

Kashmir Willow Bat Shines In Shark Tank, Srinagar's Innovators Score Big

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The entrepreneurial spirit of Kashmiri youth made waves on the latest episode of Shark Tank India 3 as Srinagar-based 'Trambooo Sports' landed a lucrative deal worth Rs 30 lakh with two prominent investors.

The spotlight fell on Hamad and Saad Trambooo, college students studying BBA, who showcased their innovative brand of Kashmir willow bats, seeking investment for a 3%

equity stake.

In a realm where the right gear can define success, Trambooo Sports, led by 18-year-old Hamaad Trambooo and 20-year-old Saad Trambooo, is redefining cricket equipment with its revolutionary Kashmir willow bats.

The cricket bats are made of two willows - English willow and Kashmir willow. Known



for their sturdy build, Kashmir willow bats have posed challenges for players, but the Trambooo brothers are changing the game with their modern approach to bat crafting.

"We offer world-class Kashmir willow bats," said Saad Trambooo during their pitch.

"With the Kashmir willow act restricting the export of raw material, we're poised for success in

the domestic market. Are you ready to hit a six with us?" he confidently asked the sharks.

The brothers elucidated their meticulous bat-making process, from log selection to final assembly, emphasizing quality and performance.

"We grade the Kashmir willow logs before sawing them into pieces, which then undergo a revolutionary seasoning

process, our bats feature hard-pressed construction, with Singapore cane handles for enhanced shock absorption, setting them apart from traditional bats," the duo explained in a bid to strike the right deal.

The brothers said that they focus on lightweight designs, boasting the only seasoning plant among Kashmir's 300 bat manufacturers, resulting in bats lighter than their counterparts.

"Our product range caters to both casual

IN A REALM WHERE THE RIGHT gear can define success, Trambooo Sports, led by 18-year-old Hamaad Trambooo and 20-year-old Saad Trambooo, is redefining cricket equipment with its revolutionary Kashmir willow bats.

Nature's Dramatic Show!

Kashmir's Weather Swings From Record Highs To Bone-Chilling Lows



LOWEST TEMP IN 16 YRS

- **Qazigund: -9.4°C**
Previous Record: -12.2°C on Feb 13, 2008
- **Batote: -3.8°C**
Previous Record: -4.0°C on Feb 9, 2008
- **Banihal: -6.8°C**
Previous Record: -7.7°C on Feb 9, 2008
- **Bhaderwah: -5.2°C**
Previous Record: -7.8°C on Feb 8, 2008

Fresh WD To Hit J&K Plains Likely To Receive Snow

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: There is a possibility of light to moderate snow and rain at many places for the next two days from Saturday towards evening till 4th February evening, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said.

"Middle and higher reaches of North, Northwestern and South Kashmir may receive 8-12 inches of snow, lower reaches and plains may receive 3-6 inches, while plains of Central Kashmir may receive rain with 1-2 inches of snow," Director MeT predicted.

A fresh Western Disturbance, associated with cold temperatures, is going to affect Jammu and Kashmir from February 2, an independent forecaster said.

"During the next 2 days, light to moderate snow-fall is possible in Kashmir plains (rainfall may be absent)," he said.

According to him, on Saturday and Sunday, Kashmir plains are likely to witness maximum temperatures not exceeding 2 or 3°C, and for the majority of the time, temperatures will remain below or near the freezing point.

Similarly, [More on P6](#)

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: This year, winter in Kashmir has witnessed unpredictable fluctuations, showcasing a range of climatic extremes. Just weeks ago, the valley basked in the warmth of some of the sunniest January days witnessed

in years. However, post snowfall, the temperature took an abrupt nosedive on Thursday, with some towns recording the coldest night in 16 years.

While IMD Srinagar officials release data for only six major weather stations in the Valley, a private weather forecaster

claimed that Larnoo in Kokernag was the coldest recorded place in Kashmir where the mercury plunged to minus 17.1 degrees Celsius followed by Sonamarg resort on Srinagar-Leh highway which recorded a low of minus 15.1 degrees Celsius.

"Records break | [More on P6](#)

Avalanche Warning For 8 Districts

The authorities on Friday issued low and medium-danger level avalanche warnings for several districts in the region. The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) in a statement cautioned the residents in Bandipore, Baramulla, Kupwara, and Ganderbal | [More on P6](#)

Highway Traffic Partially Restored

The traffic on the arterial Jammu-Srinagar national highway was partially restored on Friday afternoon after it remained closed for two days due to inclement weather. Jammu and Kashmir Traffic police, in a post on X, said that stranded vehicles are | [More on P6](#)

Custodial Death In Jammu Two Cops Suspended, SHO Attached

Observer News Service

Jammu- Police on Friday said that two police officials were suspended while a Station House Officer was attached after a person died in mysterious condition in custody in Jammu district.

In a statement, the police said that the incident of custodial death which occurred on 31.01.2024 at P/S Gandhi Nagar. The deceased was identified as Sahil Saini S/o Romesh Saini R/o Nagri, Kathua who was arrested in case FIR No. 20/2024 u/s 457/380 IPC of P/S Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on 30.01.2024 and was on 04 days Police remand as per the order of Learned 3rd Additional Munsiff Court, Jammu.

The police spokesman further stated that district Police Jammu suspended two officials

and attached SHO Gandhi nagar to DPL, showing its commitment to a thorough and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. The District Magistrate Jammu has been requested for initiating Magisterial Enquiry into the incident.

As per standard protocol, the dead body of the accused was shifted to GMC, Bakshi Nagar Jammu and request has been made for the constitution of Board of Doctors for conducting autopsy in presence of Executive Magistrate 1st Class to determine the cause of death, he said.

District Police Jammu understands the public's concern and emphasizes its commitment to upholding the highest standards of accountability and transparency in law enforcement operations, reads the statement.

Drug Trade Used To Generate Funds For Terrorist Activities: DGP Calls For Strict Action Against Drug Traffickers In J&K



Press Trust Of India

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain has called for a strict and well-planned action against the

criminals involved in drug peddling in the Union Territory.

"The (narcotic) trade is extremely dangerous, as it not only destroys the younger generation but | [More on P6](#)

THE CRIME PICTURE OF A DISTRICT or zone should highlight the rate of disposal and quality of disposal of the crime cases registered."

Terror-Funding Case SIA Raids 5 Locations In Delhi, Srinagar

Agencies

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Friday raided five locations in Summer capital Srinagar and Delhi in connection with investigation of a terror funding case. Quoting a top official, a local news agency reported that SIA conducted raids at two locations in Srinagar. The raids were conducted at Saidapora Eidgah and Ahmadnagar area. In Delhi, the agency conducted | [More on P6](#)

Terrorist Hideout Busted In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Security forces on Friday busted a terrorist hideout and seized a 51-mm mortar along with three shells and a pistol in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The hideout was unearthed during a joint search operation by police and Rashtriya Rifles in Sangla area of Surankote, the officials said.

No arrests have been made in connection with the recovery, which also included a pistol magazine and | [More on P6](#)

Centre Invites Ladakh Leaders For Talks

Agencies

Srinagar: The Centre on Friday invited Ladakh leaders for a second round of talks with the High Powered Committee in Delhi on February 19. According to an order, talks

will be held to discuss the issues as per the terms of reference of the committee. The committee was reconstituted under the chairmanship of minister of state for Home Nityanand Rai in November last year. The | [More on P6](#)

Private Schools Tagging Row

119-yr-old School In Baramulla Faces Closure

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a distressing turn of events, the recent denial of Registration Return Forms (RRFs) by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) to private schools has led to shock and despair among parents and students alike. At the center of this storm is the Saint Joseph School in Baramulla, with a century-old legacy in North Kashmir.

The school is on the verge of closure as authorities have refused to register the students from this school for board examinations in absence of land lease documents.



The school has asked the parents of students in Classes 9, 10, 11, and 12 to "eke out of the situation" and decide about the future of their children in view of the refusal by the Board

of School Education to register their wards for examinations. The school, which was established in 1905, is operating on state land in Baramulla district. "St. Joseph's School in

Baramulla was established in 1905 on land leased from the government. In 2018, before the lease expired, the school management sought renewal from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Despite submitting all necessary documents and recommendations, the renewal file has been pending with the Divisional Commissioner since April 2022. Although the school received a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Revenue Department, efforts to renew affiliation and register students have been futile, causing distress among students and parents due to the inconvenience caused | [More on P6](#)

DHSK Calls For Curbing Unethical Testing Practices In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a bid to curb unethical practices in medical testing, Dr. Mushtaq Rather, Director Health Services in Kashmir (DHSK) has called for addressing the proliferation of agents and touts employed by private testing labs outside government healthcare facilities.

A circular, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, DHSK urged government hospital officials to take decisive measures to discourage such practices, emphasizing the importance of upholding



ethical standards in healthcare delivery.

The circular highlights concerns regarding the exploitation of patients by agents and touts who persuade them to undergo medical tests privately, despite the availability of testing facilities within

government healthcare institutions. This practice not only undermines the credibility of government healthcare services but also puts undue financial burden on patients.

"It has come to the notice of undersigned that some agents/touts employed by different Private Testing Labs outside Government Health Care Facilities are motivating patients for carrying-out medical tests privately despite having such testing facilities available in Government Health Care Facilities," the circular states.

"To address this issue, it is emphasized | [More on P6](#)



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Public Notice

I have lost my Passport bearing no: H9031043 while travelling from Punjab to Srinagar. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Ali Abbas Wani
 S/O Showkat Ali Wani
 R/O Wani Manzil, Sazgaripora, Bala, Hawal, Sgr 190001

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Majid Ali Mir, intends to apply in the department of Tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style "M/s Al- Rasool Tour and Travels" situated at Budgam under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit relevant documents to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as a Travel Agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/organizations, etc. for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail ID: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 07 days shall be entertained.
 nj

اتنا لله وانا اليه راجعون
 بے شک ہم اللہ کیلئے ہیں اور ہمیں اسی کی طرف لوٹنا ہے۔
 We belong to Allah and Him we shall return



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Intikhab Hussain (Kaka Ji), after a brief illness. Congregational Fatiha Khawani shall be offered on Sunday, 4th February 2024 at 08:30 am at Gulshan Ali Shalimar graveyard. Post that Majalis will continue at our home Gulistan-i-Bulbul, Near Harwan Garden, Srinagar.

Bereaved:
 Fida Hussain Bulbul
 Haji Mohammad Afzal Bulbul
 Amjad Hussain
 Gayoor Ali

From the principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad
 Noora W/o Late Abdul Samad Thakoo
 R/o Syed Hamidpora Nawab Bazar Srinagar
 Applicant
 V/S
 1. Saqob Samad Thakoo
 2. Umer Samad Both sons of late Abdul Samad Thakoo R/o Syed Hamidpora, Nawab Bazar Srinagar
 3. Gazala Irfan Ronga D/o Abdul Samad Thakoo R/o P.C Depot Parimpora Srinagar
 Respondents

In the matter of Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)
 Notice to public at Large
 Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 4,87,060 debts and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Abdul Samad Thakoo S/o Gh Mohd Thakoo R/o Syed Hamidpora, Nawab Bazar Srinagar who died on 15-10-2023. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 19-02-2024
 Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drom of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 19-02-2024. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same
 In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
 Given under my hand and seal of this court on
 Jawad Ahmad
 Principal District Judge, Srinagar

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Bi-Annual 2011 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars
 Name : Nazima Hassan
 S/o: Gh Hassan Mir
 Roll No: 407514
 Year & Session 2011 Bi-Annual



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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
 Board Of School Education
 Sub Office Bandipora

bb

In The Court Of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin

Subject: Application of Gh Mohi Ud Din Teli S/o Ab Ahad Teli R/o Bemnipora Tehsil and District Shoplan for registration of event of Birth (delayed entry) of his Son namely Saif ul Islam

PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas the applicant named above has filed present application for Issuance of birth certificate of his Son with date of birth as 06-03-2009 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 Sons 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 18-01-2024

Executive Magistrate
 1st Class Kaprin

FKO

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan,
Nowshara Srinagar

M/S Chinar Drillers.
 Prop. Shri Ab. Rashid Bhat
 R/o Gawkadal Srinagar
 Contact No: +917780932633
 E-mail : chinardrillers@gmail.com

NO: JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs. 9888-94
 Dated: 02-02-2024

NOTICE No 2nd

Subject: - Construction of Gravel Packed Production Well at WSS Babagund. Pulwama under District CAPEX.

