# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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#### **No Respite From Cold Conditions In Kashmir**



**Press Trust Of India** 

Srinagar: There was no respite from the intense cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Tuesday as the minimum temperatures stayed several degrees below freezing point at most places in the valley, a MeT department official said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 11. degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in the valley last

The mercury in Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir fell to minus 10.5 degrees Celsius from previous night's minus 10.0 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag and Qazigund towns in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius and minus 2.0 degrees Celsius respectively, the official said.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius compared to previous night's minus 0.4 degrees Celsius.

As forecast, the weather improved in Kashmir on Tuesday morning | More on P6

## **Bill To Grant ST Status To** Paharis In J&K Passed in LS



**KO Web Desk** 

Srinagar: In a significant development, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Constitution and Kashmir)

Tribes Order Scheduled (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to grant scheduled tribe status to Pahari Ethnic Group and other communities in Jammu & Kashmir. According details

available, the Lok Sabha also passed the Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 that seeks to include Valmiki community in the Scheduled Caste list of | More on P6

#### **Inclusion Of New Communities In ST's Won't Affect Current Reservations: LG**

Calls Grant Of ST Status To Pharis A Historic Day For J&K

**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in a statement issued on Tuesday called the passing of Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes



Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in Lok Sabha A historic day for Jammu Kashmir. "Lok Sabha has cleared the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) | More on P6

#### LS Nod To Bill For OBC **Quota In J&K Local Bodies**

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, with the gov-ernment asserting that important changes have taken place in the Union territory since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Replying to a brief de-bate on the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill-2024, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have started enjoying the fruits of development ushered in by the govern-ment led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Currently, there is no provision for reservation of seats for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The bill seeks to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir and bring consistency in the



local body laws of the Union territory with the provisions of the Constitution

"With this, justice will be ensured to the citizens of Other Backward Classes of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time after 75 years of independence," according to the statement of objects and reasons of the bill.

In his reply to the discussion on the bill to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, in the Lok Sabha, Rai said he made no reference to the opposition demand for the government to spell out a time frame for holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the restoration of statehood.

Rai said I More on P6

**KO Web Desk** 

Minister of

#### **Permanent Homes** To 2 Cr More **Families: PM**

**Says Saturation Of Govt** Welfare Schemes Is 'Real Secularism

**Press Trust Of India** 

Goa: Attaining saturation of central government-sponsored welfare schemes in states by ensuring that all eligible individuals receive their benefits is "real secularism and social justice", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

When there is saturation of welfare schemes, differences between people disappear, Modi said while addressing the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Goa' public meeting in Margao town of South Goa.

The Prime Minister congratulated the BJP government in Goa for attaining 100 per cent saturation in central government's flagship schemes.

"Amongst the main schemes of the central government, in several schemes, Goa has attained 100 per cent saturation," he said.

"When there is saturation of schemes, differences between people end. Every beneficiary gets the entire benefit.... people don't have to pay bribe to get their rights," Modi said.

"Saturation (of welfare scheme where all beneficiaries get the facilities) is real secularism and social justice. Saturation is Modi's guarantee to Goa and the country," he asserted.

The PM said to attain this goal, the central government conducted 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'. "Those who were away from the government schemes also benefited from Modi's guarantee after this Yatra," he said. | More on P6

government can declare any

organisation as an unlawful

association, which will be ap-

plicable for the entire country,"

In Jammu and Kashmir, the

organisations declared as un-

lawful under UAPA are Jammu

and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (IKDFP), Muslim

Jammu

(Masarat Alam faction)/ (MLJK-

MA) and Tehreek-e-Hurriyat,

Jammu and Kashmir (TeH). The

other organizations include -

Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), United Liberation

Front of Assam (ULFA), National

Democratic Front of Bodoland

(NDFB), Meitei | More on P6

Kashmir

the MoS further said.

League

701 Sedition, 5023 UAPA Cases Filed In 2018-22

Act, Rai said in Lok Sabha. Rai, however, said the number of

701 cases of sedition and offences against the State were

registered from 2018 to 2022 and 5,023 cases were lodged

under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

17 Groups Declared Unlawful

**Under ÚAPA: Centre** 

State for Home

New Delhi: As many as 17 orga-

nizations are currently named in the list of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as

unlawful associations un-

der the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act, 1967, Union

Nityanand Rai informed the Lok

said illegal organizations in

the country in a written re-

ply. "In exercise of the powers

conferred by Sub-section (1)

of Section 3 of the Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act,

1967 (37 of 1967), the central

Rai shared the details of the

Sabha on Tuesday (February 6).

### **Kashmir Mourns Loss of Poet, Broadcaster Farooq Nazki**

Riyaz Wani

Srinagar - Noted Kashmiri poet and broadcaster, Farooq Nazki, passed away at the age of 83 on

A former Director of Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) Srinagar, Nazki was ce ebrated for his significant contributions to Kashmiri literature and romantic poetry. His career began as a broadcaster and writer for Radio Kashmir, following in the footsteps of his father, the renowned Kashmiri poet Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki.

Throughout his lifetime, received numerous awards, including the Sahitya Academy Award in 1995 for his poetry collection, "Naar Hyutun Kanzal Wanas".

Despite facing health challenges in recent years, including lung and kidney complications, he continued to make meaningful contributions to the literary and media landscape of Kashmir. Nazki served in key posi-

tions such as the Director of Radio Kashmir and Director of Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar.

Known for his wit, humor. and eloquent use of words,



Nazki left an indelible mark on Kashmiri literature. He retired in 2000 as the Deputy Director General of Doordarshan and served as a media advisor to Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

Nazki passed away at a hospital in Katra after suffering a heart attack, following a fourvear battle with health issues. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son, who is a medical doctor. The funeral prayer (Nimaz-e-Jinazah) will be held in Srinagar on Wednesday morning, family sources said. Nazki's death was meanwhile

being widely mourned. Democratic Azad | More on P6 **Saffron Production Declined** By Over 67% In 14 years

**Agencies** 

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday said that the production of saffron has declined by over 67 percent from 2010 to 2024, however, the production has increased marginally by 4 percent in the last year.

Replying to a question raised by National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Arjun Munda, as per KNS said that as per the estimates provided by the Office of Financial Commissioner (Revenue), UT of Jammu & Kashmir, the production of saffron in Jammu and Kashmir has decreased from 8.0 MT in 2010-11 to 2.6 MT in 2023-24 (provisional), resulting in an overall decline in production by about 67.5% over the period. "However, during the last one year from 2022-23 to 2023-24, the saffron production has margin-

ally increased by 4%." He also said that as per the information received from the Planning and Agriculture



Production Department of I&K, out of the 128 deep borewells sanctioned under the Mission, 123 have been constructed by the Horticulture Department and handed over to the Mechanical Department, Engineering Kashmir for their harnessing and further linkage with the Sprinkler irrigation Systems. The Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir has successfully connected 73 deep bore wells with the Sprinkler Irrigation Systems having a command of 2187.08 hectares. | More on P6

#### cases registered under the sedition and offences against the State came down from 149 in 2021 to 68 in 2022. | More on P6

#### No HC Relief To Govt On Key Health Schemes Dismisses Plea For Restraining Insurance Company From Opting Out Of Contract

M Ahmad



In its plea, the government had sought the directions to the insurance company- IFFCO-TOKIO, General Insurance Company Limited-to undertake its contractual liability in the interest of patient care.

