

# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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## A Sigh Of Relief! Kashmir Highlands Embrace Snow After Prolonged Wait

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, while the plains were lashed by rains, officials said on Wednesday.

The recent snowfall marks a significant shift from the snow drought experienced earlier this winter, which had raised concerns about the local ecology and livelihoods. This climatic turnaround across parts of Jammu and Kashmir has infused a wave of optimism among farmers, fruit growers, and the tourism industry.

The tourist resorts of Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam received fresh light to moderate snowfall



overnight, which was going on when last reports came in, officials said. They said the snowfall was also recorded in Anantnag district's Kokernag, Handwara in Kupwara,



and Gurez in Bandipora district. There are reports of fresh snowfall in other areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, including along the Zojila axis on the Srinagar-Leh highway, the officials added. The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Wednesday forecasted chances of snowfall in central Kashmir's | [More on P6](#)

### Avalanche Warning For Six Districts

Six Jammu and Kashmir districts received avalanche warning in the wake of recent snowfall in the Union territory, officials said. Avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2,400 metres over Poonch, Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts in the next 24 hours, they said. Officials said an avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 2,800 and 3,500 metres over | [More on P6](#)

### Army Rescues Stranded Skiers

At least seven persons including two foreigners were rescued by the Army on Wednesday in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. As per a statement, the defense spokesman said that the post of Banal ex Pattan Bn received info at 07:30 pm on 30 January about a skiing team of seven individuals including two foreign nationals (Switzerland) got stranded due to bad weather after coming down from | [More on P6](#)

## 10 Killed, 14 Injured In Road Accidents in J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: Ten people dead while 14 other sustained injuries in a major road accidents that occurred in Baramulla and Kishtwar districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said that eight persons died on Wednesday when a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said. A passenger vehicle rolled down into a deep gorge in Boniyar area of Uri in the north Kashmir district, they said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravinder Paul Singh, told PTI that seven people died in the incident while eight others sustained injuries. The bodies have been recovered and medico-legal formalities are being conducted, the SSP said. | [More on P6](#)

## There Is A Sense Of Security In J&K Today: President

Lists Ram Temple, Economic Reforms As Key Achievements Of Modi Govt

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said that there is a sense of security in Jammu and Kashmir today.

"The earlier deserted look of marketplaces due to strike has been replaced by the hustle and bustle of crowded markets," the President said.

In her 75-minute address to the members of both Houses of Parliament assembled in the Lok Sabha chamber of the new Parliament building, Murmu said that there were doubts regarding the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Those are now history. "This Parliament also enacted a strict law against 'Triple Talaq'," the President said.

Murmu said the government's successful hosting of the G-20 summit had strengthened India's global standing and noted that Jammu and Kashmir, and the northeastern states hosted some international meetings of the grouping for the first time.

She said the centuries-old desire to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya has now become reality as she listed the achievements of the Modi government over the past 10 years.

She also hailed the armed



forces for giving a befitting reply to terrorism and expansionism, an apparent reference to Pakistan and China.

In her maiden address in the new Parliament building, the President listed out the economic reforms undertaken by the government that has transformed India from the group of "fragile five" to the "top five" economies in the world.

"This is the time for India to script the future for the coming centuries. Our ancestors have bequeathed us a legacy spanning thousands of years. Even today, we remember with pride the exceptional achievements of our ancestors. Today's generation should also build a lasting legacy that will | [More on P6](#)

## J&K A Proud Testimony To Bharat's Democracy: HM

Says Modi Govt Rebuilt J&K, Ended Era Of Terrorism

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Narendra Modi government has rebuilt Jammu and Kashmir, ending an era of terrorism and violence and giving wings to development by rolling out massive infrastructure and welfare schemes.

In a series of posts on X in both English and Hindi, accompanied by the #Pragatisheel Jammu Kashmir hashtag, Shah also said Prime Minister Modi transformed Jammu and Kashmir by awakening a new



hope among youngsters.

He said the Modi government secured the dreams of the youngsters and gave new flight to their aspirations by strengthening education and skilling facilities.

"The Modi government rebuilt Jammu and Kashmir, ending an era of terrorism and violence. The Modi government | [More on P6](#)

**6** DUE TO THE POLICIES OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT, the picture of the youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir has changed and they are no longer joining separatism but development."

## Antimicrobial Resistance

### Dir SKIMS Warns Against Rampant Use Of Antibiotics

Syed Mohammad Burhan

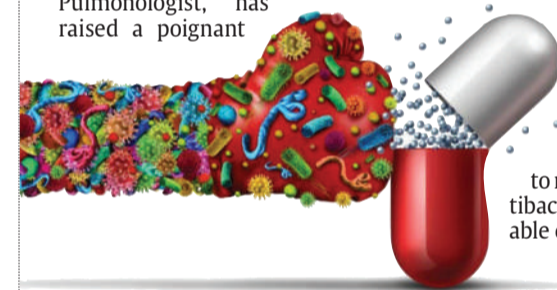
Srinagar: Amid prevailing wintry weather conditions, exacerbating cough and cold ailments among the populace, a concerning trend is emerging in Kashmir, where many individuals resort to antibiotics, sometimes without proper prescriptions.

Dr. Parvaiz Koul, Director SKIMS and a prominent Pulmonologist, has raised a poignant

Dr. Koul elucidated the dangers inherent in rampant antibiotic usage. "The rampant use of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance in the community," he warned. "This escalation of Antimicrobial Resistance poses a grave risk, as it renders lower dosages ineffective, necessitating the administration of alternate and frequently antibiotics with higher toxicity. We have virtually run out of antibiotics as the bacteria have developed resistance to most of the antibiotics available currently."

The pulmonologist called for judicious medication practices to curb the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Highlighting a crucial recent initiative by the Health Ministry, Dr. Koul noted, "The Health Ministry has recommended that when prescribing antibiotics, healthcare practitioners must justify their decision and record it in the prescription. This measure aims to promote accountability and mitigate the proliferation of Antimicrobial Resistance." People need to | [More on P6](#)



warning against the indiscriminate use of antibiotics. "There is indiscriminate use of antibiotics in our society," Dr. Koul said.

"The use of antibiotics for a few days may seem innocuous, but has dangerous consequences for our microbial ecology. Antimicrobial Resistance that ensues due to indiscriminate use or inappropriate dosing is one of the leading public health concerns globally and contributes to a mammoth morbidity and mortality," Dr. Koul told Kashmir Observer.

## 200 Cr Bank Fraud Case ED Raids In J&K, Punjab, UP

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday raided locations in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in a Rs 200 crore alleged bank loan fraud case linked to the Bharat Papers Ltd. (BPL), official sources said.

At least nine premises in these regions are being searched by the central agency under the provisions of the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA).

Incorporated in September, 2006, the BPL is an associate of the Bharat Box Factory Industries Limited (BBFIL), a paper board packaging industry based in Jammu and Ludhiana.

The primary allegations against the company are that its directors have perpetrated a bank loan fraud of about Rs 200 crore with a consortium of banks with lead bank as the State Bank of India. | [More on P6](#)



## Over 1300 Kanals Of Forest Land Encroached In Kashmir: RTI

Govt And Private Entities Hold Large Tracts

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: In a shocking revelation around 1300 kanals of forest land in Kashmir division have either been encroached or are in the possession of private or government agencies, an Right to Information (RTI) revealed.

The information was sought by activist M M Shuja from the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the Public Information Officer (PIO) of the regional wildlife warden of Dachigam and Hirpora, Shopian wildlife sanctuaries, the land was transferred to different agencies of the government. The RTI says that over 1000 square kms of forest land are demarcated in the Kashmir division.

According to the figures revealed through the RTI, the wildlife department, Shopian has transferred 0.711 kanals (0.036 hectares) in Tral wildlife sanctuary to Irrigation

and flood control department of Jammu and Kashmir. The Public Works Department (PWD) has secured 1320 kanals (66.81 hectares) in Hirpora wildlife sanctuary in Shopian.

The data from the office of the wildlife warden central Division Dachigam, Srinagar reveals that the department has transferred over 1.9768 (0.1 hectares) in Check Dhara to a government agency, while 9.231 kanals (0.467 hectares) of forest land has been provided for the water supply scheme | [More on P6](#)

## 'Nichrome Coil-Based Heating Gadgets'

KPDCL Bans Procurement, Sale

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Wednesday ordered blanket ban on procuring and selling of nichrome coil based heating gadgets in the Valley. According to an order, KPDCL said that the government in 2018 had ordered complete ban

on manufacture, import, transport, sale, purchase and use of Nichrome coil-based crude heaters, boilers and steamers. It said that manufacturers do not conform to the required specifications of BIS or International Electro-Technical Commission.

"In consonance to the above orders, all Electric Divisions have done a remarkable job in seizing these crude heating appliances from a vast majority of the consumers, KPDCL said. The order | [More on P6](#)



## Virtual Autism Surges In Kashmir Children Of Working Parents At Higher Risk: Experts

Agencies

Srinagar: Aisha, a three-year-old (name changed), undergoes continuous therapy for virtual autism. Excessive screen time and parental absence contributed to her condition.

"Our kid was being taken care of by grandparents. She was used to mobile phones which escalated virtual autism in her. Now, we have reduced her screen time, and she is being constantly monitored by the experts," said Mohammad Akram, Aisha's father.

Last year, Kashmir saw an increase in cases of virtual autism, with 78 children registered at the Child Guidance and Wellbeing Centre (CGWC).



In 2022, 75 children with autism were registered at CGWC and prior to that 189 autism cases among children were registered from 2019-2021. Doctors said they have seen nearly 50 percent to 60 percent of children with virtual autism in the last two years.

They reveal that the major cause behind the rise in virtual autism was the lack of parental care followed by exposure to the screens.

"We witnessed that the majority of the virtual autism cases belonged to nuclear families and had both their parents working. These children have been taken care of by either grandparents or a caretaker, who exposed the children to mobile phones. Maximum exposure to the screen caused virtual autism among these children," said Dr Abrar Guroo, a Consultant Psychiatrist at Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) at SMHS Hospital. He said the | [More on P6](#)

## CRACKDOWN AGAINST DRUG PEDDLERS

### Police Attaches Property Worth Lakhs

Agencies

Srinagar: In a relentless effort to curb the menace of drug peddling, Police in Kulgam have attached property (double storey residential house and cowshed) measuring 1291.48 Sq.Ft valuing Rs 25,62,425 and 1139.5 Sq.Ft valuing Rs 67,8803 respectively, belonging to a notorious drug peddler namely Bashir Ahmad Khanday Son of Mohd Sultan Khanday resident of Nippora under section 68-F(2) of NDPS Act 1985. The property | [More on P6](#)

## In Criminal Trials, Suspicion Cannot Replace Proof: HC

Sets Aside 2 Years Jail Term In Corruption Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that "large distance between 'may be' true and 'must be' true, needs to be covered by way of clear, cogent and unimpeachable evidence produced by the prosecution before an accused is condemned as a convict," the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday set aside conviction and two years jail term of a government employee. The term was awarded by a trial court in connection with a corruption case registered in 2009. Allowing an appeal filed by an employee, Mansoor Ahmad



Malik, against the judgment of conviction and sentence passed by the court of Special Judge, Anticorruption (Additional Sessions Judge Pulwama) on December 3, 2015, a bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul held that the prosecution has failed to prove clearly and explicitly the demand of illegal gratification.