Reference: - 1. Your letter No. CD: CD312, Dated: 25-01-2024.
 2. This office letter No: 9681-86, dated: 24-01-2024.
 3. Assistant Executive Engineer Drilling Sub-Division IInd's letter No JS-PHE/GWD/DSD2/683, Dt: 02-01-2024 & No: 456-57, dated: 14-10-2023.
 5. This office allotment order No.-JS-PHE/GWDS/44 of 2023-24, issued vide endorsement No: 6324-36, dated: 04-11-2023.
 6. This office letter No: PHE/GWD/2023-24/TS/5933-37, dated: 27-10-2023.

Sir,

In continuation to the subject & references cited above, you are once requested to mobilize your men and machinery to the alternate site within 3 days from the issuance of this letter, failing which action under rules, shall be initiated against your firm. It is pertinent to mention here that as per the technical specification of the allotment order issued vide reference No: 4 which is reproduced as under,

"If the discharge of the well is below the minimum 4000 GPH discharge, the well shall not be taken over by the concerned Division and no payment shall be made in favour of the bidder/agency/firm

DIPK-15925/23
 dated: 02-02-2024

Executive Engineer
 Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
 Ground Water Division Srinagar

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir
Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board
 CPO Chowk Panjtirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.
 www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Labour Inspector – regarding.

NOTIFICATION

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), vide Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/06/2023-04(7110979), dated: 31-05-2023, issued the result/score-sheet of the candidates who appeared in the CBT Based Written Examination held on 06-02-2023 for the post of Labour Inspector (UT Cadre), Labour & Employment Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 under Item No. 66.

Accordingly, keeping in view the need and objective to fill all requisitioned vacancies, the candidates who are falling under the consideration zone for the aforementioned post, given in Annexure-A to this notification, are hereby called upon to appear physically before the designated Document Verification Committees of the Board for the verification/scrutiny of their documents/certificates as per the schedule and venue indicated against each.

The candidates are required to produce following original documents/certificates in original, along-withone set of self-attested copies, before the designated Document Verification Committee(s):

1. Copy of Online Application Form.
2. Two passport size recent colour photographs.
3. One original photo ID Proof i.e. Aadhar card/Voter Card/Pan Card/Passport etc.
4. D.O.B Certificate (10th Diploma/Marks card).
5. Valid Category Certificate, if belongs to reserved categories.
6. Domicile Certificate.
7. 10+2 Marks Sheet/Diploma.
8. Post Graduate Degree in Economics/Business/Administration/Commerce/Statistics from recognized University.
9. Bonafide certificate on the format prescribed by the Board duly issued by the Controller/Registrar of the concerned University/Institute in respect of candidates, who have obtained the qualification from outside the UT of J&K.
10. Other documents/certificates as per prescribed qualification mentioned in the Advertisement Notification.

The candidate(s) who fail to appear before the respective Document Verification Committee(s) on the scheduled date shall forfeit their right to selection.

Sd/-
 Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
 Controller of Examinations
 J&K Services Selection Board

No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/49/2023-03 (7209083)
 DIPK-15921/23
 Dated: 02-02-2024

Govt of Jammu and Kashmir
Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)
 CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu / Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.
 www.jkssb.nic.in

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Result/Score-sheet of Written Test for the post of Stock Assistant-regarding.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted Written Examination for the post of **Stock Assistant**, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Division and District Cadres, under various Item Nos advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2021 and 04 of 2022 on **14th January, 2024**; and

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), vide Notice No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/103/2023-03 (7368109) dated: 14.01.2024, issued Provisional Answer Key in respect of the written test; and

Whereas, the objections were examined and the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of written examination held for the said post has been notified vide No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/103/2023-03 (7368109) dated: 01.02.2024; and

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the Result/Score-sheet, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Written Test for the post of **Stock Assistant**, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Division and District Cadres, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2021 and 04 of 2022, under various Item Nos conducted on 14.01.2024, is hereby notified as **Annexure "A"**.

It is further notified that:

- i. mere figuring in the result/score sheet shall not entitle a candidate to be called for document verification or figure in the select list and that he/she has to fulfill other eligibility conditions, as laid down and decision of the Board in this regard shall be final.
- ii. the Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will call candidates falling in the consideration zone, based on the merit obtained by them for document verification. The schedule for document verification shall be notified separately.

DIPK-15912/23
 dated: 02-02-2024

01.02.2024
 (Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS
 Controller of Examinations
 J&K Services Selection Board

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/103/2023-03(7368109)

Office of the Assistaatn Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application for Re-Registration and Change of Address of ownership has been received from owner of vehicle no DL3CAH-1564. Namely Sh. Lateef Ahmad S/o Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o Shippora Budgam Type of Vehicle Wagon R



Now therefor it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed Re-Registration / Change of address shall be filled in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily Kashmir Observer .

ARTO/BUD/2300
 DATED 24-01-24

Assistaatn Regional Transport
 Officer Budgam Kashmir

Public Notice

I have lost my DOB certificate of my wards 1. Sahil Nabi (DOB 05-12-2011) 2. Mehvish Nabi (DOB 10-12-2010) issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation . 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 above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Ghulam Nabi Bhat
 F/o Sahil Nabi & Mehvish Nabi
 R/O Sangam Idd Gah Srinagar nj

Public Notice

I have lost my DOB certificate of my son Hammad Bhat (DOB 20-02-2019) issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation . 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 above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Aijaz Ahmad Bhat F/o Hammad Bhat
 R/o Tengpora Zoonimar Srinagar nj

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
 Branch Office Sumbal

ATTENTION PLEASE

The applicant whose photograph is published in the notice claims to have lost his/her original Character Certificate, Discharge Certificate, Marks Card of class 10th issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education with following particulars:-



Name - Uzra Hamid
 Parentage - Abdul Hameed Kawa
 Roll number - 2628294,
 Class - 10th,
 Session- 2019,
 Now the candidate has applied for the Character Certificate, Discharge Certificate, Marks Card. If anybody having any objection may file the same before undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card may be treated as cancelled.
 Sako Sd/-

Public Notice

I have lost my DOB certificate issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation . 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 above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Bilal Ahmad Guroo
 S/o Ghulam Ahmad Guroo
 R/o Imran Gali Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar nj

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate for my ward namely Naima Zehra (dob: 14-03-2014 and Mohammad Hussain (DOB: 04-04-2015). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Municipality Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Gh Mohd Wani
 F/o Naima Zehra & Mohammad Hussain
 R/o Zakir Mohalla Magam bmg

Public Notice

My DOB has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar Card as 16-10-2010 while my correct DOB is 16-07-2010 which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Syed Amaan Ahmad
 S/o Syed Imtiaz Ahmad R/o Wailoo Kunzer bmg

Public Notice

I have lost my DOB certificate of my son Mohsin Maqsood Wani (DOB 01-02-2022) issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation . 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 above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Maqsood Ahmad Wani
 F/o Mohsin Maqsood Wani
 R/O Badiwader Kreshibal Srinagar NJ

Public Notice

I have lost my DOB certificate of my son Farhan Ashraf Wani (DOB 01-01-2022) issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation . 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 above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Mohd Ashraf Wani
 F/o Farhan Ashraf Wani
 R/o Badiwader Kreshibal Srinagar NJ

Public Notice

I have lost my DOB certificate of my son Hammad Bin Rouf (DOB 11-04-2019) issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation . 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 above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Rouf Ahmad Naik
 F/o Hammad Bin Rouf R/o Pahloo Kulgam nj

Public Notice

I have lost my DOB certificate of my son Tanveer Ahmad Malla (DOB 23-05-2006) issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation . 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 above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Wali Mohammad Malla F/o Tanveer Ahmad Malla
 R/o Check Mujkund Srinagar nj



City Siblings Inspires Youth To Be Self-Sustaining

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two well-educated sisters hailing from Srinagar district have embarked on a journey to become financially independent and create job opportunities for others through their fabric business.

Anju Baqal, an M.Com and B.Ed graduate, alongside her sister Yasmeen Baqal, who holds an M.Tech degree, has established the business venture 'Abena Fabric' in Sadrabal Hazratbal.

Anju said her entrepreneurial journey dates back to her childhood. "From a young age, I had a keen interest in pursuing a business related to art and design, and to create employment opportunities for others," she said.

Anju said before starting the business, she worked as a team leader at several places. Thereafter, I discussed the idea with sisters and parents who provided financial support to kickstart the venture, she said.

"The primary goal behind our business is to serve as an inspiration for the younger generation and cultivate a positive mindset towards women's entrepreneurship," Baqal added.

Anju has a message to individuals awaiting job opportunities, and urged them to move beyond "daydreaming". "My advice is for those who keep waiting for jobs and expecting miracles. They should start small and prove their capabilities," Baqal stressed.

Anju encouraged the youth, particularly women, to explore entrepreneurship instead of solely pursuing government jobs. "With determination, they can establish small businesses, achieve independence and lead fulfilling lives," she said.

CS Takes Stock Of Dal Conservation, Beautification

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday took review of the measures taken so far for the beautification and cleansing of the famous Dal and Nigeen Lakes here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; VC, Lakes Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) besides other concerned officers.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary took note of the measures taken so far for the cleaning, beautification and conservation of this fresh water body. He observed that the lake has the significance of an insignia in terms of the tourism value of Srinagar city and needs our prior attention and focus for development.

He also emphasized upon taking effective measures to control the encroachment in the restricted area. He asked them to enhance the enforcement mechanism and ensure that no illegal structures are raised in the lake area. He called for showing zero tolerance towards any of the unlawful activity deemed detrimental for the health of the lake.

Dulloo called for pre-



serving the environment of the lake besides taking other scientific measures for its conservation. He asked for making concerted efforts to remove the weeds and lily pads from the water surface. He stressed on restricting the untreated waste water into from going into the lake and optimal use of the STPs developed for preserving the lake from pollution.

Regarding the beautification of the lake the Chief Secretary asked for completing all the ongoing projects like installation of aerators and fountain clusters at different spots in the lake. He even asked for making a breakthrough in installation of the musical and high jet fountain in the lake as per the proposal.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the implementation of Rs 273 Cr Dal Lake conservation plan which includes components like dredging, catchment area management, development of sewerage network, Eco-parks, Viewing decks/jetties/ghats besides completion of other conservation works.

He even advised for exploring the possibility of the construction of 'Ferris Wheel' in PPP mode inside the lake area. He asked for seeking the consultancy services regarding the best possible mechanism of getting it installed here. He also asked for looking into the establishment of STP at Gupta Ganga as requested by the conservation authority.