Otherwise, it said, at this stage it would have serious consequences for the people as approximately 1200-1500 procedures take place daily in Jammu and Kashmir. It said the general public heavily relies on these schemes for adequate treatment, leading to improved and well organized patient care.

As observed by the court's single bench of Justice Wasim



Sadiq Nargal, the contract between government and the Insurance Company was executed for a maximum period of three years, commencing from 10 March 2022. However, the court said, IFFCO - TOKIO, General Insurance Company in their letter dated 1st November last year informed that they would like to serve a notice expressing that they are not interested in further renewing the contract after the expiry of the present policy, which ends on 14 March 2024 as per Clause 9.1c of the contract agreement.

In response, the Chief Officer, Executive Health Agency, J&K (CEO, SHA, J&K), vide communication dated 3rd November, 2023 addressed to the CEO/MD of the Company, requested them to continue as insurer in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the parties. In response, the General

Manager of the Company informed the CEO vide communication on 16th November. 2023 that they have decided not to accord their consent for the renewal of the contract beyond 14th March, 2024.

Subsequently, the court observed, there were multiple correspondence exchanges between the SHA and the Company, whereby, the SHA requested the company to honour the terms and conditions of the contract. The Company replied stating that they are merely invoking clause 9.1 (c) of the contract agreement and in no way are in breach of the terms of the contract.

The SHA, J&K, then invoked clause 41.3 of the contract agreement vide communication on 19 January this year and served notice to the Company for referring | More on P6



From Barren to Breathtaking: Kashmir's mountains have transformed into a breathtaking vista, adorned with snow after a two-month dry spell. KO Photo

#### Wanted In J&K, LeT Operative **Arrested By Delhi Police** Police had recently busted a

Agencies

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Tuesday said that they arrested an operative of the Lashkar-e-Taiba who is wanted in Jammu and Kashmir.

The alleged operative is a retired Indian Army personnel who is wanted for his involvement in a recently busted militant module in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Police said that the LeT operative, identified as Riyaz Ahmed. was arrested from the New Delhi railway station."Riyaz Ahmed was involved in hatching a conspiracy along with one Khursheed Ahmed and Ghulam Sarvar in receiving arms and ammunition from across the LOC," K P S Malhotra, DCP (Railways), said.

"The Jammu and Kashmir

LeT module in Kupwara, arresting five persons linked to it and seized several incriminating material from their possession along with arms and ammunition," Malhotra said. Malhotra said the arms and

ammunition were sent by Pak based LeT handlers Manzoor Ahmed Sheikh and Mohammad Khushal. "Last week, we received in-

formation from investigating agencies in Jammu and Kashmir that Riyaz is arriving in Delhi. We formed a team and caught Ahmed while he was trying to escape from Gate Number 1 at the New Delhi Railway Station," said Malhotra.

During interrogation, Ahmed reportedly told the police that he and his friend Altaf, who too | More on P6

#### Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

TWO COVER SYSTEM (Above Rs. 2.50 crores)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER** EE/R&B/DIVN/GBL/e-Tender NIT No.215 of 2023-24 under endorsement No.16557-62 Dated: 06.02.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on %age basis (as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:

l	S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.	Cost of T/	Earnest	T.O.C	Class of		
l			In Lacs)	Doc. (In	Money (Rs.)		Contractor		
l				Rupees)					
l	1.	Construction of Sci-	441.34	5500/-	8,82,680/-	Two Working	AAY		
l		ence Block at GCET				seasons			
l		Safapora.							

**Project Authority:** Major Head of Account Position of AAA

Position of T/S

Principal GCET Safapora Higher Education

AA Accorded by Principal GCET Safapora vide No.

GCET/23/973 Dated: 09-09-2023 Technical Sanction accorded by Chief Engineer PW

(R&B) Department Kashmir vide order

No. CE (R&B) CK/TS/764 of 2023-24 Dated 27-01-2024 Date of Issue of Tender Notice 06-02-2024 at 4.00 P.M From 07-02-2024 from 11.00 A.M 14-02-2024at 02.00 P.M in the Office Period of downloading of bidding documents Date. Time and place of pre-bid meeting

of Superintending Engineer Office PWD (R&B) Circle Ganderbal. Bid submission Start Date 07-02-2024 From 11.00 A.M **Bid Submission End Date** 19-02-2024upto 4.00 P.M Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) 20-02-2024at 11.00 AM in the Office of Superintending Engineer Office PWD (R&B) Circle Ganderbal.
To be notified after technical bid evalua-Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) tion is completed

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury challan Receipt (under M.H-0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (The Date of Treasury Challan, must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

At the time of tendering all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Superintending Engineer Office PWD (R&B) Circle Ganderbal. The Date of Earnest money must be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date). However, the successful bidder shall have to produce Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG before the award of contract. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security @ 5% of the Allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity 1.4 As per the circular issued by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Civil Secretariat Finance Department vide OM No. A/2 (2017)-651 dated 07.06.2018 which read as under:-

A) Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of 3-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidders who's declared 1st lowest (L1) after opening of financial bids. B) The cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.

Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.

The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagai North. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

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

The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:a. Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the

terms and conditions of the bid. b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of

c. In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. Bidders are advised to quote Rate without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by

allotting authority. No.:16557-62

DIPK-16130/23 Dated:06-02-2024

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** PW(R&B)Division Ganderbal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

#### Office Of The Chief Horticulture Officer Pulwama

Tele Fax: 01933-240045 Email: chopulwama@gmail.com

#### **AUCTION NOTICE**

Sealed tenders, affixed with a Rs. 2/- revenue stamp, are invited on behalf of the Lt. Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The tenders are for the auction of 14 standing Wild Apricot trees & 11 No.s of standing/uprooted poplar trees located on the premises of Fruit Plant Nurseries Tumlahal in the Pulwama District. Interested agencies and persons can obtain the details of the items from the office of the Incharge Fruit Plant Nursery Tumlahal or from the office of the Chief Horticulture Officer at Pulwama

The sealed tenders must be deposited in the office of the Chief Horticulture Officer at Pulwama from the date of issuance of this auction notice till 4:30 PM on February 20th, 2024. The tenders shall be opened by the committee, constituted by the Government for the purpose, on February 21st, 2024 at 11:30 AM in the office premises of the Chief Horticulture Officer at Pulwama, in presence of bidders who wish to be present at the time of opening of tenders.

The bids must be accompanied with earnest money of Rs. 20000/- in the form of a CDR pledged in favor of Chief Horticulture Officer Pulwama, along with the sealed tenders. Terms and conditions: -

The Auction committee shall have the discretion of re-auctioning if it feels necessary to do so to safeguard the interest of the Government.

The successful bidder shall have to deposit 50% of the auction amount at the time of 2.

opening of the bid and the remaining 50% within 07 days.

The CDR deposited with the tenders should bear the name of the tenderer /agency.

Payment of auction in the form of a cheque will not be accepted.