"In a criminal trial, suspicion no matter how strong, cannot and must not be permitted to take place of proof. This is for the reason that the mental distance between 'may be' and 'must be' is quite large, and divides vague conjectures from sure conclusions," the court said while referring to a judgment by Supreme Court.

In a criminal case, the Bench said, Court has a duty to ensure that mere conjectures or suspicion do not take the place of legal proof. "The large distance between 'may be' true and 'must be' true, must be covered by way of clear, | [More on P6](#)





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CONDELENCE MEETING

A condolence meeting was held under the chairmanship of Vice President to condole the sad demise of Raja Farhat Hussain, brother of President KEMA Mr Raja Nayeem Khan of M/S Northern Transformer I E Sanatnagar.

Sd/ Latif Ahmad Shah General Secretary KEMA, Srinagar

SS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the DOB certificate of my wards Namely Momin Ali Bhat, Nadeem Ali Bhat somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

nj

In The Court Of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin

Subject: Application of Fayaz Ahmad Thoker S/o Ab Ahad Thoker R/o Tekipora Shoplan for registration of event of Death (delayed entry) of his Mother namely Rehmti

PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas the applicant named above has filed present application for Issuance of birth certificate of his Mother with date of death as 09-01-1995 As such notice is issued in the name of general public that in case anybody has any objections regarding the entry of birth record of applicant's Mother with the office of Registrar (Births & Deaths) / Block Development Officer KAPRAN then he/she / they can file objections to same in this court within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which application shall be decided in accordance with the mandate of law.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin

FKO

From the office of Advocate Syed Mohsin Geelani

In the case of: 1. Dr Syed Ansar Ahmad Qadri S/o Syed Mohammad Farooq Qadri R/o Qadri Manzil 155 Zabarwan Lane Wakeel Colony Srinagar A/P Kingdon Hospital NGS Foundation Trust Galsworthy Road Kingston upon Thamas SURREY KT27QB-UK 2. Syed Mohammad Farooq Qadri F/o Dr Syed Ansar Ahmad Qadri 3. Razia Chaisti W/o Syed Mohammad Farooq Qadri 4. Dr Syed Asrar Ahmad Qadri S/o: Syed Mohammad Farooq Qadri 5. Aftreen Rashid Bhat W/o Dr Syed Asrar Ahmad Qadri All Residents of Qadri Manzil 155 Zabarwan Lane Wakeel Colony Srinagar (Caveators)

PUBLIC AT LARGE

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

Sd/advocate nj

NOTICE

I Abdul Majeed Najar R/O Mandibal Nowshera, Srinagar-190011 F/o Atufa Majeed want to change my Daughter's name in Aadhar Card from Uteeba Majeed to Atufa Majeed bearing Aadhar no 3267 4074 5804. Now I want to re-issue Aadhar for the same. Regard this if anybody is having any objection he/she may file the same to the Aadhar Center within a week, after that no objection will be submitted.

Media line

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHMOODA AKHTAR, am holding 6000 shares of J&K Bank under Folio No. JKB043201 where my name has been inadvertently recorded as MAHMOODA AKHTER which is incorrect, whereas my actual name is MOHMOODA AKHTAR. This is further to mention that the said shares stands transferred to IEPF Authority. In this regard, I am applying for correction of name under my Folio and claim of said shares from the IEPF Authority. If anybody has any objection may contact J&K Bank, Corporate Headquarters within Fifteen (15) days from the publication of this notice after which no objection shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mehdi Hassan (DOB: 06-01-2010) S/o Nazir Hussain Hajam R/o Zakir Mohalla Magam

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Committee within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Syed Mohd Mohtashim Qadir (DOB: 11-08-2009) S/o Ayoub Khalid Qadri R/o South City Nowgam Bypass Srinagar P.O Natipora

NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Committee within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Syed Maleeqah Qadri (DOB: 25-05-2008) D/o Ayoub Khalid Qadri R/o South City Nowgam Bypass Srinagar P.O Natipora

NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Committee within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Muqadas Fatima (DOB: 27-06-2016) D/o Ali Muhammad Dar R/o Durbal Bemina

NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Committee within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Murtaza Ali Dar (DOB: 05-03-2020) D/o Ali Muhammad Dar R/o Durbal Bemina

NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the DOB certificate of my Son Namely Mohammad Aahil Malik somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Manzoor Ahmad Malik S/o Mohammad Shafi Malik R/o Ganderpora Eid Gah Srinagar

nj

High Court Of Jammu & Kashmir And Ladakh (Office Of The Registrar Judicial, Srinagar)

WP(C) No.3479/2023 CM No.8401/2023 Inhabitants of Village Hardu Ring Machil, Kupwara V/s UT of J&K and Ors Notice under Order 1 Rule 8 CPC

Whereas, one Ghulam Nabi Bhat Aged 54 Years S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Hardu Ring Machil District Kupwara who is stated to have been authorized by the petitioner inhabitants, has, through his counsel Mr. Tawoos Ahmad, Advocate & Associates filed the above titled writ petition on behalf of the Inhabitants of Village Hardu Ring Machil, Kupwara in a representative capacity on the grounds that he and all the Inhabitants of Village Hardu Ring Machil, Kupwara have common interests in the subject matter of the writ petition; that they are aggrieved of order dated 08/07/2022 issued by the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara whereby their claim for allotment of a chunk of land near District Headquarters and their rehabilitation has been rejected, that the said order which is impugned in the above titled writ petition, is operating adverse to their rights as they are economically, socially and educationally backward class of society and are facing tremendous problems in terms of basic amenities; that their village is hardly few meters away from LOC and their village often remains cut off from other areas of the District and they suffer particularly during the winter season, as such, sought their shifting to some other safer place and that despite a number of requests made before the authorities, they are being unheeded thereby constraining them to invoke appropriate jurisdiction of the hon'ble Court for redressal of their grievances

The petitioners have sought the following reliefs:- (i) Writ of Certiorari:- by quashing and set aside the order no. DCK/L5/ALO/428-29 Dated 08/07/2022 passed by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara. (ii) Writ of Mandamus: commanding the respondents to allot a chunk of land for temporary settlement of inhabitants of Village Hardu Ring Machil during the period, it has been already admitted by government authorities in its report that the area is exposed to risks should be relocated/rehabilitated by the government. (iii) Any other writ/order or direction which Hon'ble Court may deem fit to issue in the facts and circumstances of the case in favour of the petitioners and against the respondents Now, therefore, in compliance to the Hon'ble Court Order Dated 15/01/2024 passed in the above titled writ petition, this publication notice under Order I Rule 8 CPC is hereby issued calling upon inhabitants of village hardu Ring Machil, Kupwara to file their/his/her objections, if any, in the above titled matter. Take note the matter is listed on 21-02-2024

Sd/- Registrar Judicial nj

از نیابت گلشنہ

درخواست منجانب عبدالحمید ریشتی ولد شاد احمد ریشتی ساکنہ ڈیموہ برآمد اطمانی لیکل بیر سرفٹیک

اشتبہار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بڑا میں زیر کارروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کئے گئے جس سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ سائل کا ولد محمد اسمد اللہ ریشتی مورخہ 20-11-2023 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی کے دربار میں بذیل ہے

عبدالحمید ریشتی سربہ 55 سال مزدوری مضرہ بیگم زوجہ 53 گھر بیلو کام غوسید یونو دختر 28 زیر تعلیم سکینہ بانو دختر 25 زیر تعلیم عادل احمد ریشتی پسر 22 زیر تعلیم ساحل احمد پسر 18 زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتلا گیا ہے سرفٹیک زیر بحث کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ مینجا ڈگرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko nj

از نیابت گلشنہ

درخواست منجانب عبدالحمید ریشتی ولد شاد احمد ریشتی ساکنہ ڈیموہ برآمد اطمانی لیکل بیر سرفٹیک

اشتبہار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر بڑا ایک درخواست بابت حصول تاریخ پیدائش سرفٹیک موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ سائل اساتلہ یوم پیدائش سند حاصل کرنے کی خواہ ہے۔ سائل اساتلہ دعویٰ کرتی/کرتا ہے کہ منجانب فاطمہ دختر منظور احمد پرے ساکنہ جوہر پورہ ناہہ بل کی تاریخ پیدائش 04-07-2011 ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ مینجا ڈگرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

عبدالحمید ریشتی سربہ 55 سال مزدوری مضرہ بیگم زوجہ 53 گھر بیلو کام غوسید یونو دختر 28 زیر تعلیم سکینہ بانو دختر 25 زیر تعلیم عادل احمد ریشتی پسر 22 زیر تعلیم ساحل احمد پسر 18 زیر تعلیم

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نائب تحصیلدار fko nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving licence bearing DL No: 5651 MVD SPN. Now I have applied for the issuance of duplicate. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Shaokor Ahmad Wani S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Wani R/o Barbugh Imam Sahib Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the DOB certificate of my ward, Mehran Mushtaq DOB: 20-09-2021. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the SMC Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohd Mushtaq F/o Mehran Mushtaq Present Address: Bemina Sector No 6 Permanent Address Sudpora Karnah

nj\_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the DOB certificate of my ward, Mehran Mushtaq DOB: 20-09-2021. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the SMC Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohd Mushtaq F/o Mehran Mushtaq Present Address: Bemina Sector No 6 Permanent Address Sudpora Karnah

nj\_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the DOB certificate of my ward, Mehran Mushtaq DOB: 20-09-2021. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the SMC Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohd Mushtaq F/o Mehran Mushtaq Present Address: Bemina Sector No 6 Permanent Address Sudpora Karnah

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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### Slow Work Progress Leads To Traffic Jams At Batamalloo

Observer News Service Srinagar: The slow pace of work at Batamalloo area of Srinagar has become a cause of irksome traffic jamming in the area, with locals urging the authorities to expedite the work. The locals claimed that the slow pace of work at the crowded Batamalloo in Srinagar causes traffic mess in the area. A local resident Basit said the area is facing frequent traffic jams as the

work is going on at a very slow pace, causing inconvenience to motorists and the general public alike. "Every day, I travel the same route, but traffic always gets in the way and makes it late. I would like to request the authorities to kindly look into this matter," said a commuter. An official said the construction work is being carried out by the R&B department in a phased manner to avoid traffic blockade on the road.