In his presentation the Vice Chairperson LCMA, Bashir Ahmad threw light on different measures taken by them to conserve this water body. He also provided details of the projects completed so far and the physical progress of those under execution.

It was given out that the lake area has not decreased as per the earliest possible available records (1985 settlement by Sir Walter Lawrence). It was revealed that the area is almost same as per the ETS survey carried out in 2009 and satellite imagery.

Moreover the authority had carried out delineation of Lake boundary for the first time, I besides carrying out drone survey done through SOI in the years



Crafting Wealth Through Strategic Investments

Irshad Muhstaq

Investing in the Nifty (Nifty Bees) -ETF in 2013 with Rs 1 crore would be worth just Rs 3.65 cr today. In comparison, the Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Mutual Fund would have turned the same amount into Rs 6.60 crore in the same period. Gold, on the other hand, would have only grown to Rs 2 crore, and a fixed deposit at 7% per annum would be at Rs 2.27 crore after 11 years.

This goes to show that investing in the equity market can be highly rewarding, but it requires the right strategy and a diversified portfolio. Many people lose money because they invest in the wrong stocks, follow hot tips without doing proper research, or lack a quality holding in their portfolio.

The key is to seek expert advice and work with trusted, experienced professionals to grow your wealth over time. Just like you would consult a good doctor or lawyer for your health and legal matters, financial health also requires a trusted consultant.

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

This Day in History

- 1488 - Bartolomeu Dias discovers Mosselbaai (Angra dos Vaqueros)
- 1509 - The Battle of Diu, naval battle at port of Diu, India between Portugal and the Ottoman Empire, establishes Portugese trading control
- 1783 - Spain recognizes US independence
- 1807 - A British military force, under Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty captures the city of Montevideo in the Battle of Montevideo, then part of the Spanish Empire now capital of Uruguay (Napoleonic Wars)
- 1815 - World's first commercial cheese factory established, in Switzerland.
- 1830 - The sovereignty of Greece confirmed in a London Protocol
- 1834 - Wake Forest University is established in North Carolina
- 1860 - Thomas Clemson takes office as 1st US superintendent of agriculture
- 1865 - Hampton Roads Peace Conference, Lincoln & Stephens reach an impasse
- 1867 - Prince Mutsuhito, 14, becomes Emperor Meiji of Japan (1867-1912)
- 1870 - US state of Iowa ratifies the 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution allowing suffrage for all races & colour
- 1876 - Albert Spalding with \$800 starts sporting goods co, manufacturing 1st official baseball,
- 1915 - Turkish & German army reach Suez Canal
- 1924 - Switzerland claims the inaugural Olympic bobsleigh gold medal at the Chamonix Games, ahead of Great Britain and Belgium
- 1928 - Paleontologist Davidson Black reports his findings on the ancient human fossils found at Zhoukoudian, China in the journal

- 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
- BIBHERA: 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 |

از دفتر فلاح عام وقف علمگری بازار کشمیر
"سیکرٹری مالیات جناب محمد علی کے والد گرامی انتقال کر گئے"

آج مورخہ 02 ماہ فروری بروز جمعہ المبارک 2024 کو ادارہ فلاح عام وقف کی ایک تعزینی میٹنگ چیرمین صاحب کی صدارت میں منعقد ہوئی جس میں ادارہ کے سیکرٹری مالیات جناب محمد علی کے والد گرامی کے انتقال پر گہرے صدمے کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ حاضرین نے مرحوم کی دعا کے مغفرت کی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے مزید دعا کی گئی کہ مرحوم کو کروٹ کروٹ جنت نصیب ہو اور وہ پسماندگان خاں صکر جناب محمد علی کو صبر جمیل عطا کریں۔ مرحوم کا رزم قلم روز سوموار بتاریخ 05 ماہ فروری 2024 کو سجاد آباد پھولستان میں انجام دیا جائے گا۔ انشاء اللہ

شعبہ نشر و اشاعت

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK LTD
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department,
Zonal Office Anantnag
Bakshiabad, Anantnag-192101
Email: amid.zoksou@jkbmail.com

E-AUCTION/SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
E-AUCTION/SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTY MORTGAGED TO THE BANK UNDER SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST (SARFAESI) ACT 2002 AND SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to Borrower(s), Mortgagee(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Imoh (hereinafter referred to as the Bank/ Secured Creditor), the Possession of which has been taken by one of the Authorized Officers of the Bank/ Secured Creditor in exercise of powers conferred under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (the Act) and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the Rules), will be sold on "As is where is, As is what is, Whatever there is and Without recourse", as per the particulars given hereunder.

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagee(s)/ Guarantor(s) | (i) Kaiser Ahmad Sheikh S/O Gull Muhammad Sheikh R/O Sundoo Bul Bul Nowgam Anantnag.....(Borrower) (ii) Ghulam Rasool dar S/O Abdul gaffar dar R/O Bul Bul Nowgam Anantnag.....(Mortgagor) (iii) Adil Javid S/O Javid Ahmad Dar R/O Bul Bul Nowgam Anantnag. (iv) Mohammad Usman S/O Ghulam Mohi ud din Khanday R/O Sundoo Achabal Anantnag (v) Mohammad Yaqoob Wani S/O Mohammad Yousuf Wani R/O Sundoo Achabal Anantnag (vi) Mudasar Hassan Lone S/O Ghulam Hassan Lone R/O Thajiwara Achabal.....(Guarantor) |
| Amount in Demand Notice (excluding interest and other expenses from 01-09-2023) | Rs.43,31,012.45/- (Rupees Forty Three Lacs Thirty One Thousand Twelve and paise Forty Five only) |
| Amount Due as on 31-12-2023 (Excluding interest from 01-01-2024) | Rs. 21,00,975.45 /- (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Ninety Seven and paise Forty Five Only) |
| Description of the mortgaged Property/ Secured Asset (Put on sale) | 1/and measuring 06 kanal 18 3/4 marlas falling under Khasra No. 440/60(06K 09M) and Khasra No.59-min(9 3/4 marlas), khata no.254 and Khevat No.100 of mouza Watrigam Tehsil and district Anantnag standing in the name of Ghulam Rasool Dar S/O Abdul Gaffar Dar R/O Bul Bul Nowgam Anantnag |
| Reserve Price | Rs.65,19,517/- (Rupees Sixty Five Lacs Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Seventeen Only) |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | Rs.6,51,951.7 (Rupees Six Lac Fifty one Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty One and Paise Seven Only) |
| Bid Increase Amount | Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) |
| Name of the Branch | Branch office Imoh |
| Authorized Officer/Designation | Juneed Ahmad Wani Designation Chief Manager Contact No.01932-222440 |
| Last Date & Time of submission of Bid, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Documents. | 04.03.2024 up to 04.00 P.M |
| Date and Time of e-Auction | 05.03.2024 between 02.00 P.M to 04.00 P.M |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Other Remittance/s details/ by RTGS to Account Number | Account No. 083807070000003 Account Name : Sundry Pointing IMOH IFSC CODE: JAKA0IMMOH |

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net") of our auction agency M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction tiger). The interested bidders shall submit their offer through website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net(the user ID and password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net") through their login ID and Password. The EMD 10% of RESERVE PRICE shall be payable through NEFT/RTGS/ID (EMD remittance details given above) on or before 04:00 PM on 04.03.2024. Please note that Cheques shall not be accepted as EMD amount. The Prospective Bidder(S) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form and Bid Terms and Conditions form etc at Jammu and Kashmir bank Ltd Branch office Imoh on or before 04.00 P.M 04.03.2024

For any Clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of bids etc kindly contact Jammu and Kashmir bank Ltd Branch office Imoh or the Authorized Officer.
The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/cancel the e-auction without assigning any reason therefor.
For detailed terms and conditions of the Auction/sale please visit https://www.jkbank.com or https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net. STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) READ WITH RULE 9 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower(s)/mortgagor(s) are hereby notified to pay the outstanding sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-auction and get the property redeemed, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and costs.

Juneed Ahmad wani
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
jm

Date: 01.02.2024
Place: ANANTNAG

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL)
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Electric Division Budgam
E-mail:edbudgam@gmail.comTelNo:01951-255218

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of Managing Director KPDCCL, e-Tenders, are hereby invited from registered transporters/vehicle owners for the Annual Rate Contract for hiring of commercial vehicles as detailed below, against the e-NIT Nos. as mentioned:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Name of work(s) | creation of Substation along with HT LT Network Improvement under the jurisdiction of KPDCCL Budgam |
| Estimated Cost | INR 13.52 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 135 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |
| Name of work(s) | creation of Substation along with HT LT Network at various places under the Jurisdiction of KPDCCL Budgam |
| Estimated Cost | INR 11.27 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 136 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |
| Name of work(s) | installation of Street Lights at various places under the jurisdiction of KPDCCL Budgam |
| Estimated Cost | INR 20.74 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 137 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |
| Name of work(s) | creation of Substation, Upgradation of Substation along with improvement of Network at various places under the jurisdiction of KPDCCL Budgam |
| Estimated Cost | INR 26.45 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 138 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |
| Name of work(s) | Creation of Substation, Upgradation of Substation along with improvement of Network at various places under the jurisdiction of KPDCCL Budgam |
| Estimated Cost | INR 23.75 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 139 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |
| Name of work(s) | Installation of Street Lights at various places under the jurisdiction of KPDCCL Budgam |
| Estimated Cost | INR 10.27 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 140 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |
| Name of work(s) | improvement of HT/LT Network at various places under the jurisdiction of KPDCCL Budgam |
| Estimated Cost | INR 14.32 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 141 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |
| Name of work(s) | Creation of Substation along with HT LT Network at various places under the Jurisdiction of KPDCCL Budgam |
| Estimated Cost | INR 38.45 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 142 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |
| Name of work(s) | Procurement of 30 kVA 3Phase automatic voltage stabilizer for PHC Kralnawa |
| Estimated Cost | INR 2.43 Lacs |
| Completion period | 20 Days |
| NIT No. EDR 143 of 2023, 24 | Dated:01-01-24 |

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| A | Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document | The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from |
| B | Sale of Bid Document (Start) | 01-02-2024; 4:00 PM |
| C | Sale of Bid Document (End) | 01-02-2024; 4:00 PM |
| D | Clarification start date | 09-02-2024; 2:00PM |
| E | Clarification End date | 02-02-2024; 11:00 AM |
| F | e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format) | 03-02-2024; 4:00 PM |
| G | e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format) | 04-02-2024; 10:00 AM |
| H | Hard Copy of e-tender fee and EMD Instrument & Affidavit that the Firm/Contractor is not Black listed by any of the Govt. Offices. | 09-02-2024; 2:00PM |
| I | Online financial and technical e-bid opening date and time | Up-to 09-02-2024; 02:00 PM in office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam |
| J | Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders) | 09-02-2024; 4:00PM |
| K | Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids | Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders |

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
No: EDB/292
DIPK-NB-5518/23
dated: 02-02-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Budgam.

Wrong Answers Only JKSSB Prioritizes Obstinacy Over Meritocracy

Ummar Jamal



Being an aspirant for a government job in Kashmir is now a sort of an expletive. Such scams, wrong answer keys, inefficient and embarrassing recruitment cycles have made a joke out of the competent aspirants from J&K. Studies, reports, policies and promises are released but an aspirant from J&K continues to remain a mere data point – one among the xyz percentage of unemployed youth

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) has got another feather in its cap by yet again successfully releasing grossly and blatantly erroneous answer keys. This time the dust settles on the Finance Accountant Assistant examination, a familiar sense of disappointment and frustration lingers in the air. The release of answer keys, meant to provide clarity and closure, instead reveals a troubling pattern of errors and inaccuracies. This is not an isolated occurrence but rather part of a pattern that has become all too familiar for candidates appearing in the competitive government exams in J&K.