In case, the committee is not convinced that the highest bid offered is a genuine offer for the auctioned Trees, the committee reserves the right to cancel the offer. As such the highest bid alone should not necessarily make the bidder eligible for the contract or considered as a successful bidder. The committee can invite the fresh tenders to make appropriate arrangement for the auction of trees. On communicating the approval of the bid/offer, if the successful offer/bidder fails to deposit the auction amount and execute the agreement within the specified time limit, it shall be considered as backing out from the contract by the concerned. The department in that case shall be within its rights to decide the matter on its merits or allot the contract to 2nd highest bidder or may re-auction the Trees. Loss, if any sustained by the Government on this account shall have to be made good from the defaulting contractor through the concerned Tehsildar. Recoveries will be made and deposited in the government Treasury besides initiating action against the defaulter.

A successful bidder who fails to execute the contract shall be deemed to have been "black Listed" for future auction process.

The auction committee reserves the right to reject any offer in full or part thereof, without assigning any reason thereof.

For smooth implementation of contract instructions as may be deemed necessary and issued by the Department from time to time will be binding on the successful bidder and deemed to be part of the contract/agreement.

The successful bidder shall have to fully uproot the stubs of the auctioned plants and no stubs shall remain on the spot & there shall not be any damage to fencing.

10. The successful bidder shall have to lift the material within 10 days of the auction.

11. Interested Parties/ Persons can visit the nursery during office hours up to 20-02-2024,

with permission of the Incharge Officer Fruit Plant Nursery Tumlahal.

DIPK-16134/23 DATED: 06-02-2024 **Chief Horticulture Officer** Pulwama

Sd/-

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that my daughter namely IFRA zainab D/O Firdous hussain bhat R/O Merchamer abraq pora baramulla. I have not registered her in deaths and births records as such I am intending to register the actual DOB of my daughter namely (Ifra Zainab) (DOB-08-02-2021). If any person is having objection he or she may approach me within seven days

Firdous Hussain Bhat Father Of (Ifra Zainab) R/O Merchamer Abrag Pora

nj

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that my son namely Moomin Khursheed mir S/O khursheed ahmad mir R/O panzinara srinagar. I have not registered the actual DOB of my son Moomin khursheed in deaths and births records as such I am intending to record the actual DOB of my son namely.. Moomin khursheed mirj(15-05-2015). If any person is having objection he or she ma Approach me within seven days

Khursheed Ahmad Mir Father Of (Moomin Khursheed Mir) R/O Panzinara Srinagar

nj

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform that Mrs Abida Afzal, wife of Mirza Favaz Ahmed Beigh, of Hyderia Colony, Arabal, Shalimar, Srinagar, D/O Late Mohammad Afzal Khan of Kamangarpora, Srinagar left for heavenly abode on Sunday, 4th of February, 2024 after protracted illness.

The congregational prayers for the departed soul shall be held on Wednesday, 7th of February 2024 at 8.00 am at their ancestral graveyard Madin Sahib, Srinagar.

Thereafter day long prayer meeting shall continue at the residence of Mirza Fayaz Ahmad Beig at Arabal

BEREAVED:

Mirza Fayaz Ahmad Beig & Members of Mirza Mohammad Beigh Memorial Trust, Madin Sahib, Srinagar.



#### NOTICE

be known as Yamin Lone. Regard this,

anybody is having any objection he/she within a weeks time after that no objectio

#### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan **Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

Subject: Application of Jahangir Ahmad Ganaie S/o Ghulam Nabi Ganaie R/o Gundi Masood Tangmarg for issuance of DOB Certificate of his Daughter namely Mahniya Jahangir born on 28-05-2021

#### **NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered Naib Tehsildar Pattan

#### **BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT**

Caveat No IN THE CASE OF:-Mohammad Yaseen Baktoo 5/o: Ghulam Mohammad Baktoo R/o: Pirtaki Merzabagh Hazratbal

OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT SRINAGAR

(CAVEATOR) **VERSUS** 

IN THE MATTER OF:-

will be entertained

(NON-CAVETORS)

Caveat petition in terms of Section 148 A of Civil Procedure Code for providing right of prior opportunity of being heard to the caveator before passing any orders if the non-caveator's choose to file petition, suit, appeal or any other proceedings against an order passed by this Hon'ble Court. May it please your Lordship:

Public at Large

The applicant/Caveator most humbly submits as under:-

1. That the caveator/applicant is the resident of UT of J&K and as such has every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court for the protection of his rights.

2. That the caveator has reason to believe that the non-caveators may likely approach this Hon'ble Court with unclean hands and may choose to file any suit, appeal or any other proceedings against

3. That the caveator has chosen to file this present petition for the purpose of providing right of prior opportunity nj

Services Selection Board (JKSSB)

CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu / Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.

www.ikss.nic.in

Subject: Written Examination for the posts of Assistant Scientific Officer (Documents).

Home Department, held on 09-01-2024 - Final Answer key regarding.

Written Examination for the posts of Assistant Scientific Officer (Documents), Home

Department, UT Cadre advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022, under

Key vide No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/100/2023-03 (7362014) dated: 09-01-2024 in respect

of the aforesaid posts and the same was uploaded on the official website of JKSSB

(www.jkssb.nic.in) for information and seeking of objections/representations on the

examination held for the posts of Assistant Scientific Officer (Documents) has been finalized.

which written examination was conducted on 09-01-2024, is hereby notified as under in

D

63

56

16

prescribed proforma, if any, from the candidates; and

of 04 unique questions within the stipulated time; and

respect of question(s) which have been challenged.

3

26 116 86

100 70

106 76

33

Post Name

Assistant

Scientific

(Documents)

**Text Booklet Series** 

**Question ID** 

93

40 10

46

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), notified Provisional Answer

Whereas, in response to aforesaid notice, 10 objections were received in respect

Whereas, in view of the above, the revised/final answer key in respect of written

Now, therefore, the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of aforesaid post, for

**Previous Correct** 

A

A

**Option ID** 

Further, such candidate(s) who deposited amount @ Rs 200/- per question and

#### The Jammu And Kashmir State **Board Of School Education**

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**Executive Magistrate 1st Class** 

Subject: Application of Parvaiz Ahmad Malla S/o Lt. Khazir

Daughter namely Aisha born on 28-05-2020

Mohd Malla R/o Sopore for issuance of DOB Certificate of his

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the

undersigned office has received the above mentioned applica-

tion for issuance of DOB. If any person(s) has any objection(s)

he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from

the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection

**SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA** The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice

is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Regular 2010 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars Abrar Majaz Bhat

Parentage: Majaz Ahmad Bhat Roll No: (435268)

will be considered.