## Waqf Board Assures Better Facilities For Devotees On 'Meraj'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson, Dr. Darakshan Andrabi Wednesday said that all necessary arrangements would be put in place to ensure better facilities for the devotees on the upcoming Shab-e-Meraj. Shab-e-Mehraj, she hoped, would be commemorated with religious fervor. Andrabi said Waqf has tried to resolve all the concerns related to Dargah Hazratbal. Pertinently, Shab-e-Meraj is observed every year in the month of the Islamic Date of Rajab 27, and begins on the evening of 07 February, 2024. Speaking to the media at Khanyar, Dr. Darakshan Andrabi, while inaugurating various devel-

opment works, as the Waqf Board takes charge of shrines in J&K, efforts have consistently been made to address all the issues.

She added that the primary concern was the lack of proper space for washrooms at shrines in the Valley. "These issues were often highlighted by visitors of the shrines," she said. Similar to other shrines, the J&K Waqf Board has established washrooms here at Khanyar, today marking its inauguration, alongside laying the foundation for other projects. Asked about the preparations for Shab-e-Mehraj at Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar, Dr. Andrabi stated that all the necessary arrangements will be put in place. The Waqf has strived to address all the issues at Dargah Hazratbal, expressing optimism that Shab-e-Meraj will be celebrated with great devotion.



### Dispelling Misconceptions Stock Market Is Not A Casino!

Ishrad Mushtaq Even though some people may perceive the stock market as a casino and consider it as a haram investment, the reality is quite different. The stock market is a platform for buying and selling shares of publicly-traded companies, and it is a legitimate way to invest money, as long as it is done in accordance with Shariah compliance.

In fact, around 40% of Indian companies listed on the stock exchanges are Shariah compliant, and there is even an S&P BSE 500 Shariah Index that represents the Shariah index in India. This demonstrates that it is possible to invest in the stock market while adhering to Islamic principles. It is important to recognize that the stock market is not akin to a casino. While there is volatility in the short term, it does not mean that investing in stocks is akin to gambling. No asset class can guarantee returns in the short term, and it is essential to focus on long-term investment strategies. Additionally, real estate, often seen as a safer investment, is not immune to volatility and price stagnation. In certain regions, real estate prices have remained stagnant for years, highlighting the misconception that it is a safer investment than stocks. Diversifying one's assets in different asset classes and sectors, while ensuring adherence to Shariah principles, is a sound investment strategy. It is important to consider the long-term potential of investments, rather than succumbing to panic due to short-term fluctuations. Additionally, what may work in one region or country may not necessarily hold true in another, further emphasizing the importance of a diversified investment approach.

In conclusion, it is important to dispel the misconception that the stock market is a casino or a haram investment. With the presence of Shariah compliant investment options and a focus on long-term strategies, the stock market can be a legitimate and rewarding avenue for investment. It is crucial to approach investments with prudence and to seek guidance from knowledgeable sources to ensure alignment with Shariah principles.

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

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از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار ساقہ سرتنگہ... محترم: درخواست منجانب رضوان سلطان گوجری... 57 سال مزدوری... 57 سال گھریلو کام... 25 سال تعلیم... 23 سال... nj

PUBLIC NOTICE I have applied for the registration of my Tour & Travel Agency under name and style "Funzikipashmir tour & Travel". inf

## Weekly Block Diwas DC Srinagar Holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp At Lasjan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Lasjan area in Panthachowk Tehsil of the District in an endeavor to bring Administration at the door steps of the people for on spot resolution of their developmental issues and demands during public outreach program under Weekly Block Diwas. Chairman, District Development Council, Srinagar, Malik Aftab Ahmad and other eminent

citizens, besides large number of people of Lasjan, Nowgam, Soiteng, Wathpara, Baginder, Padshahi Bagh and other adjoining areas were part of the Public Grievance Redressal Camp. During the Grievance Redressal Camp, local representatives, public delegations and individuals projected various issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner. The demands and issues put before the DC include augmentation of Water supply and drainage system, development of playgrounds, upgradation of sports infrastructure, besides other development issues were

flagged-off during the Grievance Redressal Camp. The Deputy Commissioner after giving patient hearing to the issues and demands of the public, sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp. The DC also assured the people of Lasjan, Soiteng and other adjoining areas that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned authorities on priority. The DC also gave on the spot direction to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

### The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK)

The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) expresses regret over the sudden demise of Raja Farhat Hussain of Northern Electricals I/E Sanat Nagar who breathed his last on Tuesday night due to cardiac arrest. A delegation of FCIK led by its former President and Advisory Committee Member Mohammad Ashraf Mir participated in the funeral prayers and last rites of the deceased on Wednesday. The deceased was brother of prominent entrepreneur and President Kashmir Electrical Manufacturers Association (KEMA) Raja Nayeem Ahmad Khan. Leaders and members of industrial fraternity from across Kashmir valley thronged the residence of Khan's at Baghat Burzalla on Wednesday to offer their personal condolences to the bereaved family. Shahid Kamili, M. D Qureshi, Shakeel Qalander and Zahoor Ahmad Bhat while conveying their heartfelt condolences have assured the bereaved family that entire industrial fraternity of Kashmir shared their grief and sorrow at this critical moment.

### Office Of The Executive Engineer, Generation Division -1st Sumbal (Kangan)

Extension-1 Sub: Extension of dates for submission of tenders. Reference: 1. This office e-NIT No: GDS/16 of 2023-24, dated 18-01-2024 for supply of deodar wooden boat (as per sample) along with installation at forebay of USHP-I, Sumbal. Due to no response, the dates for above referred e- NIT are hereby extended as under.

Sr.No	Critical dates	Date
01	Bid Document Submission end date	10-02-2024
02	Date of opening of techno commercial bids	12-02-2024

All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in the original NIT. Sd/- Executive Engineer Generation Division USHP-I Sumbal

### Office Of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Pampore

Subject: Provisional Selection list of Sahayika ( Anganwadi Helper ) of Poshan Project Pampore and inviting of objections thereof. Public Notice In pursuance to the Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated 28-04-2023 and approval from Mission Director Poshan J&K vide No.MD/Poshan/Estt./13226-30 dated 08-05-2023, an advertisement Notice was issued vide Notification No:- CDPO/Poshan/Pampore/Adv/2023/111-131 Dated 13-05-2023 in response to this notification applications were collected, merit panel was framed but selected candidate named Ifra Jan W/O :- Ulmer Bashir refused to join the honorary job of Sahayika [Anganwadi Helper]. The said post as per the guidelines issued by GAD [ S.O NO: 496 Issued vide notification dated :- 20th of September 2023 by GAD, J&K ] was readvertised vide this office communication No:-CDPO/Poshan/Pampore/Adv/2023/1293-1306 Dated:-19.12.2023 with opening date of recruitment as 20.12.2023 and last date of the same as 30th December 2023. In response to this one (1) application form was received within the cut off date and accordingly provisional selection list has been framed for 1 Sahayika ( Anganwadi Helper). Merit list has been prepared as per the criteria laid vide Govt. order No:- 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated:-28.04.2023 and accordingly provisional selection list has been framed by the selection committee. Provisional Selection list annexured as (Annexure-A) is hereby published for information of public in general and Applicants/ Candidates in particular for filing appeal/Objections if any. The appeal/Objection if any against the selection list shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer Pampore against proper receipt within 5 days (in Office Hours) from the date of publication of this notification. No objection /Appeal shall be entertained after expiry of last date of filing Appeal/objection. Sd/- Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Pampore

### In The Court Of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin

Subject: Application of Fayaz Ahmad Thoker S/o Ab Ahad Thoker R/o Tekipora Shoplan for registration of event of Death ( delayed entry) of his Father namely Ab Ahad Thoker. PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC Whereas the applicant named above has filed present application for Issuance of birth certificate of his Father with date of death as 08-06-2016 As such notice is issued in the name of general public that in case anybody has any objections regarding the entry of birth record of applicant's father with the office of Registrar (Births & Deaths) / Block Development Officer KAPRAN then he/she / they can file objections to same in this court within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which application shall be decided in accordance with the mandate of law. Issued under seal and signature of this court today on 31-01-2024. Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin FKO

### ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

### Quotation Call Notice

Sealed quotations are invited from the authorized dealer or manufacturer for the supply of Rapid Chloride Penetration Test Equipment (RCPT Equipment). The quotations in the sealed envelope prescribed as "Quotation for RCPT Equipment" shall reach the office of the chairman of the DPTC/Head Department of Civil Engineering by or before February 8, 2024, upto 4:00 p.m. The detailed specifications of RCPT equipment and other terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or downloaded from the university website. www.iust.ac.in No: 76 Sd/- I/C Head, Deptt. of Civil Engineering Dated: - 29-01-2024 DPK-NB-5494/23 dated: 31-01-2024

### J&K Bank

### Online Request for Proposal (e-RFP) for Empanelment of Service Providers for conducting Performance testing of Bank's IT Applications

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal https://jkbank.abprocure.com w.e.f. January 31, 2024, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is February 21, 2024 17.00 Hrs. e- RFP Ref No. JKB/CHO/TS/D/Performance-Testing/2024-966 Dated: 29-01-2024

### ANNEXURE- A

Merit List of the Applicants for the Engagement of Anganwadi Helper ( Sahayika ) Advertised Vide this Office communication No:- CDPO/Poshan/Pampore/ADV/2023/1293-1306 dated:- 19/12/2023 for below mentioned panchayat Halqa.

S. N o.	Name of applicant	Parentage	Date of birth	Residence	Panchayat Halqa	Ward No.	Name of AW C applied for	Qualification	Mark s Obtained Out of	Percentage	If the applicant belongs to family of retired AWW/AWH (YES/NO)	Total Weightage	Remarks
1	MUDA SIRA MANZ OOR	IRFAN AHM AD RATH ER	10.10.1993	MUNP ORA	ANDRO OSA	07	MUNPORA-A	10TH	255/500	51	NO	51	Provisionally Selected

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

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

### PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 03  
ZUHR 12:44  
ASR 4: 22  
Magrib 6:04  
ISHA 7: 26

### HIJRI CALENDAR

20 Rajab 1445



KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 01-02-2024

## Plains Await Snow

**A** light snowfall in the higher reaches in recent days, has brought a drawn dry season to an end, even though plains have yet to experience the touch of white flakes this winter. Traditionally, the onset of the first snowfall marks a significant cultural moment for Kashmiris. Known as 'Nov Sheen' or New Snowfall, this event prompts joyous greetings and the exchange of winter delicacies among friends and family. But it seems the snow is going to elude the plains for some more time.

As the 40-day-long period of intense winter cold, known as 'Chillai Kalan,' draws to a close, the absence of snowfall in the plains has left locals yearning for the signature winter charm. The minimum temperatures in Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam have seen a noticeable rise, casting doubt on the possibility of a heavy snowfall in the remaining days of winter.