In the latest examination conducted by JKSSB for the Finance Accountant Assistant aspirants, the candidates after appearing in the examination were left perplexed and dismayed upon reviewing the answer keys.

Discrepancies identified are multifarious, with several questions featuring correct questions with wrong answers, accurate questions with incorrect options, and troublingly, instances where both questions and options are erroneous. Some questions have ambiguous wording leading to confusion among test-takers. In some cases, questions and answers are correct but their answer keys are wrong. These inconsistencies undermine trust and demand urgent rectification to ensure fair assessments for aspirants.

Such oversights not only undermine the integrity of the examination process but also raise serious doubts about the competency and diligence of the board responsible for administering these crucial assessments.

What is particularly alarming is that this is not the first instance of JKSSB facing criticism for faulty answer keys or other irregularities. In fact, it has become somewhat of a recurring issue, with past examinations also marred by similar irregularities. Despite assurances of improved procedures and greater attention to detail, the board seems to have become accustomed to these blunders, failing to address the underlying systemic issues that perpetuate such errors.

Last year, in the same way, the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) prelims answer keys were marred with discrepancies. Following the release of the answer key, candidates raised objections citing numerous inaccuracies and inconsistencies. However, their grievances were met with an unsatisfactory response from the commission, forcing



some aspirants to resort to legal action by approaching the courts for redressal.

The painstaking efforts invested in rigorous preparation, often spanning months or even years, are met with frustration and despair upon encountering faulty answer keys. For many, the prospect of achieving their career aspirations becomes increasingly elusive, leading to feelings of disillusionment, anxiety, and self-doubt. The psychological burden of navigating through successive disappointments takes a toll on their mental health and overall well-being.

The recurrence of these incidents not only erodes the trust and confidence of aspirants in the fairness of the examination process but also casts a shadow of doubt on the credibility of the institutions entrusted with conducting these assessments. For candidates who invest considerable time, effort, and resources in preparing for these competitive exams, such setbacks can have far-reaching consequences, potentially derailing their career aspirations and causing undue stress and anxiety.

Is this what the youth of J&K deserve? Being an aspirant for a government job in Kashmir is now a sort of an expletive. Such scams, wrong answer keys, inefficient and embarrassing recruitment cycles have made a joke out of the competent aspirants from J&K. Studies, reports, policies and promises are released but an aspirant from J&K continues to remain a mere data point – one among the xyz percentage of unemployed youth.

The joke is on the recruitment agencies who refuse to look at the ABCs. Aspirants

assemble at their offices exam after exam, making senior officials sit down, opening NCERTs after NCERTs and reminding them of the school lessons that they seemed to have skipped. There's only one right answer and it is not supposed to be decided by JKSSB's obstinacy.

In addition to the immediate impact on individual candidates, the persistent failure of exam conducting bodies to ensure transparency reflects poorly on the overall governance and accountability framework governing recruitment processes in Jammu and Kashmir. It underscores the urgent need for greater transparency, oversight, and accountability measures to be instituted to prevent such lapses from recurring in the future.

In the competitive examinations, where every fraction of a point can tip the scales of success, the accuracy of answer keys holds immense significance. However, the journey from challenging an incorrect answer key to achieving rectification is often fraught with obstacles. When students approach the board or JKPC with well-researched representations, as they did it JKAS prelims exams last year, pointing out specific errors and providing clear evidence, the expectation is for transparency and rectification. Yet, the reality often falls short, with boards displaying an alarming reluctance to correct their mistakes, thereby jeopardizing the principles of meritocracy.

Upon the release of answer keys by exam conducting bodies, it is not uncommon for aspirants to meticulously scrutinize them. Armed with their knowledge and diligent preparation, students often

identify discrepancies where questions have been erroneously marked. With utmost clarity, they present their representations to the board, outlining precisely how and why certain questions have been incorrectly assessed. However, despite presenting their case in a crystal-clear manner, backed by compelling evidence, the response from the board can be dishearteningly

This not only breeds disillusionment among aspirants but also perpetuates a culture of distrust in institutions responsible for conducting examinations and facilitating recruitment. JKSSB prioritizes obstinacy over meritocracy. By prioritizing obstinacy over meritocracy, JKSSB not only fails its duty to ensure a level playing field for all aspirants but also erodes the trust and confidence of stakeholders in the integrity of the recruitment process.

Moving forward, it is imperative that JKSSB and other exam conducting authorities in the region take proactive steps to address these systemic deficiencies and restore the already lost faith in the integrity of the recruitment process. This includes implementing robust quality assurance mechanisms, conducting thorough reviews of answer keys prior to their release. There needs to be greater engagement and collaboration between exam conducting bodies, academic experts, and stakeholders to ensure that question papers are meticulously crafted and thoroughly vetted to minimize the risk of errors and ambiguities.

Much water has flown down the Jhelum, now it is imperative that corrective measures are implemented expeditiously to prevent such lapses from recurring and uphold the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability in the recruitment process in J&K.

The Governor of J&K has spent the past few errors fixing the recruitment cycles and holding agencies accountable, yet their standards remain ever abysmal. Imagine being an aspirant in a state where wrong answers get you the right jobs.

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

Author is a Kashmir based columnist. He tweets at ummar_jamal. He can be reached at umarjama1968@gmail.com

Interim Budget 2024 No Tall Promises And Walking The Talk

RC Bhargava

The finance minister has generally delivered more than what she promises in her budgets. The government has also avoided making tall promises and then falling short on implementation. This interim budget is in accordance with those standards. The government believes that actions and performance during its term in office would be far more effective in establishing credibility with the voters than rhetoric and tall promises. Its position is that what it has done for different sections of the population—especially for the poor, women, farmers and the youth—will stand it in good stead in the polls, and there is no need for a populist stance in the budget and promise doles and giveaways.

The finance minister, of course, did not forget that elections are due shortly. She very effectively communicated all the schemes and programmes that the government has implemented over the last decade, and which have led to the credibility of the Prime Minister reaching levels far higher than that of any other leader since Independence. These programmes have visibly improved the living standards of many. That will be

enough to give them an adequate margin over all others.

If anything in the budget could be called populist by critics, it is the proposal to write off old pending tax claims to the extent of ₹25,000 for upto 2009-10 and ₹10,000 for the period upto 2014-15. This step will free the tax officers to concentrate on more productive work instead of chasing small claims, and in many cases, claims that cannot or should not be realised. The possible benefits would be less than the cost incurred.

Women have, in recent years, been major beneficiaries of government programmes. House-building schemes, the supply of water and cooking fuel to villages, toilets in schools, the abolition of triple talaq, the direct transfer of benefits, and the reservation of seats for women have given women greater freedom and a better life. The finance minister mentioned all of these, and women voters, especially rural ones, would associate the change in their lives with the Prime Minister. The change in the environment for doing business was brought home to businessmen and industrialists by the reference to GST, the changes in the tax assessment system, and the reduction in the scope for corruption owing to the

revised processes. The substantial infrastructure building in the country has benefitted almost everyone. The overall progress of the country was subtly indicated by the reference to the G20 meeting. The clincher was the mention of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and the climate of optimism in the country.

The finance minister left all direct and indirect taxes unchanged. This was not unexpected and, considering that this is an interim budget, was the right thing to do.

She announced that another 20 million houses would be built in the next five years under the existing scheme. The past performance in implementing the housing schemes will lend great credibility to this. A scheme to enable the middle class to build houses has been announced. Owning a house is one of the major aspirations of most Indians and these programmes will thus be welcomed by all. Economically, house-building has great merit as a driver of economic growth. It creates a lot of employment, and because of its linkages, results in creating a demand for a large and varied number of products.

The scheme for providing rooftop solar panels recently announced by the

PM and mentioned by the finance minister has great potential for improving the quality of life of the poor. Its implementation and the maintenance of the panels by the beneficiaries would be critical for its long-term success.

The importance being attached to the bio-fuel sector is welcome. The use of all animal, agricultural, and human waste in the country has enormous potential for our energy security and for meeting the carbon neutrality goal. The fallout for the Swachh Bharat programme will be an ancillary benefit.

Long-term interest-free loans to states for reforming administration will be watched with much interest. People interact with state administrations in most matters related to their daily lives. If they also become more citizen-centric and think of citizens as customers who make their existence possible, the vision of Ram Rajya will be realised.

The financial figures revealed by the finance minister are indicative of the fact that the government has been working with great financial prudence. There were no overruns of the estimates. What has surprised many is the government's indication that the fiscal deficit for FY25 would be 5.1%. This is despite increas-

ing the capex budget by about 11%. The general expectation was that the figure would be closer to 5.4-5.5%. This, along with the lower borrowing targets, shows the commitment to keep financial management on the right track and not giving way to populist demands, especially with elections due. The budget makes us realise that the government has been successful in implementing not only much larger infrastructure and developmental programmes, but has also been able to find funds for a multitude of programmes that benefit the more vulnerable sections of the population. This was never possible in the past decades.

The finance minister deserves to be congratulated for an excellent job. She has set a high standard for interim budgets, and possibly for all budgets. She was able to say all that was important clearly and concisely and limited her speech to less than an hour. She understands the value of time. More of us need to do so.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

In Conversation With MeT Director

Kashmir's Weather Quandaries

Majid Nabi

This winter, as the valley grappled with a prolonged dry spell affecting various crucial sectors, the focus intensified on the profound art of forecasting—unraveling the mysteries of what the heavens held in store. Contrary to the usual pattern, Kashmir experienced warmer days than the outside states, and the quest for weather predictions took center stage. As the recent snowfall in the higher reaches has sparked intrigue and hope, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director Meteorological Centre Srinagar, said, "Snowfall following dry spells is not unprecedented; significant snowfalls occurred in 2019-2021, contrasting with dry periods in 2015-2018. Weather patterns evolve, and this variability is anticipated to persist."

Nevertheless, a critical query persists - Can the snowfall induced by the Western Disturbances prove sufficient to counteract the lingering impact of the extended dry weather?

"Kashmir valley is expected to witness severe water and power crises during summers, even if there is significant snowfall, following the end of 40 days of the harshest period of winter, Chillai Kalan," he predicted.

In a conversation with Kashmir Observer city reporter Majid Nabi, Dr Mukhtar sheds light on the nuances of dry spells, their far-reaching impact, and the intricate artistry of forecasting.

Excerpts:

What was the reason for the weak Western Disturbances in Kashmir that resulted in less winter precipitation?

Weak Western Disturbances (WDs) are attributed to El Niño rather than climate change, as all previous weak WDs in Kashmir exhibited average temperatures. The WD needs a transport mechanism to continue, and the current disturbance forming lacks moisture, hindering its continuity.

When the Pacific Ocean's water temperature rises above average, a meteorological phenomenon called El Niño is produced which affects the jet stream, resulting in a warmer and dry winter. El Niño, which typically brings higher temperatures, resulting in cloudiness and low minimum temperatures, are mostly to blame for the above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures during winters.

Over the past 50 years, multiple strong El Niño events, including the current one, have disrupted the global atmospheric circulation pattern. Positive Northern Atlantic Ocean Oscillation is conducive to snowfall, while negative oscillations, like the ongoing one, lead to dry spells.



Kashmir witnessed abnormally high temperatures for a major chunk during Chillai Kalan this year. Most notably, the absence of snow in plains as well as areas such as Gulmarg (pictured here) led to concerns about climate change impact in the region.