Year & Session Annual Regular 2010 Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as

Sd/ Assistant Secretary Sub Office Bandipora

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

#### Govt of Jammu and Kashmir **PUBLIC NOTICE** Jammu and Kashmir

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate for my son Mohammad Shavan Para who was born on 17-10-2020. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. **Shabir Ahmad Para** 

F/o Mohammad Shayan Para

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Inadvertently my parentage has been wrongly mentioned as Sajad Rasool Shah instead of Peerzada Sajad Rasool Shah on my Passport.Now I want to apply for its correction.If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Regional Passport Officer Srinagar within seven days a week time. No objection shall be entertained thereafter. Peerzada Fazeel Sajad Shah

S/O Peerzada Sajad Rasool Shah

## اجتماعي فاتحه خواني

پیخبرنهایت ہی افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہیں کہ اہلیہ جناب نزیراحمہ گنائی صاحب اور والدہ محترمه جناب ارشد حسین گنائی صاحب مومن آبادمندی بل نوشهره مورخه ۵ فروری ۲۰۲۰، . بمتا بق ۲۳ رجب المرجب ۵ ۴۲۱ هر بروز سوموار مختصر علالت کے بعد اس و نیا فائی سے رخصت . لرکے دارالبقاء کی طرف رجوع کر کے خدا کی بارگاہ میں چلی گی-

#### ا نالله وا نا اليه را جعون!

ىرحومەنهايت ہى نثرىف إنىفس محنت كش، بااخلاق ، دىندار،ھمدر دوملنسارخاتون اورصوم و صلوة کی پایندهی-الله تعالی مرحومه کو بقضل ائم محصوبین علیم اسلام این جوار رحت میس جگه اور جنت تعیم عطا کریں اورائے فرزند، دختر ان ودیگر لوا حقین کو بیصد معظیم برداشت کرنے کی تو فیق کرامت عطا فرمائے آمین یارب العالمین \_ رحومه كاجمّاعى فاتحة خوانى 7 فرورى 2024ء بروز بدهوارا كئية بائى قبرستان واقع مومن آباً دمنڈی بل صبح ساڑھےسات بجے انجام دیاجائے گااوراس کے بعد تُعزی<sup>ج</sup> کس دن جر ن کے گھروا قع مومن آباد منڈی بل نوشہرہ میں جاری رہے گی۔ صدراعجمن محمر بيمومن آبادمنڈي بل

whose objection(s) is found genuine/correct as per revised/final answer key, will get the refund in their bank accounts provided to the Board. Note: No further claims in respect of final answer key shall be entertained by JKSSB through any

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/100/2023-03 (7362014)

**Controller of Examinations** J&K Services Selection Board

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)

**Changes in Answer Key** 

**New Correct Option** 

DISCARDED

NO CHANGE

DIPK-16073/23 Dated: 06.02.2024

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## Valley's Last Staple Artisan Preserves Tradition Amid **Automation Threat**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Ghulam Rasool Sofi, aged 60, stands as the final bastion of a dying craft.

Born into a lineage of artisans, he has dedicated his life to this handiwork that defines Kashmir's cultural heritage. However, as machines encroach upon tradition, Sofi's artistry faces an uncertain future.

Explaining the decline of his beloved crafts, Sofi said "I challenge there will be no one like me in the whole of Kashmir skilled in this art.

"My work lands in many countries like Spain and America," says Sofi, adding that the essence of his handiwork cannot be replicated by mechanized processes.

Sofi's journey as an artisan has been marked by collaboration with esteemed personalities like Jamal Siraj. Together, they once reaped the rewards of their

labor, earning a handsome income for their exceptional craftsmanship. However, the advent of mass-produced goods has eroded the demand for handmade artifacts, taking Sofi's livelihood into uncertainty.

"I appeal to the government to stop the onslaught of machine work, which is the main cause of our art's demise. I fear that without intervention, the rich legacy of Kashmir's artisanal traditions will fade into obscurity, leaving behind a cultural art to decline,' he added.

Through imparting his knowledge to eager learners, he endeavors to keep the flame of tradition ablaze for generations to come as the last stable worker in his trade.

Sofi's plea for the preservation of handcrafted traditions echoes across the valleys, urging stakeholders to heed the call before it's too late.

#### **DC Inspects Progress Of Construction On Migrant Transit Accommodation**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Tuesday undertook a visit to Zewan area of District to oversee the progress of ongoing works being executed on construction of Migrant Transit Accommodation for PM Package employees.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer PDD, Executive Engineer PHE, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Nodal Officer and other concerned.

The Deputy Commissioner took a round of the various under construction Blocks of the Migrant Transit Accommodations. He was apprised that the work on the project for construction of 39 blocks comprising 936 flats is going on in full swing and as on date

an amount of Rs 67 crore has been expended against the allotted cost of Rs 112.34 crore.

While reviewing the present status of the project, the DC was informed that over 70 percent targets under the project have been achieved with completion of civil works on 26 blocks comprising 624 flats.

The DC was further informed that 10 Blocks of Migrant Transit Accommodation for PM Package employees shall be completed by March 2024.

With regard to providing drinking water facilities at the Transit Camp, the DC was informed that over 60 % works have been completed on the construction of 50,000 Gallons RCC Sump and Operators quarter at a cost of Rs 32.24 lakh. While 85 % works on Construction of 100000 Gallons dome type RCC service reservoir has been completed for which Rs 35.04 lakh have been earmarked.



## **DM Srinagar Sanctions 10.39L For Militancy Affected Families**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) Committee sanctioned an amount of Rs 10, 39, 359/in favor of the 05 cases including cases of death/missing/injured/property damage and SRO-43 cases of the District Srinagar.

The decision was taken during the DLSCC meeting held under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM)/Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Superintendent of Police, Umer Shah, District Social welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Deputy CMO, Dr Nighat, District Health Officer, Dr Asifa, besides officers of BSF, Army and other concerned were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, as many as 06 cases of victims of militancy-related incidents came up for discussion.

The Committee held a detailed deliberations and after thorough screening an amount of Rs 10, 39, 359/= was sanctioned in favor of the 05 cases including cases of death/missing/injured/ property damage and SRO-43 cases of the District Srinagar.

The Committee also recommended one case related to SRO-43 for re-verification.

On the occasion, the DM/ DC stressed upon the Officers to ensure time-bound clearance of the cases to provide relief to the affected families.

## CRC Srinagar Organizes Rehabilitation, Distribution Camp For Beneficiaries

Observer News Service

The Composite Srinagar: Regional Centre, (CRC), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MSJ&E), Government of India, Bemina, Srinagar today conducted re-

habilitation cum Distribution Camp under ADIP scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India in collaboration with AL-IMCO, Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK) at CRC campus Srinagar.

The Rehabilitation camp was attended by more than 140 beneficiaries and their attendants and

concerned Rehabilitation Professionals of CRC Srinagar.

During the said rehabilitation camp, more than 230 Assistive and Mobility Aids, and Appliances viz. JoyStick Wheel Chairs (05), Battery Operated Tricycles (24), Hearing Aids (200) etc. were distributed among the registered beneficiaries on the spot.

#### Name change

I want to correct my daughter name in school records of class LKG as Darsameen bint e ashiq. Now I am applying for its cor rection if anybody have any objection in this regard he may contact the same at principal MAKKI MEMORIAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE BUCHROO within 07days from the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained **BOTOOL** 

Ashiq Hussain bhat Baghi buchroo Class LKG School MAKKI MEMORIAL **EDUCATION** INSTITUTE

BUCHROO

Subject:-

Reference:-

2.

5.

7.