Nonetheless, the snow in the high altitude areas is a pleasant change in weather. Doodhpathri resort in Budgam witnessed a delicate covering of 2 inches, while Ganderbal received 4 inches of snow. The beauty of Sonamarg has been enhanced by a generous 1-foot snowfall, with Razdan Top receiving an impressive 2 feet. Dawar Gurez, Izmag, Sadna Top, and Farkin Top are all touched by varying degrees of snow, creating a winter wonderland.

While the winter and the attendant snowfall create hardships for people in the Valley, on the tourism front, things start looking up. In the famous health resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, the snow draws tourists in droves. Snowfall is thus a boon for tourism. It is important for its novelty for the ninety-nine percent of more than 1.4 Indians, so they look forward to visiting Kashmir in winter. The recent snowfall has not only delighted tourists but has also brought a renewed sense of hope for the local players in the industry, who were grappling with a slump in business in the absence of substantial snowfall in the preceding months. The valley, known for its enchanting beauty, particularly during winters, faced a decline in tourist footfall, leading to cancellations and a lack of queries for tour operators.

The arrival of snow in the Kashmir Valley is not just a meteorological event; it is a cultural and emotional embrace that adds a touch of magic to the winter season. The anticipation of 'Nav Sheen' continues to linger in the air, as the people of Kashmir await the full manifestation of winter's grace upon their land. Here's hoping it snows more in the near future.

### OTHER OPINION

## Economic encomium

**A**head of the Interim Budget for 2024-25 on Thursday, the Finance Ministry's 10-year review of the economy with some forward outlook, serves as a proxy to the annual Economic Survey. The review signals GDP will grow close to 7% in 2024-25, with scope to go 'well above' 7% by 2030. From about \$3.7 trillion this year, India's economy will expand to \$5 trillion in three years, making it the world's third largest, and could hit the \$7 trillion dollar mark by 2030, it reckons. Splicing India's growth story into two phases — 1950-2014, and a 'decade of transformative growth' since 2014 — the review stresses that the state of the economy was 'far from encouraging' when Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'assumed power'. Growth was hobbled by structural constraints such as tardy decision-making, ill-targeted subsidies and a large informal sector, while inflation was unpalatably high. Post-2014 reforms have restored the economy's ability to grow healthily with "longer and stronger" economic and financial cycles, and made India the fastest growing G-20 nation, it argues. The review asserts that India's 7% growth when the world is growing 2%, is 'qualitatively superior' to 8%-9% achieved when the global economy grows 4%, perhaps, hinting at a few years of the UPA era. This is debatable as India's economy is generally delinked from the world with domestic activity driving growth more than exports.

Now that the twin-balance sheet problem inherited from the UPA days has turned into an 'advantage', as the review stresses, it must translate into a wider private investment revival. That would hinge on a broad-based consumption rebound rather than the K-shaped recovery the government vehemently dismisses. Four years of 7%-plus growth, post-pandemic, would be commendable indeed. However, India needs to grow faster to create jobs at the scale its youth need and ensure that a rising growth tide lifts most boats, if not all. The review expects an 'all-inclusive welfare approach' to help enlarge the consumption base by expanding the middle class. But those dependent on handouts, such as the 800 million that need free food by the Centre's reckoning, must progressively shrink for growth to be meaningful and equitable. The report rightly mentions reforms in learning outcomes, health, easier compliances for smaller firms, as priorities, with some critical changes at the 'sub-national government' level to accelerate growth. It is also essential that flaws in reforms such as GST are fixed and some of the blunt policy tools deployed, for instance, import licences and price controls on deregulated products, that send convoluted signals about India's 'open market with predictable policies' pitch, are reconsidered.

The Hindu

# Is INDIA Alliance Unraveling?



RIYAZ WANI

**For, people hardly judge him by his performance on delivering jobs or reducing inflation. PM Modi is seen as a leader on a much grander mission, and which is to fundamentally recast India as a nation**

**W**ith the grand inauguration of the Ram Mandir on January 22, attention has now shifted to the upcoming parliamentary elections, likely to be held in May-June 2024. The discourse surrounding these elections is anticipated to be dominated by the Ram Mandir, contrasting the 2019 general elections where the Pulwama bombing and subsequent Balakot attack played a major role in shaping the narrative in favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Ram Mandir has become a focal point, generating a groundswell of support for PM Modi and potentially paving the way for his third term in power.

Kashmir, nevertheless, remains a significant issue in the upcoming polls, especially following the Supreme Court's December 11 verdict in favour of the abrogation of Article 370. This also goes to the favour of the BJP which counts the withdrawal of Article 370 as one of its biggest achievements. Together, with the enactment of laws such as the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA), National Register of Citizens (NRC), Triple Talaq, among others over the last five years, the BJP now wields a considerable political advantage over the opposition. So, the saffron party's victory is widely perceived as a foregone conclusion. More so, after the persisting inability of the INDIA Alliance to get its act together since its founding in June 2024. And as the elections are getting closer, the alliance is threatening to unravel. Already, Mamata Banerjee and Congress have witnessed a bitter falling out in West Bengal over seat-sharing. In Bihar, Nitish Kumar has yet again switched to the BJP - a stultifying development, if its impli-

cations for the opposition unity weren't so grave.

That said, PM Modi after the opening up of Ram Mandir has moved into a different zone. He is no longer a competitor for the opposition in the realm of governance. And fighting him solely on the governance turf will be self-defeating. For, people hardly judge him by his performance on delivering jobs or reducing inflation. PM Modi is seen as a leader on a much grander mission, and which is to fundamentally recast India as a nation. And this is to revive the imagined glory of India before the advent of Muslim rule which lasted around 800 years followed by 200 years of British rule. Establishment of Ram Mandir is a major milestone on this road. And in this pursuit, economic hardships don't matter beyond a point. In fact, they become a kind of a right of passage to a lofty moral end. This has made PM Modi relevant to the existing political scene in the country in a way, none of his predecessors have been. He has given a certain sense of meaning to the otherwise banal lives of his supporters, above and beyond the demand of economic well-being. This is something only the leaders like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and to some extent his daughter Indira Gandhi have done before but in a different political context with altogether different political aims. Modi is turning out to be an even more stronger leader than them in that he is in the process of altering the character of the republic. The BJP has already covered a significant ground towards this goal.

The INDIA Alliance which was expected to halt the saffron party's march is unraveling with the parties plowing in conflicting directions. With Kumar's exit,

the crisis has come to a head. From hereon, the remaining alliance partners will have to project a credible show of unity, to inspire some public faith in their potential to take on the BJP.

But such a prospect looks unlikely considering Brand Modi remains in the ascendant. All the rival political stalwarts have been reduced to pygmies. India's larger secular opposition is still in tatters and fighting over scraps. Rahul Gandhi may be one of the few major genuine ideological opponents now, but there is no major pan-India leader in sight to take on PM Modi. Presently, he is in a space where a large section of the Indian people has begun to associate him with divine attributes. Moreover, the pervasive influence of the Hindutva ideology he promotes is evident, with elements of it finding resonance within the opposition as well. There is no national leader in India who wants to be aggressive on secularism including Rahul Gandhi or Mamata Banerjee. Still the opposition unity and the Congress revival as a cohesive party can be expected to offer some challenge to the BJP's overwhelming dominance. And to this end, the alliance needs to get over with the seat-sharing at the earliest and move on to formulating a vision and a narrative couched in an intelligible message. Time is running out.

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



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## Prioritising Limited Screen Time for Children's Well-being

**I** am writing to address an urgent concern that affects the well-being and development of our younger generation — the excessive screen time that children are exposed to in today's digital age. It is essential that we recognize the potential risks associated with unrestricted screen time and take proactive steps to ensure a healthier balance between technology use and real-world experiences. In recent years, the proliferation of screens in our lives has been remarkable, providing us with unprecedented

access to information and entertainment. However, the impacts on children are increasingly worrying. Extended screen time has been linked to various issues, such as disrupted sleep patterns, sedentary lifestyles, and even negative effects on mental health. The potential consequences are not to be taken lightly, as they can have far-reaching implications for the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of our youth. To address this concern, parents, educators, and policymakers must work together to establish guidelines and

boundaries for children's screen time. Encouraging outdoor activities, physical play, and face-to-face interactions should be prioritized to promote healthy growth and social skills. Moreover, educational initiatives that teach children about responsible technology use can help them develop the necessary skills to navigate the digital world safely and thoughtfully. As a society, we must recognize that screens are a tool, not a substitute for genuine human interactions and experiences. By setting limits on screen time and offering al-

ternative activities, we can empower children to lead more balanced lives and develop essential life skills that extend beyond the virtual realm. In conclusion, it is crucial that we address the issue of excessive screen time among children. By fostering a culture of balanced technology use, we can ensure a brighter future for our youth, one that promotes their holistic development and well-being.

Mehak Wahid



# Blooming Zephyrs And Uprooting Tempests

— Kashmir, Ladakh and Central Asia Connect, Silk Route Continuum

S.SARWAR.MALIK

Human history is replete with transactions of myriad types. Once man started to walk on this earth foot trails became routes and pathways transformed into highways; which over a period of time developed into a massive network of arteries, veins and capillaries; most of them, usually, allowing travels & transactions, both to & fro. With these words I begin my today's write-up, dear reader, as (-minutes back) I am done with filing of the newspaper cuttings (- that revolved around the local Mystics Lalle Ded & Noend Ryosh and Persian proselytiser Shah-e-Hamadan) \* in respective files and temporarily placing them in the book rack [- where my eyes tarried for a while; emanating a cold sigh, on AN ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN KASHMIRI VERSE, 1930-1960 (- published in 1972) Translated into English by Prof. T.N.Raina ji - 'one of my prized books of my PRIME', salvaged from the devastating flood of 2014'; though partly soiled; wait please for the tail piece].

From where I sit in this birth place of mine, KASHMIR, with my laptop, my partly foggy eyes this moment bring a vast view, on my mind's screen, be it in North, South, East or West, of the surrounding entities, called COUNTRIES, whose political boundaries have kept on changing, with the change of the flimsy calendar so to say, as told by various historiographical records, put in writing, mostly, by 'hired-pens'; though their geographical landmarks, more defining & permanent; remained largely unchanged over centuries.

In the physical map of Central Asia, we can see on the east of the Caspian Sea exists TURKMENISTAN, UZBEKISTAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, part of West China (- Xinjiang), West-East Afghanistan.

Iran is on the south of the Caspian Sea, Russia is on its Northern side. Azerbaijan is on the south of Caspian Sea [-'not far away exists the area where Turkish-Armenian war of 1920 AD took place that popularised the fabled Ararat Hills of Noah's Ark that gained the attention of the world, though first recorded ascent was in Oct 1829, by Friedrich Parrot..'] on far East is Gilgit, Karakoram (Paki-



stan), and also visible is the north tip of India, Tibet and part of Mongolia.