How is glacier formation impacted by less snowfall?

Rapid glacier melting in Kashmir, driven by heat waves and rising temperatures due to climate change is exacerbated by insufficient precipitation. Crucially, higher reaches require snowfall for glacier formation. Without sufficient snowfall, glaciers may experience melting and recession, impacting their size and health. In upper elevation regions com-

pared to the plains, the rate of temperature increase is often greater. Research suggests that climate change contributes to Kashmir's diminishing snowfall. A one-degree Celsius temperature rise correlates with a 7% increase in the air's moisture storage capacity, as per several studies.

What are its consequences on the water levels and other water-dependent sectors in the region?



IN THE LONG RUN, THE IMPACTS MAY INCLUDE ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION AND GRADUAL CAVING IN OF LAND.

The production of hydropower may be negatively impacted, and there may be less water available for cooling thermal and nuclear power plants. The volume of the water flow and the change in elevation—or fall, and often referred to as head—from one point to another determine the amount of available energy in moving water

Reduced glacier formation contributes to a decline in water supply, as glaciers are a crucial source of freshwater. This has implications for various sectors, including agriculture, industry, and domestic use.

Visibly dehydrated vegetation and low water levels in lakes and reservoirs, resulting in water scarcity, reduced quality of potable water, and effects on air quality due to extremely low humidity, are some im-

mediate effects of a dry spell in summers. In the long run, the impacts may include ecological destruction and gradual caving in of land.

The production of hydropower may be negatively impacted, and there may be less water available for cooling thermal and nuclear power plants. The volume of the water flow and the change in elevation—or fall, and often referred to as head—from one point to another determine the

amount of available energy in moving water. In general, the greater the water flow and the higher the head, the more electricity a hydropower plant can produce.

Have you noticed any significant changes in weather patterns or deviations from historical data in recent years?

Originally lasting from October to March, J&K's winter season is now limited to December and January. This can be linked to the global warming and climate change that is occurring right now. Additionally, the nature of precipitation is changing, it used to be snow, but it now falls as rain.

Mountains that envelop Jammu and Kashmir have a significant impact on the region's climate. These mountains and the water bodies significantly regulate the temperature of Jammu and Kashmir which has a distinct environment due to variations in height. So, alterations in snowfall on the mountains has had an impact on the temperature regulation.

Forecasting in Kashmir has garnered considerable attention, with people eager to anticipate what comes next. How crucial is it to precisely predict weather changes?

The accuracy in weather forecasting is as important as anything. As people eagerly await updates on what the future holds, the importance of precise weather forecasts cannot be overstated. We never make assumptions based on hearsay; instead, our prognosis is always based on fresh research.

In Kashmir, the importance is heightened due to the region's diverse climate and the impact of weather on various sectors.

The emergence of independent forecasters in Kashmir sometimes leads to variations in predictions. How do you navigate through differing forecasts?

We believe in scientific research and employ state-of-the-art equipment to foresee the weather. Our prediction is based on study that we periodically do to have an accurate forecast. We have been successful in our forecasts thus far, thanks to Allah. A confident forecast signaling a shift in weather patterns by the end of January proved to be accurate.

As far as the forecasts made by the independent forecasters are concerned, they have no bearing on us. Despite variations from independent sources, the department remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering the most accurate and reliable weather information to the public.

Success Anxiety: Perfectionism's Unseen Consequence

Wasim Kakroo

In the pursuit of excellence, many of us find ourselves ensnared by the relentless grip of perfectionism. While the desire to achieve high standards can be a driving force, an often-overlooked consequence of perfectionism is the fear of success. This fear, rooted in the anxiety of not meeting ever-escalating expectations, can derail our journey towards realizing our true potential in various domains of life. In this article, we will be discussing the intricate relationship between perfectionism, the fear of success, and the consequent impact on our values and potential in key areas such as self-worth, family, friendships, education, career, relationships, parenting, and community engagement.

UNDERSTANDING PERFECTIONISM:

Perfectionism, hailed as a commendable trait, embodies a dual nature that can either elevate or undermine individuals. This quality, fueling aspirations and steering us toward lofty objectives, acts as a catalyst for exceptional achievements. The pursuit of perfection drives one to surpass boundaries, fostering innovation and relentless dedication to excellence.

However, the very essence of perfectionism can transform into a clandestine adversary, giving rise to self-doubt and anxiety. The relentless pursuit of flawlessness often imposes unrealistic standards, paving the way for an unending cycle

of dissatisfaction and unease. This internal pressure can morph the joy of accomplishment into a source of stress, leading to the paradoxical fear of success.

The fear of success, an unexpected consequence of perfectionism, stems from the heightened expectations accompanying triumph. Instead of relishing achievements, individuals grappling with this fear find themselves burdened by the anticipation of maintaining an impeccable record. Consequently, the pursuit of perfection becomes a delicate balance between ambition and self-compassion, requiring a nuanced approach to harness its positive potential while mitigating its adverse effects on mental well-being.

THE ROOTS OF FEAR IN PERFECTIONISM
a) Striving for Unattainable Standards

Perfectionists, driven by an insatiable desire for flawlessness, establish standards that surpass the bounds of practical achievement. In their relentless pursuit of an idealized form of success, they inadvertently subject themselves to a perpetual cycle of dissatisfaction and self-doubt. The unattainable nature of their goals fosters an environment where success becomes an elusive and anxiety-inducing concept. This mindset not only hampers personal growth but also leads to chronic stress and burnout. Perfectionists often find themselves trapped in a cycle of setting unreasonably high expectations, falling short, and experiencing a pro-

found sense of inadequacy.

b) Fear of Judgment

Perfectionists are haunted by a profound dread of external judgment, convinced that their value hinges on meeting societal expectations. This anxiety amplifies when contemplating success, as they envision the inevitable scrutiny and heightened expectations accompanying the fulfillment of their goals. The fear of stepping into the spotlight becomes a formidable barrier, impeding their progress and preventing them from fully embracing their accomplishments. This hesitancy stems from a deep-seated belief that any deviation from perfection will result in harsh criticism, reinforcing the perpetual cycle of anxiety and self-doubt.

c) Imposter Syndrome

Imposter syndrome, often a close companion of perfectionism, exacerbates the anxiety surrounding success by fostering the notion that achievements are mere byproducts of luck rather than genuine merit. This psychological phenomenon frequently afflicts perfectionists, individuals who, despite their notable accomplishments, persistently harbor the fear of being unmasked as impostors. The relentless fear of inadequacy and the underlying belief that success is a stroke of luck contribute to a persistent sense of fraudulent achievement. This pervasive anxiety hampers perfectionists' capacity to wholeheartedly embrace their successes, leaving them in a

perpetual state of apprehension.

THE IMPACT ON SELF-VALUE:**a) Perfectionism as a Mask for Low Self-Esteem**

Paradoxically, perfectionism, hailed as a pursuit of excellence, frequently masks a deeper issue—underlying low self-esteem. The relentless quest for flawlessness stems from a fear that success will lay bare one's inadequacies, triggering a cycle of self-doubt and self-sabotage. This paradoxical relationship between perfectionism and self-esteem can manifest in individuals constantly seeking unattainable standards as a shield against vulnerability. The fear of being unworthy, coupled with the anxiety of potential failure, creates a self-imposed barrier to success.

b) Strained Relationship with Oneself

The fear of success creates a tumultuous relationship within oneself. Perfectionists, driven by external achievements, grapple with the elusive pursuit of internal validation and satisfaction. This relentless quest for flawlessness often leads to an internal conflict, breeding anxiety, depression, and an enduring sense of unworthiness. Despite outward accomplishments, the fear of success acts as a barrier to personal growth and fulfillment. The perfectionist's relentless pursuit can result in a perpetual cycle of discontent, overshadowing their achievements and hindering the development of a healthier self-

relationship.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FEAR OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

The fear of success infiltrates community engagement, stifling the potential impact of perfectionists on the broader society. The anxiety surrounding the expectations and responsibilities that come with making a difference may deter them from actively participating in community initiatives.

Overcoming the Fear of Success

Breaking free from the fear of success that perfectionism often poses is crucial for personal and professional growth. Here are five key points to help overcome this fear:

1. Embrace Imperfection:

Perfectionism often stems from the fear of making mistakes or not meeting extremely high standards. Embracing imperfection allows for a healthier perspective on success. Understand that mistakes are part of the learning process and can contribute to growth.

2. Set Realistic Goals:

Establishing achievable and realistic goals is essential in combating the fear of success tied to perfectionism. Break down larger objectives into smaller, manageable tasks. This not only makes success more attainable but also reduces the anxiety associated with aiming for unattainable perfection.

3. Celebrate Progress, Not Just Results:

Shift the focus from only celebrating final outcomes to appreciating the progress made along the way. Recognize and reward the effort and dedication put into the journey. This mindset helps in appreciating the process rather than fixating solely on the end result.

4. Challenge Negative Thoughts:

Identify and challenge the negative thoughts that perfectionism brings. Often, these thoughts are irrational and hinder progress. Develop a positive and growth-oriented mindset by replacing self-critical thinking with constructive self-talk.

5. Seek Support and Feedback:

Share your goals and aspirations with a supportive community or mentor. Constructive feedback and encouragement from others can provide a different perspective, helping to alleviate the fear of success. Surrounding yourself with a positive network can foster a healthier approach to achievement.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

Read the full version of this article on our website

Former Minister, Members of Central Administrative Tribunal Jammu Bench Call on LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Taj Mohiuddin, former Minister and senior leader of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, today.

Members of Central Administrative Tribunal Jammu Bench including Member Administrative, B Anand, and Members Judicial - Sanjeev Gupta and R S Dogra met the Lt Governor and discussed several important matters pertaining to the

functioning of the Tribunal at the region.

Javid Ahmad Tenga, President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry met the LG and put forth various issues related to the promotion of tourism and trade-related activities in the UT.

A delegation of Shiv Sena led by its J&K President Ashwani Gupta apprised the LG on various issues of public importance.

Purnima Sharma, former Deputy Mayor, JMC also called on the LG.

LG Releases Dr. Manoj Nazir's Book

Jammu: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha released a Book titled "Botany, Research & Horticulture of Gladiolus" authored by Dr. Manoj Nazir, an eminent Floriculture Scientist,

at Raj Bhawan today.

The Lt Governor congratulated and conveyed his best wishes to the author and the team associated with the publication.

Yuva Sangam Phase-IV: NIT Srinagar selected as Nodal Centre for J&K, Ladakh Local students can visit and explore Maharashtra at free of cost

Srinagar: For the phase-IV of Yuva Sangam 2024, the National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT) Srinagar has been selected as the Nodal Centre for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

In the Yuva Sangam phase IV, the participants from the paired institutes will be exchanged under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) campaign of the Ministry of Education. Under this exchange programme, participants will get the opportunity for multi-dimensional exposure.

For Phase IV of the programme, promising opportunities await students, youth, and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to partake in this enriching journey.

Therefore, 22 Higher Education Institutions from pan India have been paired to organize the tours and steer the programme. Among these

institutions, NIT Srinagar has been selected as the Nodal Centre for UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Nodal officers for this programme include Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Rout, Dr. Mohd Mohsin Khan, Dr. Nitika Kundan and Dr. Sumaira Jan, while Dr. Pankaj Kumar and Dr. Mohd Rafiq Teli are the Social Media Officer and PR Officer respectively.

Under this initiative, 45 native students from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (UTs) will have the opportunity to visit Maharashtra. During these visits, Food, travel, and accommodation charges for the students will be borne by the host institutes.

