egypt reach the final." Lijnders said some confusion

might have been raised because Salah's injury, which happened during Egypt's second group game, wasn't initially regarded as serious.

The Dutchman said it was in Salah's best interests to be treated in Liverpool's medical facility because it is a "stable environment" and there are "proper people who are committed and have time and can focus on his rehab process."

Egypt secured a place in the round of 16 on Tuesday by drawing with Cape Verde 2-2, with Salah cutting an animated figure on the sidelines during the game. It was a third straight group-stage draw for the Pharaohs, who lost the Africa Cup final on penalties to Senegal in the last edition.

Liverpool is top of the Premier League by five points and will play in the League Cup final on Feb. 25, should Jurgen Klopp's team get past Fulham. The Reds hold a 2-1 lead from the first leg ahead of the return match in London on Wednesday.

Liverpool has won all three of its matches since Salah departed for the Africa Cup, scoring eight goals in the process without the team's top scorer. (AP)

## Djokovic, Gauff Labour Into Australian Open Semis



Agencies

**MELBOURNE:** Novak Djokovic and Coco Gauff were both made to toil for semi-final places on a blazing Tuesday at the Australian Open as the tournament was heading for another potentially late evening after the day session spilled over.

Holder Djokovic was expected to breeze past Taylor Fritz having come into the contest with an 8-0 win-loss record over the 12th seed but he endured a stern test

that lasted nearly four hours to prevail 7-6(3)-4-6-2-6-3.

"This match was not an enjoyable match for me at all," Djokovic told reporters. "Of course, I'm proud to overcome the kind of challenge and obstacles and I'm pleased to win but it wasn't enjoyable at all. It was really... a lot of suffering in every aspect."

"You have days like that where you just have to accept it, face the circumstances and try to make the most out of it." Djokovic might have had

starting troubles in his bid to win an 11th Melbourne Park title and 25th Grand Slam to eclipse the record of Margaret Court but he is an expert problem solver and took advantage of a tiring Fritz to prevail.

Gauff was happy to win "ugly" as she quelled the challenge of Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk 7-6(6) 6-7(3) 6-2 in a little over three hours and the U.S. Open champion will need to raise her level if she hopes to win a second Grand Slam title.