These five countries, typed in capitals above, together, largely, form today the region, called 'Central Asia'; ... composed of a mottled mosaic of over 100 million people, wherein anthropologists have identified at least forty distinct cultural groupings, AND these five named countries that gained their independence at the end of 1991 from Russian control, boast of more than 100 different ethnic groups, though major ones are KAZAKHS (-19 million), KYRGYZS (-7 million), TAJIKS (- 10 million), UZBEKS (-35 million) and TURKMENI (- 6 million; though Russians, German, Ukrainians, Iranians, etc are also residing in these 5 countries...) that remained, historically, closely tied to the name of THE SILK ROAD, known in the annals of human history for the movement of People, Ideas and of course Goods.

Very briefly I may add some points of interest viz: with Kazakhstan are associated emperors like Attilia, Genghis Khan and Timur; with Kyrgyzstan mention of Nestorian Christians (- gravestone near Bishkek) dates back to the 7th century while Tajikistan is believed to have been host to human settlement as early as 3,000 BC while as with Turkmenistan is associated the farming dating back to 500 BC; in 3rd Century BC it is known to have been a part of the Persian kingdom of Parthia and in 8th Century Turkmenistan had come under Arab domination.



Dear reader, Kashmir and Ladakh had links with the Central Asian Region, as well as Indian Sub-continent, centuries back; about which you have already read a miniscule portion in the supra quoted articles of mine; a little bit more herein today

Exchanges are believed to have taken place actively since 2nd Century BC to 15th Century A.D through the Silk road/route, popularly of silk, spices, olive, ivory and gold. Though the name 'Silk Road', is said to have been first coined by Ferdinand Von Richthofen, the German geographer in 1877 AD but the important fact to bear in mind is that in different centuries multiple offshoots came to be included in this umbrella-term. Readers must underline the information that in spreading Buddhism from India to China, Afghanistan, Korea, Japan and S.E Asia this SILK Route played a vital role.

From 15th century AD onwards with the discovery of the Maritime route to India by Vasco Di Gama (1498), Portuguese Goa route (1510) and the Malay portion of Malacca (1511 AD) trade with the East diminished the role of the Silk Road. We however must also remember that Mongol plundering disrupted the ROAD that had contributed a lot to the Indian subcontinent, Arabian peninsula, Persia as well as Europe (-Eur-

asian Continent). However in times nigh to us, that is specifically from 1st decennial of this current Century China, readers may recapitulate, began to ponder over the idea of 'The New Silk Road, of which the world witnessed 'Belt And Road Forum (BARF) summit of 2017 that smelt of the China's power-ambitions visa-viz USA; that is New World Order; a New Vision of Economic Integration and a new game of geo-economies and Chinese assertion of 'GO- Global-Approach'; focussing on partnership rather than alliance between countries(- spanning over 70 countries) and inclusiveness of Inter-national Relations'.

asian Continent).

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The regions of Kashmir and Ladakh had links with the Central Asian region as the two were on the cross-road between China, Tibet & India when through places like Yarkand, Lhasa, Skardu, Kulu, Kishtwar, Srinagar etc caravans of yore travelled with merchandise, gathered in bazaars and sarais (Marts and Inns) and imbibed a plethora of ideas in conversational discourses and recreational pastimes like storytelling, theatrical-performances; not to miss the mention of 'faiths & beliefs and practices men carried from their home ground to new pitches' that some other day will be the subject of my writing, dear reader.

Now the TAIL PIECE:  
Poet Ghulam Ahmed Mahjoor's one verse and it's rendition by my revered Prof.T.N.Raina.

Mayon lokachaar ts-ale-voen aabie Rambyaar/

Gav neerith, pheerith Yun chhu doshvaar/

Qolaraadan doed yi sabzaaro ho/ Nau Baharoo miyaani lokachaar ho //

It was like the hurrying waters of Rambi stream/ Which rushes down, but can't come back/

Even though the grass on the banks may wither

Life's Spring time, O' my youth!!

Adieu dear reader, for now.

\*= Vision Versified part I Lalle Ded, part II Noend Ryosh- KO dt 28Nov2023; Why Not Make It 100 - Earliest known Mystics - KO dt 14 Jan 2024 and Kashmir- Central Asia Connect KO dt 24 Dec 2023 contributed by the present author

# 'Toxic Positivity' Is Out

Welcome To The New World Of Indulgent Pettiness

Marina Deller

Call them pet peeves, call them petty grievances, one thing is certain - complaining about everyday irritations feels cathartic. It's also the premise of American comedy podcast I've Had It.

Hosts Jennifer Welch and Angie "Pumps" Sullivan state, tongue in cheek, that their goal is to compartmentalise complaining and be nicer in their day-to-day life. Their complaints range from pedestrian (cordless vacuums, people who clap when a plane lands, long Instagram captions) to political (the state of the education system). Eyebrow-raising complaints include, simply, "pregnant people".

Since launching in late 2022, I've Had It has topped Apple's podcast charts, become viral on both TikTok and X several times, and has led the hosts to guest-star on programs such as The Today Show. This podcast's popularity across platforms signals a cultural shift from "toxic positivity" to indulgent pettiness - but a shift away from positivity into fully embracing complaints is not without risk.

## TOXIC POSITIVITY AND EMOTIONAL INFLUENCERS

As community-minded creatures who want deeply to belong we often mirror others, including on social media, where we adopt phrasing, tone and expressions of emotion.

In the past few years, social media has had a focus on hyper-



positivity (think cheery emojis and motivational quotes plastered over sunsets). Some put this "good vibes only" trend down to the pandemic and a desire to avoid painful feelings when ruminating on difficult realities.

However, attempting to convey constant happiness is not only difficult but impossible. Research suggests prescriptive positivity can make us react poorly to unfavourable emotions and is a "goal that backfires" when people view themselves as a failure for feeling unhappy, struggle to handle their feelings, or actively avoid processing them.

But now toxic positivity has been named and shamed, people are searching for more emotion-

ally nuanced media.

The I've Had It hosts are in a new wave of content creators we can consider "emotional influencers", in this case contributing to a new media landscape where complaining is not only embraced but encouraged.

## CURATED CLOSENESS

By putting our "retaliation" against negative experiences into words, we experience pleasurable emotions. Complaining can feel cathartic, reduce stress, and (like gossiping) help us feel closer to others.

This community aspect of complaining suits podcasting, which fosters intimacy through sharing deeply personal stories "directly into

our ear" and "chosen just for you".

Listening to hosts who feel like our friends, who are friends themselves, having a chat and sharing laughter can make us feel socially fulfilled in a similar way to a video chat or virtual message with a real-life friend.

In I've Had It, the hosts and their guests share personal complaints and unfiltered stories in a curated approach for bond-forming. We know, for example, that Jennifer's husband Josh (a regular guest) has struggled with addiction and that Jennifer has "had it" with family week at his rehab centre. We also know Pumps once tried to relieve constipation with a teaspoon.

Executive producer Kiley has

become a regular feature, laughing at the hosts' antics and acting as an audience surrogate. Fans are involved in the show via voice messages, reviews and as guests themselves.

These elements combine to provide a sense there is potential to become "real life" friends with Jennifer and Pumps: the promotional tagline for their live shows is "make your parasocial friendship real".

While complaining brings people together, it can also push us apart through ostracisation or rejection. Although the goal of I've Had It is to compartmentalise pettiness, this may be easier for the hosts than the listeners.

Jennifer and Pumps are two undeniably affluent, well-connected women who have leveraged their privilege to build a platform about complaining. They also amp-up their on-air personas, with Jennifer admitting, "I'm not as cold-hearted as I play on the podcast".

Just like prescriptive positivity can become "toxic" when it comes at the expense of other emotions, an overemphasis on grievances can breed negativity, or lead to passive-aggressive and indirect communication styles.

Indulging in excessive pettiness can also make us less likeable, alienate our loved ones and worsen our mental health.

## EMBRACING "IDIOCY"

Some commenters are critical of Jennifer and Pumps' promotion of negativity. The hosts see this as fodder. They read critical

reviews, double-down on complaints and laugh together, cleverly disarming the criticism.

Jennifer and Pumps are even more eager to mock those who take issue with their political views. In response to a reviewer accusation that they're "both a couple of leftist idiots" the pair laugh. Jennifer states, "I could not agree more [...] I say thank you, we are leftist, we are idiots".

Ultimately, I've Had It concedes there is a kind of "idiocy" to pettiness, but there is joy and charm too.

Research suggests happy people can be complainers, as long as they have a good grasp of mindfulness and know when to stop.

If you, admittedly like me, enjoy a good bout of complaining now and again, but want to keep your emotions balanced and your relationships intact, there are a few things the experts recommend. It is important to differentiate when you need to enact "expressive complaining" to blow off steam or when you should complain "instrumentally" with a goal in mind. Talk about how something makes you feel, so others can empathise with you. And ask your loved ones' permission to complain before revving up a rant.

What about those who aren't keen on complaining at all? Well, as far as the hosts and fans of I've Had It are concerned, you need not tune in. And, if you do decide to leave a comment decrying their pettiness, be warned it will make for some great content in the next episode.



# HC Refuses To Direct Centre To Restrain FB From 'Promoting' Hate Speech Against Rohingyas

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has refused to direct the Centre to restrain social media giant Facebook from allegedly promoting hate speech against Rohingyas on its platform.

In an order released on Wednesday, a bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan juked the public interest litigation by two Rohingya refugees and said the Information Technology (IT)

Act provides a complete machinery for redress of grievances.

"This court is of the opinion that the petitioners' suggestion during the hearing that there should be prior censorship of any publication of Rohingyas on Facebook is an example of a treatment that is worse than the disease," the bench, also comprising Justice Manmeet PS Arora, said in the order.

"Consequently, as there is a robust grievance redressal mechanism in existence, the

petitioners have an alternative efficacious remedy and are at liberty to avail the redressal mechanism, as per IT Rules, 2021, with respect to any objectionable posts," the court added as it closed the proceedings.

Mohammad Hamim and Kawsar Mohammed, represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, on Tuesday urged the high court to direct the authorities to act against the alleged propagation and promotion of

hate speech against the Rohingya community by Facebook and prevent the "possible escalation" of violence against them.

In its order, the court noted that there is a legal obligation on social media platforms to not promote dissemination of hate speech and exercise due diligence.

There is also a grievance redress mechanism provided under the IT Rules and the Centre can issue blocking orders as well. It was also not the contention of the petitioners

that the redress mechanism is not efficacious, the court said.

"Consequently, this court is of the opinion that in view of the aforesaid rules, the direction sought by the petitioners to the Union of India to restrain Facebook from allegedly promoting, amplifying, spreading hate speech covered by sections 153 and 500 of the IPC (Indian Penal Code) and particularly hate speech against Rohingyas does not arise for consideration," the court ruled.

"It appears from the writ petition that the petitioners were not aware, prior to today's hearing, about either the legal obligations of the social media platforms," it added.