Similarly, a delegation of 45 members from Maharashtra will be hosted by the NIT Srinagar, J&K for five days. Interested youths between 18 and 30 years of age, native students (UG, PG, PhD and Off

Campus from any district of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (UTs)) may register through the Yuva Sangam portal to participate in the forthcoming phase of the initiative launched in 2023.

Registrations are already open and will be accepted till February 4. The selection criteria will be as per the MoE guidelines. The registration link is provided as <https://ebsb.aicte-india.org/>

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath said there is the significance of exposure tours for students, stating that they play a crucial role in providing exposure to new environments, cultures, and people. They will also learn to respect each other's faiths and beliefs.

"Exposure tours can significantly contribute to individual learning about diverse cultures and customs. Visiting new places and immersing oneself

in different cultures can also catalyze creativity and innovation," he said.

Prof. Nath highlighted the objective of the Yuva Sangam initiative, aiming to connect youth from across India through sustained cultural exchange programs.

Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman said that exposure tours provide students with the opportunity to experience and understand different cultures firsthand.

"These tours often include visits to educational institutions, historical sites, and industries relevant to the students' field of study. This hands-on learning experience complements classroom education, making theoretical knowledge more practical and applicable," he said.

The government of India initiated a 'Yuva Sangam' programme launched under

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) in early 2023. Aimed to strengthen people-to-people connections and foster empathy between the youth of our nation.

In the first three phases, Yuva Sangam has witnessed an overwhelming response and widespread participation from all corners of India. In the past year, more than 3,000 youths and coordinators across India have participated in 69 tours organized under Yuva Sangam.

NIT Srinagar has been directed to collaborate with the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology Nagpur (VNIT Nagpur) Maharashtra as a paired institution for this programme.

In the Yuva Sangam phase IV, the participants from the paired institutes will be exchanged under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) campaign of the Ministry of Education.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE 1

Kashmir Willow

and serious players, with prices ranging from 1800 rupees for tennis bats to 7000 rupees for entry-level English willow bats."

Leveraging social media, particularly Instagram, has been instrumental in driving sales, with 70% of online sales originating from the platform.

Highlighting their financial success, the Tramboos brothers revealed impressive profit margins and sales figures, emphasizing the growing demand for their bats, especially among players like Junaid Siddique in T20 matches.

During the intense negotiation on Shark Tank India, panelists evaluated the proposal, with offers ranging from equity percentages to valuations.

As panelists, including Aman, Ritesh, Peyush, and Anupam, evaluated their proposal, Saad and Hamad passionately highlighted their brand's market revolutionization, producing Kashmir willow bats faster and more affordably than competitors.

Vineeta and Anupam jointly offered Rs 30 Lakhs at 10% equity, while Ritesh proposed the same amount for 4%. Aman playfully suggested Rs 30 Lakhs for 6%, teasing Anupam's valuation.

After some banter, Peyush, intrigued by Saad's favorite cricketer, MS Dhoni, matched the initial ask of Rs 30 Lakhs for 3% equity. Ritesh adjusted his offer to align with Peyush's, leaving the boys surprised by the unexpected turn of events.

Ultimately, Peyush Bansal of Lenskart and Aman Gupta of BOAT emerged as the winning investors, agreeing to invest Rs 30 lakh for a four percent equity stake in Tramboos Sports Kashmir willow bat brand.

The success of Tramboos Sports echoes the previous season's triumph of Kashmiri entrepreneurs on Shark Tank India, as Sheikh Samiullah and Abid Rashid of FastBeetle secured a significant investment of Rs 90 lakh for their logistics service, showcasing the region's entrepreneurial prowess and resilience.

Kashmir's Weather

as extreme cold wave hit south Kashmir, parts of Jammu region and Sonamarg. Larnoo in Kokernag coldest at -17.7 C, followed by Sonamarg at -15.1 C," private weather forecaster Faizan Arif posted on his X handle.

According to him, in Qazigund, the temperature stood at minus 9.4 degrees Celsius, marking the lowest recorded temperature in the last 16 years, surpassing the previous record of minus 12.2 degrees Celsius on February 13, 2008.

Batote experienced a minimum temperature of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, surpassing the previous record of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius on February 9, 2008. Similarly, Banihal recorded a low of minus 6.8 degrees Celsius, surpassing the previous record of minus 7.7 degrees Celsius on February 9, 2008. Baderwah recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, outdoing the previous record of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius on February 9, 2008.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 12 degrees Celsius, a drop of more than four degrees compared to previous night's minus 7.6 degrees Celsius, officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 11.9 degrees Celsius, a drop of 7.8 degrees from the previous night.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 0.3 degrees Celsius.

The bone-chilling conditions have prompted authorities to issue advisories, urging people to take necessary precautions. The extreme cold wave is expected to persist, heightening concerns for the well-being of the populace

Plains Likely

cold temperatures will also affect parts of Jammu region and snowfall can occur in parts of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri and Kathua districts (above 1300 m in elevation).

"Its main intensity will be over parts of South Kashmir & Jammu region. Heavy snowfall in a few areas is also possible," he added.

"A good snowfall ahead for plains of Kashmir from Saturday afternoon. This time south Kashmir expected to receive good snowfall as compared to north and central Kashmir," another weatherman posted on X.

On February 05, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with possibility of light snow over isolated higher reaches.

From February 06-13, the weather is expected to remain dry.

OBC Reservation

Parliament which will be the last session of the current Lok Sabha.

After Parliament nod, a Commission will fix the percentage of reservation for OBCs in Panchayats and Municipalities, based on which the seats will be reserved for them.

Earlier, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women enjoyed reservation in Municipalities and Panchayats. Women have 33 percent reservation.

"There will be reservation for OBCs in Sarpanch and Panch constituencies and DDCs. Posts of DDC and BDC Chairpersons will also be reserved. In ULBs, Wards will be reserved in Corporations, Councils and Committees," the sources said.

This will be for the first time that the OBCs will be getting political reservations in Jammu and Kashmir. Even they were not having reservations in the Government jobs and educational institutions.

Only four percent reservations were given to Other Social Castes (OSCs) in J&K. In the last Parliament session in December, the Parliament had approved a bill brought by Union Home Minister Amit Shah for reservation to OBCs in jobs and educational institutions.

Elections to Panchayats and Municipalities which were due in October-November last year were deferred due to grant of reservations to OBCs besides certain discrepancies in voters of different Wards in the Corporations.

"Once the Parliament approves a bill and assent is given by the President of India, the percentage of reservation for OBCs will be fixed. Thereafter, the Rural and Urban Development Departments will undertake exercise for reservation of constituencies for the OBCs," the sources said, adding that fresh delimitation of Wards and voter revision will also have to be carried out before conduct of elections.

As the process for Lok Sabha elections will conclude by the May-end, elections to Panchayats and Municipalities can be held only after that.

While all Urban Local Bodies had completed their five-year term in November and December, the term of the Panchayats ended on January 9 this year. In absence of the Panchayats, the Block

Development Councils (BDCs), which were second tier of the Panchayati Raj System, also ceased to exist.

However, the District Development Councils (DDCs) have their term till January 2026. The DDCs are the third tier of the PRIs. This was for the first time that all three tiers of Panchayats were established in Jammu and Kashmir.

Avalanche Warning

districts about a potential avalanche threat in the next 24 hours. Precautionary measures are strongly advised, urging people to avoid venturing into avalanche-prone areas.

The alert extends to Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, and Ramban districts, where the danger level is categorized as medium. Residents in these areas are urged to take immediate precautions and refrain from entering higher-altitude avalanche-prone zones.

"Avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 2400 metres over Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara and Ganderbal districts in the next 24 hours. Avalanche with Medium danger level is likely to occur above 3000 metres over Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, and Ramban districts in next 24 hours. People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas. Dial -112 for help," JKDMA said in a statement. (KNS)

Highway Traffic

being cleared and urged commuters to drive cautiously.

"Traffic update at 1500 hrs. Jammu Srinagar NHW partially restored, stranded vehicles are being cleared. Commuters are advised to drive with caution, as part of road near Sherbibi is single lane & also slippery at a number of places," police said

The 270-km road was closed for traffic on Thursday following landslip at several places, including Sherbibi, Magerkote, Mehad Cafeteria and Dalwas, along the highway due to which more than 400 vehicles were stranded.

Drug Trade

also is being used to generate funds to support terrorist activities," Swain said, addressing a monthly crime review meeting here on Thursday.

He directed the officers to take strict and well-planned action against the criminals involved in the drug trade.

The DGP also directed them to maintain the record of drug peddlers as well as of drug consumers so that action is initiated in a more comprehensive manner, a police spokesperson said.

Swain impressed upon the officers to make a master list of repeatedly offending vehicles and also directed for indexing of drivers and vehicles found involved in transportation of drugs.

He stressed on the classification of victims, peddlers and dealers and impressed upon the officers to look forward and background linkages benefiting from the past experiences.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said several crucial aspects of improving the investigation and disposal of crime cases particularly drugs and bovine smuggling were deliberated upon.

"The crime picture of a district or zone should highlight the rate of disposal and quality of disposal of the crime cases registered, and to improve the efficiency of crime disposal, we must create a comprehensive, up-to-date and accurate database of the criminals," the DGP said.

"A robust crime case database will help in utilising the data for investigations," Swain said.

The DGP directed the officers to take strict action against bovine smugglers, as the trade is often associated with various other unlawful activities including transportation of criminals and unlawful material.

"Strict action must be initiated against the vehicle owners whose vehicles are repeatedly used for the trade," he said.

As an added incentive to motivate the officers, the DGP announced that those who demonstrate exceptional performance in the investigations would be rewarded as best district and best police station.

SIA Raids 5 Locations

searches at three locations, he said.

The case pertains to illegal raising, layering and laundering of illegal proceeds of crime by the accused persons which subsequently might have been used in unlawful activities including secessionism and militancy. The official stated that a case had been registered at Police Station SIA Kashmir following a thorough investigation.

During the course of the inquiry, it was discovered that a staggering amount of Rs 85 crores had been illicitly raised and laundered within a brief period of less than two years.

A case under FIR No 08 of 2023 under the appropriate sections of the law was registered at SIA Kashmir and further investigation of the case is going on.

Terrorist Hideout

five rounds, they said. The officials said the weapons were found packed in a bag and had gathered rust, suggesting that the hideout was not used by terrorists for years together.

The preliminary investigation suggested that it was an old hideout used by terrorists who were active in the area some two decades ago, they said, adding police have registered a case and started investigations.

Centre Invites

committee held the first round of talks with Ladakh leaders in December last year.

119-yr-old School

by SO 177," a notice from the school stated.

"Despite appeals to various authorities, including the Principal Secretary of Revenue, Principal Secretary of School Education, and Chairman of BOSE, no action has been taken. Even after the intervention of the Lieutenant Governor's office in December 2023, no progress has been made. In light of this situation, the school management has decided to inform parents of affected students about the circumstances, aiming to find a solution to ensure a peaceful and promising future for the students," it added.

The school management claimed that it had approached the office of the Lieutenant Governor for intervention but no relief was granted.

Meanwhile, the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) on Friday expressed its concern and disappointment over the development.

The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) has raised serious concerns over what they deem as a grave injustice.

"This decision is not just bureaucratic, it is deeply emotional. It disrupts the lives of countless families and shatters the dreams of our children," G N War, President Private Schools Association said.