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY 'E'-TENDER NOTICE**

Dv.CSTE/Works/LDH acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders in **Single packet system** from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the der noted work

Name of work: "Provision of Double Distant on 'B' route in Jalandhar Cantt Pathankot-Jammu Tawi section of Firozepur Division"

Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 7,65,49,611/- (Rs. Seven Crore, Sixty Five lacs, Forty Nine Thousand, Six hundred Eleven only)

Earnest money: Rs. 5.32.800 (Rs. Five lacs Thirty Two thousand and Eigh

4 Completion period : Twelve Months from the date of issue of acceptance letter

5 Closing date: 01.03.2024 at 11.00 Hrs.

Email ID: xenbemina@gmail.com

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

Office Of The Executive Engineer PW (R&B)

**Division Bemina Srinagar.** 

**EXTENSION NOTICE** 

above noted work is hereby extended, details whereof given as under:

Construction of Store Block at SKIMS Medical College and Hospital

This office NIT No: 24/EE/R&B/DIVM/BM/CS of 2023-24 Dated:

The date of opening of tender bids which were fixed on 06-02-2024 for the

19.01.2024 at 4.00 P.M

 $20.01.2024\,From\,10.00\,A.M$ 

12.02.2024 up to 4.00 P.M

From 20.01.2024 from 10.00 A.M

29.01.2024 at 02.00 P.M in the Office of the

Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle North

To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) North.

13.02.2024 at 11.00 AM in the Office of

18.01.2024 issued under endorsement No: 4159-69 Dated:18.01.2024.

6 Validity of offer: 60 days from the date of opening of tender. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored. The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. Necessary changes, Corrigendum/addendum, if required, would be posted on this website only.

No.: NR-SNT-W-LDH-78 Dated: 05.02.2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

#### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO.:- 25 OF 2023-24 (e-Tendering) Dated:- 05/02/2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-Tender is hereby invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. for the following work.

S. No.	Name of work	Advertised Amount in Lacs	Earnest Money in. Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.	Class of Contract
1	Construction of 33 kv tap line for 33/11kV, 1x6.3MVA Transit Camp Accomodation at Lethpora using 150 sqmm ACSR conductor from tapping point to receiving station including stablisation of existing 33 kv Awantipora line from 4 Pole rec station Awantipora upto the tapping point of transit camp accomodation Lethpora.		144000.00 in the form of CDR/FDR	the form of Treasury Re-	A-Class Electrical Contractors enlisted with CPWD/MES/ Railways/DGBPO and Inspection Agency of J& K PDD

The scanned copies of documents in original which proves the eligibility of bidders follows as under Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&K/Relevant issuing

authority.
2)
3)
4)
5)
lar/electrical Average Annual Financial Turn Over of not less than 30% of the estimated tender value during the last three (03) years. ITR of previous 3 Years.

Performance and Past experience of similar type of work. Work Completion/Satisfactory Performance Certificates of simiworks issued by the officer-in-charge not below the rank of Executive Engineer.

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Set of terms and conditions can be seen/ downloaded from the official website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

01 Date of issue of Tender Notice 02 Date of start of downloading Date of issue of Tender Notice 06.02.2024 14.00 e-Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.
Bid submission end date. Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids. 17.02.2024 14.00 06 Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bid Office of the Executive Engineer STD Pulwama There is no need of furnishing of hard copies of bids after submission of e-tenders. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bid as per the instructions of Finance Department issued vide O.M No.

A/24(2017)-651: Dated: 07-06-2018 Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/receipt/ E- Challan under (MH-0801 PDD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Sub – Transmission Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority).
6. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only valid for a period of at least one year from the date of issuance of this tender notice from any schedule or nationalized bank pledged to the Executive

Engineer Sub Transmission Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority), No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. However the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bid has to submit the original EMD to the office of the Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Pulwama through speed post, Courier or by hand. No Bidder, unless or otherwise specified in the terms and conditions, shall be exempted from depositing of Earnest Money. Tenders not accompanied with the requisite amount of

The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.

8. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof.

The decision of department will be final and binding.

9. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.

10. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF

reas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

12. The Employer or its representative shall have a right to test any material or any part thereof before or during the execution of works as specified in the technical specifications at any reputed testing laboratory, the expenses of which shall be borne by the concerned executing agency/contractor. In case of the failure of the Test the Lot shall be rejected. Same shall be replaced by the Contractor without affecting t the delivery period.

13. All other terms and conditions are laid down in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) which is uploaded separately with this tender.

No.:- STD/Pul/3677-83 DIPK-NB-5561/23 Dated:-06/02/2024 **Executive Enginee** 



#### From 1.5 Lakhs To 2 Crore In 30 Years

#### When Markets Gyrate, Discipline Pays Off

Irshad Mushtaq

id you know that over the past 30 years, the annual compounding return on real estate in locations like Hyderpora and Lal Bazar has been an impressive 18.80%? This means that an investment of approximately 1.5 lakh rupees in 1993 would be worth over 2 crore rupees today. This incredible return highlights the potential of long-term investments in land, but it also emphasizes the importance of patience and discipline in the financial market.

It is often observed that investors in mutual funds tend to lose patience during market fluctuations or downturns. This lack of discipline can lead to panic selling or hasty decisions, ultimately resulting in missed opportunities for long-term growth. In contrast, the historical returns of land over the past 30 years demonstrate the power of compounding and the significance of holding onto investments for extended periods.

While the returns from real estate over the past 30 years have been remarkable, it is essential to maintain a realistic outlook. It is unlikely that the same level of returns will be sustained over the next 30 years. A simple calculation shows that for an investment to grow from 2 crore rupees to 400 crore rupees over the next 30 years, it would require an unattainable 175 times return. This highlights the importance of managing expectations and understanding the limitations of future growth potential.

On the other hand, it is important to acknowledge the potential of other investment options. For example, since 2013, equity-linked mutual funds like the Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Mutual Fund have outperformed gold by a significant margin, with a return of +441.78% compared to gold's +101.67%. This indicates that with the right approach and a long-term vision, equity mutual funds have the potential to deliver strong returns.

The key takeaway from these observations is the importance of patience, discipline, and long-term vision in investment decisions. It is crucial for investors to withstand market volatility and remain committed to their long-term investment strategies. Instead of panicking during market downturns, investors should consider taking advantage of the lower prices to accumulate quality equity mutual funds for future growth.

In conclusion, the historical returns of real estate and the recent performance of equity mutual funds both underscore the importance of a long-term investment approach. By maintaining discipline and patience, investors can position themselves for potential growth and success in the uncertain and fluctuating financial markets.

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



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SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS** SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS** SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259



ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 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** 5:59 **ZUHR** 12:45 4:27 **ASR** 6:10 Magrib 7:31 ISHA

No: EE/R&B/Divn/BM/4786-92

Date of Issue of Tender Notice

Bid submission Start Date

Bid Submission End Date

(Online)

(Online)

Period of downloading of bidding documents

Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting

Date & time of opening of Technical Bids

Date & time of opening of Financial Bids

**DIPK-16107/23** dated: 06-2-2024

**Executive Engineer** R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

### KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Wednesday | 07-02-2024

## PM's Speech

rime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed confidence in the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. PM Modi's optimism was not just limited to electoral success; he also promised bold decisions and a transformation that would position India as the thirdlargest economic power globally during his next term.

The Prime Minister, while refraining from getting into specific numbers, confidently asserted that the NDA would surpass 400 seats, with the BJP securing 370 seats in the Lok Sabha. This ambitious prediction reflects the PM's belief in the prevailing mood of the nation, a sentiment he claims to sense without delving into numerical intricacies.