The court also said the plea against Facebook is not maintainable as there is no allegation that it has failed to abide by its statutory obligations under the IT Rules.

It further noted that the petitioners have not disputed the fact that the offending posts

mentioned in the public interest litigation have already been removed.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for Facebook, earlier argued before the high court that while substantial work has already been done by the platform following consultations with the Centre to prevent any abuse on its platform, completely stopping hate speech is not possible as "intermediaries can't be super censors".

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE 1

### A Sigh Of Relief!

plains and over a couple of lower reaches in North, Northwestern and South Kashmir region during Wednesday tonight and Thursday early morning.

An official from the MeT Department in the latest weather advisory predicted the likely chances of snowfall - with a depth of 2-4 inches, in Central Kashmir's plains, which includes Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts - on Wednesday night and tomorrow morning.

The weatherman also said that 6-8 inches of snowfall might occur over a few lower reaches and plains of the North, Northwestern and South Kashmir region during the period.

Besides, the MeT Department also expected the possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at many places of J&K towards the late afternoon or evening onwards till morning/forenoon of 1st February, with chances of heavy snowfall over a few higher reaches of the North, Northwestern and South Kashmir during 31st Jan to 1st February. While the weatherman also anticipated light snow or rain over higher reaches of J&K from 2nd to 4th February, the ensuing period till 12th February has been predicted to remain "generally dry".

The weather would remain mainly dry with a possibility of very light snow at isolated higher reaches on February 2.

From February 3 to 4, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow in several places, following which the weather would remain dry till February 10.

The 40-day harsh winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' ended on Tuesday with no snowfall in the plains of Kashmir and below-normal precipitation in the higher reaches of the valley.

While there was light to moderate snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley at the fag-end of the 40-day period, most of the Chilla-i-Kalan -- when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent -- remained dry.

The valley witnessed a prolonged dry spell this winter, with no snowfall in the plains.

Meanwhile, there was an improvement in the night temperature across the Kashmir valley.

Srinagar city recorded a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius up from 0.8 degrees Celsius on the previous night.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of 0.1 degrees Celsius, Qazigund 0.4 degrees Celsius, Kokernag minus 0.2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara 1.3 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg registered a low of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius up from minus 6 degrees Celsius and was the coldest place in the valley.

### Avalanche Warning

Doda and Ganderbal districts respectively in the next 24 hours.

People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing out into areas prone to avalanche, the officials added.

### Army Rescues

Sunshine peak.

The info was given from SDPO Tangmarg & TA REP, the statement said.

The rescue party of str 02-02-20 under Major Abhay received the

information around 0730pm and tried to establish contact with the stranded skiers, the statement said.

Around 09:45pm, the rescue team was able to establish contact with the stranded civilian, who are occupying a dhok near Alu post and stayed put for the night as the approach route was not accessible and bad vis was there, it added.

The Rescue Operation started at around 08:00 am. The individuals were brought to Banal COB and given first aid and meals. The individuals were further taken till Drang Rd Head at 01:00 pm, the statement added.

### 10 Killed, 14 Injured

The injured persons have been taken to a hospital in Baramulla, he added.

In Kishtawar, two persons lost their lives while two more were injured as a snow cutter machine met with an accident in the Warwan area.

Quoting an official, a local news agency reported that a snow cutter machine met with an accident in Warwan, resulting in two fatalities while two more were injured.

Those who lost their lives have been identified as Shafiya Banoo daughter of Gh Mohidin and Gh Mohidin son of Shaban Chopan both residents of Inshan Warwan.

Injured persons have been identified as Ab Gani Koka and Khursheed Ahmad both residents of Brayan.

Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Divansh Yadu announced 5 Lakh each who have lost their lives in an accident while one lakh each for injured persons.

He said that if the weather permits the injured will be air lifted to district hospital Kishtwar tomorrow.

Meanwhile police have taken cognizance and started investigation.

### LG Announces

who lost their lives in the tragic road accidents in Baramulla and Kishtwar on Wednesday. The LG tweeted: "Deeply saddened by the tragic accidents in Baramulla & Kishtwar. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured."

"An ex-gratia of Rs. 5 lakh to be given to the next of kin of those who have lost their lives in the tragedies. The injured would be given Rs. 1 Lakh. Directed the district administrations to provide all possible assistance to the families expeditiously," LG wrote.

### There Is A Sense

be remembered for centuries," she said.

The Lok Sabha chamber reverberated with applause and thumping of desks when the President spoke about the building of Ram temple in Ayodhya, which is witnessing pilgrims in large numbers.

"Over the past 10 years, India has witnessed several such tasks being accomplished in the national interest, for which the people of the country were waiting for decades. For centuries, there was an aspiration to construct the Ram Mandir. Today it is a reality," Murmu said.

The President said within five days of the opening of the temple, 13 lakh devotees had visited Ayodhya Dham. She termed the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple on January 22 as an "epochal moment".

Murmu touched on issues ranging

from insurgency to inflation and said a country can progress at a fast pace only when it defeats the challenges of the past and puts maximum energy into building the future.

She asserted that the armed forces were giving a befitting reply to terrorism and expansionism and India has emerged as a prominent voice against terrorism in the world.

"Today my government is building modern infrastructure along the entire border. This work should have been done long ago on a priority basis. Be it terrorism or expansionism, our forces today are giving a befitting response," Murmu said.

The President said the tangible results of the government's efforts to strengthen internal security were visible.

The President said there has been significant reduction in the incidents of separatism in the northeast and many organisations have taken steps towards permanent peace.

"Naxal affected areas have shrunk and there has been a steep decline in Naxal violence," Murmu said.

The government, she said, believed the grand edifice of a developed India will stand on the four strong pillars of youth power, women power, farmers and the poor.

Murmu highlighted the government's achievements over the last five years, including India's moon landing and the country's performance in the Asian Games.

"We all have heard the slogan 'Garibi Hatao' since our childhood. Today, for the first time in our lives, we see poverty being alleviated on a large scale. According to the NITI Aayog, in the 10-year rule of my government, nearly 25 crore people have come out of poverty," she said.

Murmu also praised the government for defence production crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore-mark and said that 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' have become the strengths of the nation's development journey.

The President also lauded the members of the Parliament for the smooth passage of the women's reservation bill.

She also hailed the efforts of the government for keeping inflation under control despite global crises, especially during the Covid pandemic and wars.

"Despite such global crises, my government has managed to keep inflation in the country under control, preventing additional burden on our countrymen.

"In the 10 years prior to 2014, the average inflation rate was over 8 per cent. However, the average inflation rate has been maintained at 5 per cent in the last decade. My government's endeavour has been to increase savings in the hands of ordinary citizens," Murmu said.

The President said her government has taken several measures to assist women such as bank loans and programmes to make credit available to them.

"Our government has granted permanent commission to women for the first time in the Armed Forces. For the first time, women cadets have been given admission in Sainik Schools and National Defence Academy. Today, women are also fighter pilots and are also commanding naval ships for the first time," Murmu said.

The efforts of the government in the

field of economy also received praise from the President as she pointed out how the Indian economy was now moving in the right direction and at the right pace due to several reforms undertaken in the last 10 years.

"Amidst serious global crises, India emerged as the fastest-growing major economy, consistently maintaining a growth rate of over 7.5 per cent for two consecutive quarters," she said.

Murmu said the government is working with full commitment to empower MSMEs and small entrepreneurs.

Earlier, the country's rate of inflation was in double digits and is now within four per cent, she said.

Those seated in the front rows included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, ministers Piyush Goyal and Nitin Gadkari, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress' parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi.

### J&K A Proud

gave wings to the development of Jammu and Kashmir by rolling out massive infrastructure and welfare schemes and today it stands as a proud testimony to Bharat's powerful democracy," he said.

The home minister said the culture of Jammu and Kashmir is one of the country's most ancient and richest and, under the Modi government, the Union Territory's cultural heritage is being revived and its cultural pride is once again increasing.

He also alleged that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were untouched by development due to dynastic politics.

Shah said the Modi government has strengthened the Panchayati Raj system in the Union Territory with the aim of providing development at the grassroots level, freeing governance from dynasty and bringing it to the common people.

"Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji, Jammu and Kashmir is now heaving a sigh of relief. After abolishing Article 370, the Modi government has secured the dignity of life in the Valley by crushing terrorism with a zero-tolerance policy," the home minister said.

In a post on X along similar lines, Shah's office said Jammu and Kashmir struggled with terrorism and extremism for a long time.

The Modi government established peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir by abolishing Article 370, as a result of which the Union Territory is moving forward on the path of development and prosperity, the post said.

Due to the policies of the Modi government, the picture of the youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir has changed and they are no longer joining separatism but development, it added.

"Not a single incident of stone pelted took place in Jammu and Kashmir in 2023," the post said.

Shah's office said the Modi government restored the Panchayati Raj system to strengthen the roots of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, due to which governance has come into the hands of the common people and a new era of development has dawned in the entire region.

### Dir SKIMS Warns

desist from self-medication as more often than not, antibiotics are

unnecessary and result in harm."

### ED Raids In

The other banks include J&K Bank, PNB and Karur Vysya Bank.

It is alleged that the accused "siphoned off" funds to sister concerns/ bogus entities and undertook sale of imported/indigenous machinery without permission of lender banks by raising "fake" invoices.

The directors of the Bharat Papers Limited are Rajinder Kumar, Parveen Kumar, Baljinder Singh, Anil Kumar, and Anil Kashyap.

### Over 1300 Kanals

in Sonamarg.

The Department of Wildlife Protection reported the demarcation of forest land in the Kashmir districts. The demarcated area encompasses over a thousand square kilometers, with specific allocations such as 141 square kilometers in Dachigam, 9.07 square kilometers in city forest, 15.75 square kilometers in Brein Nishat, and 34 square kilometers in Khimber, Dara, and Shahrasbal.

The RTI further reveals that Thajwas has 210 square kilometers of demarcated forest land, 12 square kilometres in Wangath, Chattergul, 50.25 square kilometers in Khrew and Khonmoh covers 67 square kilometers. In Shopian, the Department reported the demarcation of 341.25 square kilometers, while Pulwama has 154.15 square kilometers delineated.

It further says that there are no recorded cases of encroachment on forest land in the Srinagar district. The response specifically highlights that only one incident involving attempted illegal encroachment has been reported, occurring in the village of Laribal Shikargah, adjacent to the Tral Wildlife Sanctuary.

Last year, the Government of India designated three wildlife sanctuaries in Kashmir as "eco-sensitive zones" and instructed the Union Territory administration to promptly outline their boundaries.

A notification by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to constitute a monitoring committee for monitoring the Eco-sensitive Zone in the UT.

### 'Nichrome Coil-Based

further states that it has been observed that after seizure, the consumers buy fresh nichrome coil-based crude gadgets from the market where these are easily available and revert to abuse of electricity, thereby nullifying tireless efforts put in.