"The denial of registration to students of Saint Joseph School has not only exposed systemic failures but also highlighted the precarious situation faced by private schools across the valley. The arbitrary decisions by authorities have cast a dark shadow over the future of education in Kashmir, putting tens of thousands of students at risk," War said.

"We are heartbroken to see the future of our children being jeopardized by the continuation of these insensitive decisions. The closure of RRFs has left students in limbo, unable to register for upcoming exams from their respective schools, thus impeding their academic progression."

War said that the ramifications of this decision extend beyond individual students. "It poses a threat to the existence of numerous private schools, jeopardizing the livelihoods of teachers and school staff," he said.

While the efforts of the J&K High Court in directing authorities to comply with its orders are appreciated, the president said that the continued non-implementation

raises serious concerns about the administration's commitment to the rule of law and citizen welfare.

He urged intervention from the Lieutenant Governor's office to reverse this decision and ensure the smooth functioning of private education in Kashmir.

DHSK Calls

upon all the Chief Medical Officers/Medical Superintendents of Government hospitals to take all necessary measures for discouraging such unethical/unfair practices with the support of law enforcing agencies and encourage patients to report any such incidents, and implement a system for monitoring and addressing such complaints under intimation to this Directorate."

DHSK has called for the establishment of a monitoring system to address complaints related to unethical medical testing practices. The Directorate of Health Services will oversee the implementation of these measures and expects regular updates from healthcare facilities with regards to combating such malpractices.

اطلاع عام
فصلی سے نکلنے والی میرا نام غلام محمد زگر ہے۔ جبکہ میرا اصل نام غلام محمد زگر ہے۔ اب آئی دوسری کرانی مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراض پاور ڈیو پینٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ واقع کڈل کے دفتر میں آکر پیش کریں بعد معیا گذرنے پر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
غلام محمد زگر
ساکن سسرکل سرینگر

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
Branch Office Sumbal
ATTENTION PLEASE
The applicant whose photograph is published in the notice claims to have lost his/her original Character Certificate, Discharge Certificate, Marks Card of class 11th issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education with following particulars:-
Name - Uzra Hamid
Parentage - Abdul Hameed Kawa
Roll number - 32648231
Class - 11th
Session - 2020
Now the candidate has applied for the Character Certificate, Discharge Certificate, Marks Card. If anybody having any objection may file the same before undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card may be treated as cancelled.
Sd/=

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
Branch Office Sumbal
ATTENTION PLEASE
The applicant whose photograph is published in the notice claims to have lost his/her original Character Certificate, Discharge Certificate, Marks Card of class 12th issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education with following particulars:-
Name - Uzra Hamid
Parentage - Abdul Hameed Kawa
Roll number - 22615420
Class - and 12th
Session - and 2021.
Now the candidate has applied for the Character Certificate, Discharge Certificate, Marks Card. If anybody having any objection may file the same before undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card may be treated as cancelled.
Sd/=

Draining Out Water To Top Dressing, Agri Dept Issues Advisory To Farmers

SRINAGAR: After fresh snowfall, the Department of Agriculture Kashmir has issued an advisory to the farmers, asking them for necessary maintenance of the fields for better health of crops.



A vast area in Kashmir currently is under mustard cultivation, which largely depends on the precipitation during the winter months.

As the valley received a fresh snowfall on Wednesday, the agriculture department has advised the farmers to take various protective measures for protecting crops from diseases.

While talking to the news agency Director Agriculture Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal said the farmers should essentially drain out the water from the fields.

"After snowfall, there is much possibility that water may accumulate in the fields. Stagnation of water leads to various problems in crops. So, the farmers should essentially drain out the water from the fields so that crops, especially mustard, are protected from diseases," he said.

In addition to the draining

out of water, the director agriculture said that top dressing should be also done for nutrient requirements of crops.

"With the top dressing, the crops get abundant nitrogen for normal growth. Farmers should ensure top dressing as soon as possible so that our crops get ample nutrients from the fertilizers," he said.

Iqbal said the rabi crops were in dire need of a wet spell, saying the prolonged dry spell affects its normal growth.

"Snowfall proves a blessing for our rabi as well as kharif crops. Our soil gets ample moisture during winter months with spells of snowfall and rains. Our glaciers are the source of water, which is used for drinking as well as for irrigating our crops," he said.

Growers are also rejoicing as the valley receives a fresh blanket of snow, providing much-needed relief to the farming community.

Farmers had been concerned about the water levels required for their crops, especially in the absence of substantial precipitation from the last two months.

They said the snowfall is a promising sign for a fruitful harvest in the upcoming season.

"This snowfall is like a lifeline for our crops. The moisture from the snow will seep into the soil, replenishing it and providing a much-needed boost for our crops and orchards. We are hopeful for a few more spells of snowfall," said Mohammad Akbar Dar, a grower from Baramulla-(KNO)

HC DIRECTIVE TO TIHAR OFFICIALS 'Ensure Proper Treatment To Yasin Malik'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the Superintendent of the Tihar Jail to ensure proper medical treatment to separatist leader Yasin Malik, who is serving a life sentence in a terror funding case.

Malik claims to be suffering from serious cardiac and kidney problems.

The high court was informed by the counsel for the Central government and Director General of Prisons (Tihar Jail) that the petition suffers from serious suppression of facts and that Malik was refusing treatment being given to him by authorities.

Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta asked the counsel for the Centre and DG (Prisons) to produce the record to show that the inmate was refusing treatment and also asked the superintendent of the jail concerned to place before it the medical report of Malik by the next date of hearing.

The high court listed for February 14, Malik's plea seeking a direction to the authorities to produce the record of his treatment and refer him to AIIMS or any private super speciality hospital here or in Jammu and Kashmir for proper and necessary treatment as he was suffering from serious cardiac and kidney ailments.

The petition has been filed on behalf of Malik through his mother Aatika Malik.

As the counsel for the authorities contended that Malik was a "very high risk security prisoner" and therefore, the medical team can be brought in the jail itself, the court asked him to place his stand in writing so that it can be considered.

Advocate Rajat Nair, representing the Centre and DG (Prisons), contended that a medical board was constituted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). However, Malik refused to be examined.

He said nowadays consultation with doctors is being held through video conferencing in jail but the inmate wants to go to the hospital physically.

He added that senior professors from AIIMS were called for diagnosis twice but he refused and the authorities are willing to arrange another consultation with the doctors.

On being asked by the court as to what was the objection, Malik's lawyer said he was earlier being treated by other doctors and suddenly the authorities have changed the doctors and a new medical board has been formed.

The counsel further said he will seek instructions from his client if he would like to opt for examination by the same set of doctors or by another set of his preference.

"Tell us the reason that you feel prejudiced if examined by these current doctors. How can we presume anything against the doctors? You

"But to say that you want to be treated by some particular doctor, we have a reservation to it," the judge told Malik's counsel.

During the hearing, Nair further submitted that Malik is not required to be admitted to a hospital but he was only required to be examined as an OPD patient.

The high court said in case a patient requires an examination inside the hospital it can't be insisted that he will be examined in jail only and asked the authorities' lawyer to get instructions in this regard as the prisoners also have a right to health.

To this, Nair said, "the state is duty bound to give the right of health to an inmate but he is a very high risk security prisoner and therefore, the medical team can be brought in the jail itself".

The court said, "In the meantime, the superintendent of jail is directed to ensure that any treatment required by the petitioner is duly provided to him at the jail hospital in accordance with the law".

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chief was awarded life imprisonment by a trial court here on May 24, 2022, after holding him guilty for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the IPC.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed an appeal in the Delhi High Court seeking enhancement of the sentence from life term to death penalty, which is the maximum punishment for the offence.

The life term was awarded for two offences - section 121 (waging war against government of India) of IPC and section 17 (raising funds for terrorist act) of the UAPA.

Wetlands Division Kashmir celebrates 'World Wetland Day'

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: On the eve of 'World Wetland Day' (WWD), the Department of Wildlife Protection (Wetlands Division Kashmir) on Friday organized a grand function to commemorate the day.

The theme of this year was 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing' which underscores the critical role wetlands

play in supporting lives and strengthening the health of ecosystem.

This theme was an agreement with principles of AMRIT Dhara highlighting the benefits of wetlands such as flood protection, clean water, bio-diversity and recreational opportunities. On the occasion, T. Rabi Kumar, Adl. Pr. CCF Kashmir/ Chief Executive Officer, was the chief guest.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. No.-399-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR. Date: 02.02.2024. Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 23.02.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father's name in my passport bearing no: U998973 has been wrongly written as GHULAM HASSAN while his correct name is GHULAM HASSAN BHAT which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

اگرچہ جہاں

مفتون دروازے ستھاپ. محمد امین احمد صاحب. Zeeyan Amin & Sadaf Ameen. ایشیا ٹیبلٹس پرائیویٹ لمیٹڈ. 10-04-2015 - 08-05-2018. 360/24

Quick Settlement Of Insurance Claims Relieves Families Of J&K Bank Customers

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 02: In a massive relief to the bereaved families, J&K Bank facilitated swift settlement of insurance claims of fifteen deceased borrowers who belonged to the Baramulla Zone and had their accounts in different branches of the Bank. The claims worth Rupees Forty Three Lacs and Ninety Five Thousand (Rs 43.95 Lacs) under MetLoan & Life Suraksha (MLS) were paid to the legal heirs of the deceased customers during last few months.



and legal heir of a deceased customer in presence of Zonal Head (Credit Life - PNB MetLife) Irfan Ali Zargar, Branch Head (Azad Gunj) Mohammad Yaqoob and other officials of the Bank and PNB MetLife including Regional Manager Showkat Ahmad Lone.

Expressing their profound gratitude to the Bank and its Insurance

partner PNB MetLife for ensuring the swift settlement of their claims, the recipients of cheques described the payment as a great relief for their families during these difficult times.

While handing over the cheques, both the Bank officials and representatives of insurance company highlighted the importance of the timely insurance of loans. "With a single-premium option alongside the available bank-funding, borrowers can safeguard their families against such unforeseen eventualities", said the Cluster Head as he urged the customers to get their loans insured under various available schemes.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION, J&K GOVT. OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, SOUTH KASHMIR DIVISION. Bijbehara-192124, Anantnag, Tel./Fax: +91 1932234474, Email: wildlifejk.skd@gmail.com. SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS. e-NIT No. 09 of 2023-24 Dated: 31/01/2024. For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are hereby invited (in two cover system) on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD/MES/Central/State/UT Governments for below mentioned works.

pledged under Tender Inviting Date and Tender Closing Date only. 2. The technical bid uploaded should contain the cleared scanned copies of the following documents. a. Scanned copy of Tender Fee in shape of Govt. Treasury Challan. b. Scanned Copy of CDR. c. Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/other authorized Govt. dept. duly renewed for the current year. d. Scanned copy of the Active GST Number and has filed the most recent Monthly/Quarterly GST return. The same will be checked by this office from GST common portal of State taxes department/Period app. e. Scanned copy of the PAN Card. f. Latest Income Tax Return and Valid Sales Tax Clearance Certificate (Form GSTR-3B ending 5/2023) g. Copy of Aadhar Card. h. An Affidavit with points: - 1. Correctness of Documents submitted 2. Not Being Black Listed by any institution, CID Verification/Police Verification Certificate. i. Complete address with WhatsApp No. and email. 3. The original copies of documents, EMD @ 3% Performance Security deposit and additional security deposit (if any) and relevant documents to be submitted to the tender inviting authority within 07 days after opening of financial bid by L1 bidder, otherwise the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further/future tendering process in the Division for a period of One year. 4. In case the cost of lowest bidder is found below the advertised amount, the bidder has to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR before issuance of award of contract to the tune as per below details:

Jaiswal Dazzles As India Reach 336/6 On Day 1

Press Trust of India

VISAKHAPATNAM: Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal slammed a magnificent unbeaten 179 as India reached 336 for 6 at stumps on the opening day of the second Test against England here on Friday.