Addressing the economic trajectory of the country, PM Modi highlighted India's remarkable ascent from being the 11th largest economy in 2014 to its current status as the 5th largest. Unleashing a scathing critique on the opposition, particularly the Congress, Modi emphasized their apparent silence on India's economic strides and asserted that his guarantee for the third term is India's elevation to the position of the third-largest economic power.He pledged that the third term of his government would witness substantial decisions, ones that would lay a robust foundation for the next 1.000 years.

The PM highlighted the unprecedented employment opportunities available for the youth today, citing the registration of over 18 crore new subscribers with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in the last decade. While the PM claimed success in controlling inflation during his tenure, economic indicators are multifaceted and influenced by a myriad of factors beyond the ruling party's policies.

The PM's criticism of India's opposition raised pertinent questions about the mistakes by the past leaders, it is essential to approach these claims with a nuanced understanding of the complexities of India's political history. A healthy democracy thrives on constructive debate, and the focus should be on fostering an environment where differing opinions contribute to the nation's progress rather than perpetuating a narrative of mistrust and blame.

A robust opposition is vital for a thriving democracy, and constructive criticism should be encouraged. But it is also true that the opposition hasn't been able to get its act together. And as the PM rightly said, unless the opposition changes their old ways of doing politics, its leaders may only be found in the audience gallery of the parliament after the 2024 parliament polls. Considering the state of the much-hyped opposition alliance I.N.D.I.A, which is fast unraveling, the PM's prediction may very well come true.

#### OTHER OPINON

### Global headwinds

he Red Sea disruption has raised concerns over rethe slower growth in global trade. Exporting one's way to growth thus will not be easy. The government of course is mindful that the elevated risk of geopolitical conflicts is an area of concern for the growth story.

The potential risk factors for the economy pertain to higher fuel prices as the country imports 85% of its requirements. Elevated oil prices raise the current account deficit and also hit growth. So far, a fortunate circumstance is that despite the raging war between Hamas forces and Israel's army since October 7, global oil prices have not flared up. Though, in the initial weeks, Brent crude spot prices remained elevated at \$90-plus a barrel, they have now settled down to lower levels of around \$79-80 a barrel. The attacks on shipping in the Red Sea by Yemeni Houthi forces continue unabated. And as the conflict spills over from Israel to Lebanon and Syria and ultimately involves Iran, the outlook on global oil prices cannot be assumed to remain benign. Taken together with the fragmentation and disruption of supply chains, competition for critical minerals and technologies, the difficult global environment does pose serious risks to an important growth engine for the economy, notably exports. The interim Budget and the Indian economy review, however, appear bullish on the country's prospects of dealing with them and growing at a rapid clip of 7%-plus in the future.

It is surprising that the subsidy numbers of the interim Budget do not fully reflect this challenging global conjuncture. Of course, it can be argued that this interim Budget is only meant to provide funding for essential expenditures for the first four months of the financial year before a new government takes over: that these numbers are not cast in stone and can be changed when the full Budget is presented. Yet, the under-provisioning of fertiliser, food and fuel subsidies

Possibly, the government's confidence is because it has dealt with the post-pandemic crises in sky-rocketing fertiliser and fuel prices and, hence, the overall subsidy burden has been estimated to decline from 1.4% of GDP in FY24 to 1.2% of GDP in FY25, led by a 13% decline in fertiliser subsidies, 3% in food and 2.6% in petroleum. It is quite possible that increasing domestic production of fertilisers is contributing to the expected lower subsidy bill. For example, import of urea, the most commonly used fertiliser in India, is at 4-5 million tonnes this fiscal, lower than the 7.5 mt imported in the previous year. Even then, the question still lingers: While there has been an upward revision in the revised estimates of fertiliser subsidies in FY24 to protect farmers from the negative effects of an increase in global fertiliser prices, why then should there be an actual fall in the interim Budget numbers for FY25?

Financial Express

## **Design Thinking and Good Governance**

Public Policies should be based on empathy which Design Thinking makes possible



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

about the word "Design Thinking" for the first time might think that one is referring to a house designer or an architect. However, design thinking is anything but that. Infact everyone who has been a successful person in his or her profession, would have practised Design Thinking. When I myself read about design thinking some years back I too thought this was all about designers, engineers or architects. Until recently I too had no clarity about this subject. It was only after my interaction with Prof Anunaya Chaubey the Provost of Anant National University Ahmadabad that I got to understand that Design Thinking is more than just a process and its application is essential in every field of life especially to ensure better governance. With an aim of creating more and more professional design thinkers, the Anant National University which is India's first design X university has launched specialized degree courses of Design Thinking. Design Thinking requires a person to be empathetic and explore things by feeling its importance.

#### Panchayati Raj and Design Thinking

Inspite of the fact that the Panchayati Raj system and Urban Local Bodies are empowered enough in many states and UTs of India but the policy making is not decentralized even now. Bureaucrats and civil servants take decisions which are then enforced on ground. Let me quote a small example from Jammu & Kashmir. The 5-year-term of Panchayats came to an end in December last year in Jammu & Kashmir. The fresh panchavat elections have been deferred and would be held after Lok Sabha elections 2014 and the Government decided to make Block Development Officers -BDOs as administrators for village Panchayats. This goes completely against Design Thinking. Ideally, Panchayat elections should have been held even a month before the term of Panchayats was to end. If there are challenges then some brainstorming or design thinking could have been done on this. I am sure instead of BDOs. the District Development Council (DDC) members (Member Zilla Panchayat) whose term will end in 2025 should have been empowered to be the administrators of the panchayats. The DDC Members too are elected representatives and every district in J&K has 14 such councilors (DDC Members) but the way Govt decided to give the Gram Panchayat administrator powers to BDOs makes it clear that our administrators too lack Design Thinking.

In a social context, empathy is often what drives us to take action but that is missing when decisions are taken without considering Design Thinking.

#### Design Thinking and Public Policy

In today's complex and changing society, public policy and governance face an increasing demand for effectiveness, efficiency, and above all empathy. Many of our centrally sponsored schemes and welfare programmes are indeed based on empathy. PM Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojna -PMGKAY or PM Awas Yojana -PMAY, Swachh Bharat Mission , MG-NREGA ,

Right to Education Act -RTE or Forest Rights Act -FRA are some of these Govt programmes and rights based legislations which have been formulated emphatically. I am not sure how much has been the role of design thinkers while making these Govt programmes but yes to make these schemes and laws effective a great role can be played by Design Thinkers as conventional policy-making processes often seem disconnected from the citizens. The way prop people legislations or welfare programmes are enforced on ground are mismatching with the real-demands and needs. The only solution to this challenge lies in 'design thinking,' a method typically associated with fields like product design and business strategy. I can give hundreds of illustrations wherein lack of design thinking has spoiled our programmes like the rural waste management programme that is being executed under Swachh

after 15 years of enactment. This means while enforcing the rights based legislations or schemes Govt must involve design thinking pro-

#### Policy & planning is design activity

Public policy making is a design activity but this isn't taken up that way. The 'design thinking' is a problem-solving approach characterized by empathy and curiosity to explore more and more. This further opens ways to interpret how target populations engage with their world. For a huge and diverse nation like India which had distinct geographies and diverse cultures the design thinking plays a crucial role. The policies that are formulated by NITI Ayog or some other national level institution can't be uniformly implemented from Tamil Nadu to Tripura or Kashmir to Kerala ? During my interaction with Prof Chaubey the

**Did Swach Bharat** 

Mission Gramin

Thinkers before

Mission Director in

J&K involve Design

rolling out the Rural

**Waste Management** 

**Srinagar Smart City** 

Corporation involve

professionals while

taking up different

works in Srinagar?

programme? Did

Design Thinking

Provost of Anant National University I discussed the issue related to snow clearance work not being included in MG-NREGA . For last many years this author has been writing about it and doing advocacy for including taken up snow clearance works in villages under MGNREGA as many Himalayan states like Himachal, Uttrakhand , J&K and Ladakh get snowfall in winters and during the same time people are jobless. This would have been the best thing to make MNREGA workable but the policy lacks design thinking? There exist gaps between how governments operate and what the citizens expect from the government.