In order to permanently remove the availability of nichrome coil based heaters, boilers and steamers from the markets, KPDCCL directed all subdivisional officers to implement the order by circulating a copy amongst the business outlets dealing in electrical equipment items.

"They shall be advised not to procure and sell any Nichrome Coil based heating gadgets, failing which the same shall be seized," it reads.

KPDCCL accordingly advised the concerned to approach the district administration for ensuring compliance of the orders passed by the government.

### Virtual Autism

children who have their parents

working, have been found more vulnerable to virtual autism.

Dr Guroo said the parents need to follow the international guidelines for restricting the use of mobile phones among children below the age of five.

"Children shouldn't be exposed to mobile phones. They should be involved in other activities that lead to cognitive development among children. We also need to monitor the content the children are consuming," he said.

Pertinently, a fresh survey by Baatu Tech, a smart parenting solutions company, has revealed that 95 per cent of Indian parents are deeply concerned about screen addiction.

The survey conducted among 3,000 participants revealed that an overwhelming 95 per cent of Indian parents are deeply concerned about screen addiction, while 80 per cent and 70 per cent expressed worries regarding gaming addiction and adult content consumption, respectively.

Studies have indicated that excessive screen time can negatively impact children's physical and mental health, hinder cognitive development, and impede social interactions. One area of particular concern is the rising trend of gaming addiction among children--(KNO)

### Police Attaches

was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Kulgam police. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in narcotic drug and psychotropic substances by the owner. Pertinently the said drug peddler is involved in Case FIR number 148/2022 of Police Station Qazigund.

This action reaffirms the commitment of J&K Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area have hailed the initiative of Police with regard to the attachment of immovable property, which has been raised/used from illicit trafficking of narcotics by the drug peddlers in the Kulgam district.

### In Criminal Trials

cogent and unimpeachable evidence produced by the prosecution, before an accused is condemned as a convict, and the basic and golden rule must be applied," the court said, adding, "In such cases, while keeping in mind the distance between 'may be' true and 'must be' true, the court must maintain the vital distance between mere conjectures and sure conclusions to be arrived at, on the touchstone of dispassionate judicial scrutiny, based upon a complete and comprehensive appreciation of all features of the case as well as the quality and credibility of evidence brought on record."

The court, the Bench said, must ensure that miscarriage of justice is avoided and if the facts and circumstances of a case so demand, then the benefit of doubt must be given to the accused keeping in mind that a reasonable doubt is not an imaginary, trivial or a merely probable doubt but a fair doubt that is based upon reason and common sense. Malik was sentenced to two years jail in a case FIR No.26/2009 of Police Station VOK, after being held guilty for commission of offence punishable under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

## 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





## Good Infrastructure and NEP Key to Elevating Education System: LG

KO NEWS SERVICE

**VARANASI:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Maharshi Sandipni Public School in Jalalpur, Varanasi, on Wednesday.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the management, staff and students of the school.

Guided by the vision of serving the underprivileged and marginalized sections of the society, I am con-



fident that the Maharshi Sandipni Public School will continue to provide comprehensive and holistic education to the children, he said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the significant transformation taking place in the education ecosystem in the past few years.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the country's education sector witnessed radical reforms and enabled students to realize their dreams", the Lt Governor said.

He said the better educational infrastructure and National Education Policy 2020 will take India's edu-

cation system to greater heights.

The Lt Governor also emphasized on making the teaching-learning process more engaging and encouraging critical thinking, creativity, problem solving and collaboration among the students.

Educationist and social worker Jitendra Nath Singh; Members of the School Management, Prominent citizens, Staff, Teachers and Students of the school were present.

## J&K: A Region Full of Opportunities, Says Bhatnagar

KO NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Wednesday inaugurated the 1st edition of Jammu Trade Fair 2024 at Gen. Zorawar Singh Auditorium Ground, University of Jammu here.

The Trade Fair, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) from January 31st to February 4th, 2024, provides a captivating display of the Union Territory's rich culture and untapped trade potential.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Advisor

Bhatnagar highlighted the distinctiveness and quality of every product originating from J&K, emphasizing that the region offers opportunities for growth, development and success. He expressed Jammu Trade Fair 2024 marks a significant milestone for J&K, where the government is extending comprehensive support to farmers, manufacturers and artisans.

The Advisor commended the incentives provided in the UT for the artisans and others associated with this sector. He applauded the dedicated efforts of JKTPO and the Industries and Commerce depart-



ment in organizing the Jammu Trade Fair 2024 and stressed the potential benefits it could yield.

Delving on the significance of One District One Product (ODOP) initiative,

Advisor Bhatnagar noted that nearly 17 products have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags, with others in the pipeline. He likened J&K to a sunrise region brimming with opportunities in every sector. He also commended the cultural program and artisans for their impressive performances.

Speaking at the event, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh stated that recognizing the true potential of JKTPO, could foster an environment for business that actively supports trade and exports to help J&K flourish and prosper economically.

## Jt. Info Bids Farewell to Asst. Director on Superannuation

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Joint Directorate of Information, Kashmir organised an impressive adieu programme to bid affectionate farewell to Assistant Director Information, Mohammad Aslam Khan, who was also holding the charge of Field Publicity Officer and Distt. Inf. Officer,



Anantnag, on his superannuation on Wednesday.

Mohammad Aslam Khan has served at various positions in the department spanning about 40 years of service. Khan was a doyen of the department who enriched DIPR with his vast experience and knowledge regarding smooth conduct of National and State level VIP functions and Public Relations work.

## OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT ROHAMA

ADVERTISMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sahayikas (AWHs) preferably married for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Rohama on "Honorary basis". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of the undersigned i.e Child Development Project Officer Rohama within 7 days from the date of publication against proper receipt.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/MUNICIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS) NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC WARD	NAME OF AWC
1	BARAMULLA	Rohama	Tragpora	5	Baba Qadir
2	BARAMULLA	Rohama	Panzla	3	Ganie Mohala
3	BARAMULLA	Rohama	Tragpora	6	Ganie Mohala

Criteria for Selection of Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No: 103 JK (SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.4.2023 i.e.

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available in the Panch Ward/MC Ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8<sup>th</sup> standard shall be considered.
- The committee shall select the most destitute/needy married women of the Panch Ward/MC Ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate can also be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form:-

- Panch Ward /MC Ward Certificate/Electoral Card/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO/Executive Officer.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
- Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.
- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for Sahayikas (AWHs) and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sahayika (AWH)

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".

Child Dev. Project Officer

### MOBILE FOUND

I have found a mobile phone near old Secretariat, Srinagar. The rightful owner of the mobile can get in touch with me on the below mentioned mobile number +91-9622525876

### 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 her original marks certificate of class 10th session Annual Regular 2020 Issued by the Board of school Education with the following particular:

Name: SHAMSHADA BANO  
Parentage: Lyaqat Ali Bajad & Naseema Begum  
Roll No.: 12623242  
Year/ Session: Annual Regular 2020

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

SD/-  
Assistant Secretary  
Board of School Education Sub-Office Bandipora  
Dated: 31-01-2024

### THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice claiming to have lost his qualification certificate have the following description:

Roll No. 2610262  
Class 10th | Year & Session: 2014 Annual  
Registration No: N13460220037

Name: Sajid Ahmad Ganie  
Father's Name: Muhammad Yusuf Ganie  
Mother's Name: Tasleema Begum  
Date of Birth: 10-03-2000 | Residence: Chattibandy Bandipora

Now the candidates have applied for issuance of duplicate Qualification certificate. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.

Besides the leasted 'Qualification Certificate' bearing serial no 14ARKAM-5004345 be treated as cancelled.

SD/-  
Assistant Secretary  
Certificates, KD  
Dated: 31-01-2024

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Due to administrative reasons, eNIT No STD-II / 12 of 2022-23 Dated 03-05-2023 stands cancelled.

No.:STD-II4071-73/Ts  
Dated: 30-01-2024  
DIPK-NB-5475-23  
DT: 31/01/2024

SD/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Sub Transmission Division-II,  
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

### OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT ROHAMA

RE ADVERTISMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of Sahayikas (AWHs) preferably married for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Rohama on "Honorary basis". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of the undersigned i.e Child Development Project Officer by or before 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 against proper receipt.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/MUNICIPALITY WARD	VACANCY OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS) NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC WARD	NAME OF AWC
1	BARAMULLA	Rohama	Achabal B	1	Asthan Pora Achabal
2	BARAMULLA	Rohama	Ladoora	9	Batpora Ladoora
3	BARAMULLA	Rohama	Doabgah A	3	Kanili Mohala Old Doabgah
4	BARAMULLA	Rohama	Parraypora	3	Parraypora C
5	BARAMULLA	Rohama	Rohama B	6	Bonpora A Rohama

Criteria for Selection of Sahayikas (Aanganwadi Helpers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No: 103 JK (SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.4.2023 i.e.

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available in the Panch Ward/MC Ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8<sup>th</sup> standard shall be considered.
- The committee shall select the most destitute/needy married women of the Panch Ward/MC Ward as helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate can also be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form:-

- Panch Ward /MC Ward Certificate/Electoral Card/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO/Executive Officer.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- Married/Un married Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
- Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.
- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sahayika (AWH)

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".

No.: CDPO/POSHAN/Roh/2024/2207-13

Child Dev. Project Officer  
POSHAN Project Rohama  
Dated: 31/01/2024

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xennhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject: -

- Replacement of damaged Oxygen purity Analyser and topping up of Zeolite to INMATECH make concentrator of 1040 LPM old oxygen plant room and Servicing of 02 No. Screw type Air Compressors G132 V2 Atlas Copco make installed at Old Oxygen Plant 1040 LPM of Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar
- Servicing and overhauling of 800 LPM oxygen concentrator plant at Govt. Superspeciality Hospital Srinagar.

Ref : This office e- NIT no: M&HDS/TS/2023-24/175/e-tendering Dated 23.01.2024

**EXTENSION**

In view of poor response, the Critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT(s) are extended as follows:-

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	06.02.2024 (12:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	06.02.2024 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No: M&HDS/TS/9875-78,  
Dated:31-01-2024  
DIPK-15831-23  
DT: 31/01/2024

SD/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,  
Srinagar

### GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BANDIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No: (123) of 2023-24 DATED: 30-01-2024.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on percentage age basis from approved and eligible Civil registered with Union Territory J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (IN Rs.)	Earnest money (IN Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Construction of Cross Drainage at Dak Bungalow by way of Trash Plate (Ayathmulla Bandipora)	1.50	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	3000.00	20 Days	23-02-2024 10:30 AM	"DEE"	3054 Special Repairs

Position of AAA: - Accorded.

- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

S.No	Date of issue of Tender Notice	30-01-2024.
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 31-01-2024, 10:00 AM
3.	Bid Submission Start date	01-02-2024, 11:00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End date	22-02-2024 upto 04.00 P.M.