The 22-year-old Jaiswal, who made 80 in the opening match in Hyderabad, struck his second century in six Tests.

He slammed 17 fours and five sixes during his knock that came off 257 balls.

Jaiswal was involved in a 90-run partnership with Shreyas Iyer who made 27. Debutant Rajat Patidar made 32.

At close of play, R Ashwin was giving company to Jaiswal on five.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma (14 runs; 41 balls) fell cheaply, while Shubman Gill (34;



46b) failed to convert his start.

For England, debutant spinner Shoib Bashir and leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed took two wickets apiece

while James Anderson and Tom Hartley chipped in with one wicket each.

Brief scores: India 1st Innings: 336/6 in 93 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 179 batting, Rajat Patidar 32, Shubman Gill 34; Rehan Ahmed 2/61, Shoib Bashir 2/100).

Getting Rohit As My First Wicket Is Incredible: England's Shoib Bashir

Press Trust of India

VISAKHAPATNAM: The "slight hassle" caused by a visa delay for the India tour is very much a thing of the past for 20-year-old England debutant Shoib Bashir, who is chuffed about Rohit Sharma being his first Test wicket.

Bashir, who is of Pakistan heritage, could not travel with the England squad to Hyderabad from Abu Dhabi for the series opener due to a visa delay. He joined the team in the middle of the Hyderabad Test before witnessing a special win.

On Friday, the 6'4 tall off-spinner showed what he was capable of and why skipper Ben Stokes picked him in the squad after watching a video clip of his bowling on social media.

Bashir, who played only six first class games before getting his big break, was England's best spinner on the opening day, returned figures



of two for 100 in 28 overs. He also bowled the most number of overs on the day.

"It's been a very special, special day. For all that I've been through in the last two to three years, it made it even more special. To get Rohit Sharma out, my first wicket, feels incredible.

"He's a quality player, one of the best in the world and a great player of spin as well," said Bashir after close of play.

Bashir had to fly back to

chilled to be fair. I knew it would get sorted so thanks to ECB and BCCI for sorting out quite quickly," he said.

Being that tall does have its advantages, one being the ability to generate extra bounce.

"(Growing up) Always been above average height, 6ft 4in does help with the spin I guess," he said on a lighter note.

Former England captain Alastair Cook has been left impressed with Bashir's control at such a young age but the spinner himself feels he could have been more accurate on his first day in Test cricket.

"I could have been a bit more consistent with my lines but I'm just going to look back on this day and think getting Rohit Sharma out, I think that's all that matters really," he said.

Besides Stokes, he is also glad to pick brains of veterans James Anderson and Joe Root in the England setup.

J&K Police Beats SSB In All India Police Hockey C'ship



Observer News Service

JAMMU: On the fourth day of the 72nd All India Police Hockey Championship, hosts J&K Police beat SSB 3-1 on Friday at KK Hakku Stadium here.

The championship, being organized by J&K Police, began on January 29 and will run till February 8.

J&K Police and SSB played match number 13 of tournament. For J&K, Satwant Singh Jersey No. 13 scored the 1st goal, while the team's 2nd and 3rd goal was scored by Karanjit Singh Jersey No. 05. Karanjit Singh was de-

clared player of the match for his brilliant performance. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Member J&K Sports Council, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Seven more matches were played on Friday. CISF defeated Chandigarh Police 6-0. Uttar Pradesh Police defeated Odisha Police 7-4. ITBP trounced Rajasthan Police 4-1. Punjab Police blew away Himachal Pradesh Police 10-0.

Two matches of women's category were also played on Friday, with CRPF defeating Haryana Police 7-0 and Odisha Police beating Gujarat Police 6-0.

Khelo India Winter Games First Leg Begins In Leh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Khelo India Winter Games 2024 kicked off on Friday at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan Stadium in Leh, Ladakh. Fifteen states and two public institutions are taking part in ice hockey and ice-skating events over five days in the region, which is hosting its first Winter Games. Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, B.D. Mishra was the chief guest on the occasion.

The second part of the Winter Games will be held in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir from February 21-25. On this special day for Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent a special message for the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 organisers.

"We just witnessed the conclusion of the highly successful Khelo India Youth Games in Tamil Nadu. From the southern to the northern tip, the journey and spirit of Khelo India continues unabated. The Khelo India Win-

ter Games epitomizes this spirit further, aiming to nurture champions and position the regions of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, as pre-



mier winter sports destinations, globally," said PM Modi. A motley turnout at the NDS Stadium witnessed traditional folk dances and were treated to some foot-tapping music by the popular local band, Dashugs. An exhibition ice-hockey match between Ladakh and Indo-Tibetan Border Police set the ball rolling. The match ended 0-0.

A thrilling 500 metre short-track ice skating by a team of girls from across In-

dia was an additional treat.

The first medals of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 were also decided on Day 1. Eklavya Jagal of Uttar



Pradesh won the gold in the Under-17 short track (300m) skating for boys. He clocked 31.81 seconds. Aarav Patwardhan (32.03) and Advay Kothari (32.60) finished in that order. Both represented Maharashtra.

In the boys 17-plus short track skating, Karnataka's Akash Aradhya (32.81) won the gold medal. Maharashtra's Sujit Tapkir (33.33) and Sumit Tapkir (34.33 sec) ended second and third.

India Favourite In Historic Davis Cup Tie Vs Pakistan



Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: India will be without their top singles players but the visitors, who have come to Pakistan after 60 years, will still start as favourites in the historic Davis Cup World Group I play-off tie, which is being played within a restricted environment due to security concerns.

India have never lost to Pakistan in Davis Cup history, winning all seven ties so far, and the trend is likely to continue.

However, the hosts are expected to put up a good fight through their biggest stars, Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan, after choosing to play on grass courts.

If Pakistan stood a chance against India, it had to be on the grass courts because both Aisam and Aqeel are

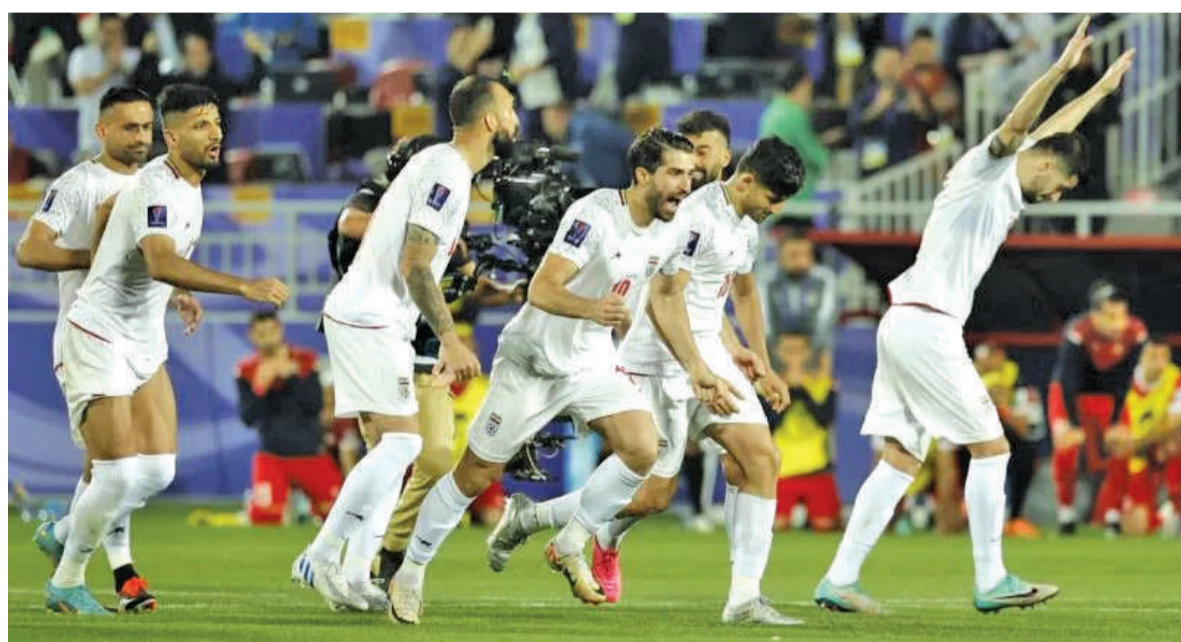
tremendous fighters, and this surface brings the best out of them.

The courts in Islamabad are fast with low bounce, and it made sense that N Sriram Balaji, who is a doubles specialist, has been asked to play singles on the opening day along with the team's best singles player, Ramkumar Ramanathan.

Draw: February 3: 1st singles: Ramkumar Ramanathan vs Aisam ul haq Qureshi 2nd singles: Aqeel Khan vs Sriram Balaji

February 4: Doubles: Barkatullah/ Muzammil Murtaza vs Yuki Bhambri/ Saketh Mynen 1st reverse singles: Ramkumar Ramanathan vs Aqeel Khan 2nd singles: Aisam ul haq Qureshi vs Sriram Balaji.

Iran Should Have Played Japan In Asian Cup Final, Not Quarters: Coach Ghalenoei



Agencies

Japan and Iran should have met in the Asian Cup final and not the quarters, Iranian coach Amir Ghalenoei said on Friday, adding that the east Asian side are peaking at the right time after a surprise defeat in the group stage.

While Iran topped their group with maximum points, Japan finished second following a shock loss to Iraq. But Hajime Moriyasu's side were clinical in their last-16 win over Bahrain while Iran needed a penalty shootout to eliminate Syria. Japan and Iran are the top two Asian nations in FIFA's world rankings.

"I think Japan and Iran should have played each other in the final but we're playing them now in the quarter-final," Ghalenoei

told reporters ahead of Saturday's game. "The quality that Japan is showing in the knockout stage is much better than the group stage."

Ghalenoei also complained about the AFC's tournament schedule, saying they had very little time to recover for the game after they were taken to extra time against Syria. Both Japan and Iran played their last-16 ties on Wednesday. "We had less recovery time than Japan. We should have finished the game against Syria in the 70th minute but we didn't take our chances and we had some bad luck," Ghalenoei said.

"I think the FIFA rule is minimum 72 hours (between games) but we didn't have enough time to recover for Japan. The first thing is the physical aspect and

the second is recovery from the mental aspect too." Iran keeper Alireza Beiranvand also complained about the lack of recovery time but praised their medical staff for preparing them for the game.

"It's not easy to play Japan after 139 minutes against Syria, some of our players had spasms. But what is important is how we recover mentally and I saw the players today, they're very happy," he said. Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said the quarter-final would be a "great spectacle" between two of Asia's top teams.

"It will be a tough match, it's a tough schedule. But we have to perform under the given circumstances. I think we're professional enough to do this," Moriyasu said. "Iran have the

same number of days to rest so it's the same, Japan may have had a little more time in terms of minutes.

"Everyone will pick Iran or Japan to win the tournament but we still have to fight to win this competition." Iran will miss their tournament top scorer Mehdi Taremi (three goals) as he serves a suspension for a red card in the last-16 win over Syria.

"We're aware he's suspended but Iran have Sardar Azmoun as well as other great attacking options. They can cause any team problems," Moriyasu said as Japan look to keep their first clean sheet in the tournament.

"Our defensive line must concentrate 100%, but I won't deploy different tactics because Taremi isn't playing."

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