A new approach of Design Thinking has to be applied by governments across the world that involves engaging with citizens, by creating effective policies and ensuring better service deliveries in a time bound manner. Tim Brown who is CEO & President of US based design company IDEO says that Design is one of the most important drivers of the quality of experience for users of services. He adds that for governments to remain credible to their citizens, they must treat the design quality of their services as seriously as the best businesses.



Bharat Abhiyan Gramin (Phase 2). The laws like RTE Act, RTI Act or Forest Rights Act are not benefit-

ing large sections of society and the reasons can be understood through design thinking.

#### Forest Rights Act

Design Thinking is a methodology that provides an innovative approach to problem solving and is characterized by focusing on solutions rather than the problems. Sometimes at the policy level we realize that the traditional way of addressing issues was better than laws enacted by the legislature around these issues. Let us take an example of the forest related laws enacted from time to time in India. The Indian Forest Act of 1865 was the first legal framework which systematically introduced State's control over the forests in India. This law was amended in 1878 and after some decades the Indian Forest Act of 1927 was enacted repealing the previous laws. The Indian Forest Act 1927 is still applicable in India and it was extended to Jammu & Kashmir as well with effect from Oct 31st 2019 soon after article 370 abrogation. The Indian Forest Act of 1927 didn't give the rights to tribals or other traditional forest dwellers. It took the Govt of India at least 60 years to enact a legislation that granted forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers the rights that existed before the British Rule. In 2006 Govt of India came up with Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 also called Forest Rights Act -FRA in 2006. This law was enacted on 18 December 2006 and the preamble of FRA says that this law was enacted to rectify the mistakes committed by Govt in the past. This law is indeed based on design thinking as its preamble is empathetic and seeks forgiveness from people for committing historical injustices with forest dwellers

Unfortunately, this law also isn't giving us better results even

tions Development Programme -UNDP, Design Thinking is a problem-solving approach and a human-centered innovation. The United Nations System Staff College -UNSSC in its report has said that innovations and system thinking plays a great role in achieving sustainable development goals -SDGs. In the future, like the AI professionals, all the sectors would require Design Thinking professionals. Do we have enough institutes that prepare our youth to take up Design Thinking as their

According to the United Na-

Role of Design schools

In India there are only a handful of institutes which offer cours es in design thinking and Anant National University,-ANU India's first DesignX university which was established in Ahmedabad Gujarat in 2016. This university is dedicated to train students to devise solutions for global problems through creative thinking. The core of ANUs pedagogy is sustainable design multiplied by a host of knowledge disciplines and technology to make problem solving more impactful.

#### Conclusion

Design Thinking gives us creative solutions that come from thinking outside the box. It is based on five important things which are listed as: Empathize: research your users demands and needs

Define: state your users' needs and problems.

Ideate: challenge assumptions and create ideas.

Prototype: start to create solu-

Test: try your solutions out

Are these things considered by the engineering departments when they prepare tender documents? Did Swach Bharat Mission Gramin Mission Director in J&K involve Design Thinkers before rolling out the Rural Waste Management programme? Did Srinagar Smart City Corporation involve Design Thinking professionals while taking up different works in Srinagar?

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Anant Fellow for Climate Action

and tribals.

## **Obituary**

## Kaka Ji's Watan

## Kaka Ji's life is a tragic story of love for his motherland

**Hakeem Rouf** 

ansi Lal Pandit, our beloved neighbour, fondly called Kaka Ji, stuck to his roots through thick and thin no matter what turn did the circumstances take in the strife-torn Kashmir valley

Concerned about his safety in Kashmir, his family including his affectionate and ailing mother, managed to take him to Jammu a couple of times during the peak of the turmoil. But distraught Kaka Ji, like a kid snatched from her wailing and longing mother's lap, braved odds and escaped from what felt like a cage to him-a somber and scorching Jammu where his family had taken refuge like many other Kashmiri Pandit families in early 1990s.

This was the time when there were no mobile phones.Communication wasn't so quick. The anxious family through the local police came to know that Kaka Ji is where his heart was- his ancestral and abandoned home in Tulmula modest/quiet hamlet of glaring pluralistic and syncretic culture.In this village in Ganderbal district of Kashmir, the two communities lived in harmony since ages. Here a devout Muslim has been lighting the pyre of Hindus for decades.

Kaka Ji sacrificed his family, his relatives and friends from his community who fled Kashmir just for his only love, his *watan* (motherland). He swam against the tide and preferred not to migrate from Kashmir but to live and die among Muslims in his village left almost bereft of his coreligionists.

Kaka Ji's emotional bonding with his Muslim neighbors, with whom he would eat, and drink like a family member, was as intense as it was for his home and homeland that he never betrayed.

What endeared us all to him were his virtues, honesty and affable nature. He would mingle with elderly and younger alike. He religiously delivered the duty he was ञ आ इ ई उ ऊ अ

his home, a welcome place for all. It was our sanctum, *thak e paend* or resting spot.



entrusted with with utmost sincerity making sure that every mail reached the receiver well on time without fail. Nothing remained undelivered, even if it meant walking several kilometres on foot in the cold evenings. This was his temporary postman job for which he was paid a meager amount. Still, he was fully committed to it.

A wave of nostalgia sweeps over me as I recall my childhood and the fond memories of him and The beautiful three-storey house laden with magnificent wooden balconies on the railings of which parched the bulbuls and ate the rice and bread crumbs left on an extended wooden shelf attached to one of the windows. This special exterior shelf - a hallmark of our good old homes - was meant for feeding the birds.

This home with inhabitants across the religious divide would be a favourite and cosy place for



gup-shup and cinema lovers..

In these good old days, when a black and white television, backed by a ruby battery, was a prized possession in our homes, men and children gleefully would throng to this home spending endless hours watching movies and other entertainment programmes on his television donned in an intricately woven and tidy *meez posh* ( a decorated piece of cloth ). The ambience of the dimly lit room was akin to that of a mini cinema hall

When the *Khel* (a movie in the local dialect), was about to start



The cremation marked an end to Kaka Ji's heroic and extraordinary life. A life lived for the pure love of his roots-his beloved homeland, his kashir-till his last breath. His life was a tragic and moving story of love for the motherland transcending everything.

at 4 on Saturday and Sunday evenings, the curtains of the windows were drawn followed by a pindrop silence. Anyone chit-chatting or munching anything during the *khel* would get his due share of scolding, at times mild punches also from Kaka Ji like a strict father does to his kids. A jolly and chubby boy peeing a lot would go out during the ad break and bring the good news of the fresh snowfall in winters.