5. Last Date for receiving the hard copy (Original DD & EMD)

Hard copies shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as lowest bidder (L1) at the time opening of tenders. The cost of tender document will be collected through e- Challan/Treasury 0059. However the successful bidders will submit the same after the opening of Bids online. Note:- All bidder must upload EMD in shape of CDR /FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Bandipora @2% of advertised cost

6. Date & time of opening of Bids (online)

23-02-2024 at 10:30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora

Note: The Bidder will mention the Contact No. and Bidder Name in the BoQ

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents under MH-0059 in shape of Treasury Receipt favoring to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender inviting authority). Indicating S.No of NIT, Name of work and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B Division Bandipora (Tender receiving authority).
- The bidder who is declared as L 1 shall deposit 5% Performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR Pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (Tender inviting authority) and the 2% EMD shall be Released in favour of the successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% performance security.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - Any bidder/ tendered withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

All other terms, conditions are as per PWD Form-25 (Double agreement)

No: EE/R&B/Bandi/6475-82  
Date: 30-01-2024.

DIPK-15808-23  
DT: 31/01/2024

SD/-  
Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division Bandipora

(ANNEXURE-I)

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SAHAYIKA (ANGANWADI HELPER)

S.NO: \_\_\_\_\_

- Name of the District: - Baramulla
- Name of the ICDS Project: - \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought: \_\_\_\_\_
- Panch Ward/MC Ward: \_\_\_\_\_ Panchayat Halqa: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters) \_\_\_\_\_
- Fathers Name (In Block Letters) \_\_\_\_\_
- Marital Status: - Married / Un Married
- Husbands Name (if married) \_\_\_\_\_
- Place of Permanent Residence: \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Mohalla: \_\_\_\_\_ Village: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Panch Ward Constituency: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Name of the Panchayat Halqa: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. House No.: \_\_\_\_\_ (As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral)
- e. Block: \_\_\_\_\_
- Address for Correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No.: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

12. Age as on 01-01-2023: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Academic Qualification

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obt.	Max. Marks	%age
1	Matric					
2						

14. Do candidate belong to family of retired AWH (Yes/No).

15. Documents attached.

- Panch Ward Certificate/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO duly countersigned by ACR/SDM.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
- If candidate belong to family of retired AWH then copy of the e-ration card/ any other proof.
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
- Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.

Signature of Candidate

do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

DIPK-15849-23  
DT: 31/01/2024

Signature of Candidate



## J&K Finish 23rd In Khelo India Youth Games

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K contingent competing at the Khelo India Youth Games 2023 was placed 23rd at the culmination of the event in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. Thirty-one States/UTs from across the country participated in the games.

The J&K team won 1 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze medals for a total tally of seven medals. In comparison, Maharashtra, who finished top of the standings, won 57 Gold, 48 Silver and 53 Bronze.

J&K's lone Gold medal in the Khelo India Youth



Games 2023 came via Muskan Rana in the Gymnastics discipline while competing in the RG - Clubs (Girls) category.

Muskan also won two Silver medals and one Bronze.

J&K's fencing boys and girls teams won a Silver

medal each. Meanwhile, Bhat Saliq ul Islam won a Bronze medal in the Phunaba Ama - 60 kgs category.

### KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES



## J&K Teams Leave For Leh

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Ice Skating and Ice Hockey teams left for Leh, Ladakh on Wednesday to compete at the 4th Khelo India Winter Games.

J&K Ice Skating team comprises of Wafa Tariq, Shifa Tariq, Nashra Reyaz,

Raquib, Ali Dar, Sheikh Umer Iqbal, Saleem Ashraf Malik and Dabeer Wani.

The mega sporting events in Leh will take place at the Ice Hockey Rink at NDS Ground, the Ice Rink at Gophugs and the Ice Rink at Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre.

Pawan Kotwal, visited various locations hosting the 4th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 on Wednesday. Kotwal was keen on ensuring that the infrastructure, facilities and arrangements met the highest standards, aligning with the vision of promoting sports and healthy competition.

Leh will host the first part of the games from February 2 to 6, with competitions in Ice Hockey and Speed Skating.

The second leg of the 2024 Winter Games will be played in Gulmarg from February 21-25 and witness competitions in Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding and Nordic ski.

## India Wouldn't Have Lost 1st Test If Kohli Was Captain: Vaughan



Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** India wouldn't have lost the Hyderabad Test to England if Virat Kohli was their captain, according to former English skipper Michael Vaughan, who believes Rohit Sharma completely "switched off" during the game.

In a dominant position after taking a 190-run first innings lead, a Kohli-less India collapsed to a shocking 28-run defeat in spin-friendly conditions, handing England a 1-0 lead in the five match-series. It was India's first ever Test loss in Hyderabad. Kohli missed the opening game and will also sit out the second Test in Visakhapatnam due to personal reasons.

"They missed Virat Kohli's captaincy massively in Test cricket. Under Virat's captaincy that week, India wouldn't have lost the game," Vaughan

said on YouTube channel 'Club Prairie Fire'.

Vaughan was critical of Rohit's leadership during the game.

"Rohit is a legend and a great player. But I felt he just switched off completely." Vaughan had also slammed Rohit for not being proactive during the series-opener last week. "I thought Rohit Sharma's captaincy was very, very average. I thought he was so reactive, I don't think he maneuvered his field or was proactive with his bowling changes."

"And he didn't have any answer to Ollie Pope's sweeps or reverse sweeps," Vaughan had written in his column for 'The Telegraph'.

Kohli had stepped down as captain after India's tour of South Africa in 2022 after a fairly good run during which the team attained the world no.1 ICC ranking.

### ICC RANKINGS

## Ashwin Retains Top Spot, Bumrah 4th

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** Senior India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin maintained the top spot, while teammate Jasprit Bumrah jumped to the fourth spot in the latest ICC Test bowling rankings released on January 31.



Ashwin, who had grabbed a match haul of six wickets in India's 28-run loss in the opening Test against England, is on 853 rating points, while pacer Bumrah, who also claimed half a dozen wickets, rose a rung to fourth.

The third Indian in the top 10 in the bowling charts is left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja at number six. He also enjoys a healthy buffer at the head of the Test all-rounder

rankings. However, Joe Root, who has moved up to fourth place, might challenge him soon if the England veteran maintains his good show with the ball.

Root is behind Ashwin and Shakib-Al-Hasan while Axar Patel has

dropped a spot to sixth. Virat Kohli has moved to sixth and is the lone Indian among the top 10 batters while Ollie Pope, who stunned India with a magnificent 196 in the second innings, jumped a mammoth 20 places to 15th.

Australia opener Usman Khawaja gained two places to eighth following a half-century in the opening innings of the second Test against the West Indies at the Gabba.

## Sarfraz Khan Could Make Test Debut In 2nd Test Vs England

Press Trust of India

**VISAKHAPATNAM:** India's batting coach Vikram Rathour on Wednesday said it "will be tough" to pick one among Sarfraz Khan and Rajat Patidar in the second Test against England. The match begins here from Friday, with hosts India seeking to draw parity after losing the series opener in Hyderabad.

After the first game, India faced injury concerns with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul being ruled out of the second Test, in addition to the absence of star batter Virat Kohli. This forced the selectors to add uncapped Sarfraz Khan, Sourabh Kumar and Washington Sundar to the squad, and Rajat Patidar also made the team.

"It will be a tough choice. What value they bring to the team, of course, is that they are superb players. We have seen how well they have done in domestic cricket in the last few years," Rathour said of the reinforcements during a press conference.

"So on these kind of wickets, I think they can really add a lot of value to the team." He added, "If we have to pick just one out of them, of course, it would be tough. But, that decision will be made by Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma." The playing XI will be final-



ised keeping in mind the conditions.

"It (pitch) is difficult to predict. It will turn, maybe not from the first day, but eventually, it will turn. That's how the wicket looks like."

**LEACH SKIPS PRACTICE, UNLIKELY TO PLAY IN 2ND TEST**

England's most experienced spinner Jack Leach is all set to miss the second Test against India starting here on Friday, owing to a left knee injury sustained during the series-opener in Hyderabad.

Leach didn't take part in the team's

training session on Wednesday and was seen receiving treatment from the physio on the sidelines.

Leach had jarred his left knee while fielding on the first day of the Hyderabad Test, which England won by 28 runs.

He played through pain, bowling 26 overs in the first innings and 10 in the second despite bruising and swelling around the joint. He was seen limping during Wednesday's training session.

Leach's injury means that off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who joined the team late in Hyderabad due to visa related issues, could be set for Test debut.

## Kohli's Brother Rubbishes 'Fake News' About Mother's Health

Agencies

Star India batter Virat Kohli's brother Vikas Kohli on Wednesday opened up on the fake news about their mother Saroj Kohli's health and said that "she is absolutely fit and fine".

Taking to his official Instagram handle, Vikas debunked all the rumours floating on the internet regarding their mother's health. He also asked everyone not to spread such news without any "proper information".

"Hello everyone, I have noticed that there is this fake news about our mom's health has been circulating around. Let me clear that our mom is absolutely fit and fine. Also, I would request everyone and also the media, not to spread such news without proper information," Vikas wrote on Instagram.

Recently, there have been rumours saying that the former India skipper asked for a break from the first two Test matches against England in the five-game series due to his mother's illness.

Meanwhile, Kohli has withdrawn from the first two Tests against England due to personal reasons, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced. The BCCI also requested the media and fans to respect Kohli's privacy during this time and refrain from speculating on the nature of his personal reasons.

Without Kohli, India conceded a 28-run loss against England in the first Test match in Hyderabad on Sunday.

## Ronaldo To Miss Friendly Against Messi, Inter Miami



Agencies

The highly-anticipated friendly between Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr and Lionel Messi's Inter Miami suffered a huge blow Wednesday as Ronaldo will not participate in the match due to a calf injury.

Inter Miami will play in the Riyadh Season Cup against Al-Nassr at Kingdom Arena Stadium in Saudi Arabia on February 1. The game was hyped to be the final meeting between the two football legends.

Ronaldo's injury also forced Al-Nassr to cancel its tour of China.

"Ronaldo is in the final part of his recovery to join the group," Al-Nassr coach Luis Castro said. "We hope that in the next few days he can start working with the team. He will be absent from the game."

This would have been the second Messi vs. Ronaldo match in the past year. When Messi was still with PSG, the French team traveled to Saudi in January 2023 for a friendly against a Saudi Pro League XI. The Saudi team won 5-4 with Messi scoring once and Ronaldo bagging a brace.

The Al-Nassr-Inter Miami match was set to be the 36th time Ronaldo and Messi faced one another. Messi's teams have won 16 of the matchups, and Ronaldo's teams have won 10. The other nine matches finished in a draw.

With Ronaldo turning 39 next week and Messi's 37th birthday coming in June, there is a thought that a matchup featuring the two legends who have won a combined 13 Ballon d'Or awards may not happen again.



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