People in the room cracked jokes amid sips of steaming *nun chai* (pink salted tea). Some relished freshly plucked juicy pomegranate fruits plucked from one of the trees in the sprawling and serene lawns. One of the trees like a relic is still there outside the main door and continues to bear fruit.

People would celebrate Kaka Ji's birthday, the festivals of two faiths together, gossip and play cards or chess in a room filled with mirth.

needle in his hand sat in one corner. Least interested in the movies, he with a great skill embroidered floral designs on a shawl spread over his legs with multi-coloured threads, a bunch of which dangled across his a bit wrinkled neck.

Downstairs, steps in a faithful shopkeeper to perform wazu(ablution) in a small washroom wherein a gold-plated brass tap delivers cold and clear water. With a gushing flow, the water fell into a mortar carved out of a stone with a hole drilled in the center, a sort of basin used to prevent the clothes from sprinkling.

On the walls of the Kaka JI's room from where one got a splendid view of the kitchen garden abuzz with the melodious chirping of birds and insects, hung framed Quranic verses, photographs of revered Muslim saints besides Hindu, and of Muslim shrines like *Charar-i-Sharief* and *Dargah*,

A man, with a grey beard and a sedle in his hand sat in one corer. Least interested in the movies, with a great skill embroidered lunch moment of rest with Kaka Ji

ps in a faithto perform
a small washold-plated brass
and clear water.
w, the water fell
jokingly asked him.
"Kaka jiya che chuk shakle te
aklih asel, zameen makan te che
khudayas hawaleh, karezeha
nether. woenkya che zurath?"
Translation: "Kaka ji, you

should marry. You are smart and wise enough and have this land and also a good house to lead a content married life. What else do you need?" "Yete kus batte gar roud woen,

in autumn's paddy harvest season,

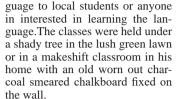
beside our paddy field just adjacent

to his. One of my aunts perhaps

yem me nether den."

Translation: "There is no Pandit family left to give me their daughter. Almost all have migrated," he replied with a wit.

"Ade tar teli tamath Jum te kar khander, pateh tar wapas,"



where Kaka Ji would regularly pay obeisance even in harsh winters or

on strike days when transport on

Besides celebrations and fes-

tivities, the house was like Rabi-

nder Nath Tagore's Shanti Niketan

where Bansi Lal taught Hindi lan-

roads was quite scarce.

As I write this piece, I'm filled with immense nostalgia with a smile on my face, I'm reminded of a pleasant but touching postTranslation: "Shift to Jammu for some time, find a good match, get married, and come back with her to Kashmir," Aunt suggested. "Dakh karsi. Gar trawne khutei

che behter anhorai marun."
Translation: "It is better to die unmarried than abandon my

This was his unfathomable level of attachment and fondness for the home where he was born some six decades ago, where he

his family for more than three decades now. It is where he silently breathed his last in the dark and cold December night last year with nobody around at the

lived alone with no one from



parting moment but just a *kanger* (an earthen firepot filled with hot embers)that warmed his body on his last night at home.

His lifeless body was found on a cold mattress with one palm under the head as if he was in a peaceful sleep.

As the bier carrying Kaka Ji's bathed and scented body sat on the perron of the house that seemed to be wailing the most among us for having lost the only occupant, people which included a handful of his relatives showered flower petals and candies, offered shawls amid soothing hymns like a groom being groomed to meet his awaiting beloved.

Tann, mann, dhan sab hai tera Body, soul, wealth, everything is yours

Swami sab kuch hai tera Oh Lord, everything is yours Tera tujhko arpan I'll give everything yours back to you

Kya lage mera Nothing is mine Om Jai Jagdish Hare

O Lord of the entire universe.

As we rowed the boat carrying the bier to the cremation ground for consigning his mortal remains to the flames, the eerie silence was being broken by the murmur of the gently flowing stream as if symbolizing the transitory nature of creation.

In my head reverberates the philosophical couplet from one of the Bollywood songs that often played on Kaka Ji's old Zeenat Radio.

"Aadmi musafir hai aata hai jata hai Aaatay jatay rastey main yadein chod deta hai..."

"Man is a traveller, he comes and

goes Leaving behind a trail of memories..."

The cremation marked an end to Kaka Ji's heroic and extraordinary life. A life lived for the pure love of his roots-his beloved homeland, his *kashir*-till his last breath. His life was a tragic and moving story of love for the motherland transcending/surmounting everything.

Rest in Peace, Kaka Ji! We will always miss you and forever remember you

# Leading IT Services In Rural J&K To Revive Economy: LG Kathua: Lieutenant Governor and nearby areas and give them to empower local common professores in recruitment so the end proposed in recruitment so the sand promoting sustain

**Kathua:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the new office Complex of the Atomic North Private Limited at Durang Village, Billawar, Kathua on Tuesday.

The LG congratulated the IT Services Company, the youth and residents of Billawar and adjoining areas on the momentous occasion. He commended the Atomic North for its commitment to creating large job opportunities and fostering technological innovation in the region.

"Atomic North is a leading IT services company with offices in India, Canada, USA, United Kingdom and its expansion in rural J&K is a testimony of government's commitment to revive the economy of villages," the LG said.

The LG suggested the Atomic North management to skill and reskill the youth of Billawar preference in recruitment so that the local talents can be utilised and this venture gives new impetus to rural transformation.

In 1st Phase, Atomic North will start BPO operation with 100 executives. More than 90% are local youth. In the next phase, the Company will build a data center, a Network Operations Center and a Security Operations Center which will provide employment to 1500 youth and further drive economic growth.

The LG said the State-of-the-Art facility, equipped with cutting-edge technology and innovative facilities, is poised to give new momentum to the capacity building of young talent pool of Jammu Kashmir.

The initiative aligns with the vision of J&K Administration

to empower local communities and promoting sustainable growth in the IT-enabled services sector, he further added.

I am confident that Atomic North's venture will put customer service at the heart of the company, and reduce the physical distance in today's globalised world. It will inspire the other IT companies to set up their businesses in hinterland to create rural technology hubs in J&K, the LG said.

The LG also reiterated the resolve of the J&K Administration to facilitate the on-ground implementation of industrial investments in the UT. He assured every support from the administration for the setting up of new ventures of IT and IT-enabled services sector companies in the Union Territory.

#### UCC bill brought to distract attention from people's issues: Oppn leaders

New Delhi: Several Muslim MPs on Tuesday said the Uniform Civil Code bill tabled in Uttarakhand Assembly will not work in a diverse country like India and has been brought only to "polarise" society ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

The ruling BJP welcomed the bill, saying the UCC is part of the "constitutional vision" and the Pushkar Singh Dhami government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fulfilling the promise made by "our ancestors".

However, leaders of several opposition parties alleged that the bill has been brought to distract the attention of people from issues like price rise, unemployment and crimes against women and the "failure" of the government on these fronts.

Samajwadi Party MP S T Hassan questioned the need for bringing such legislation.

"What has been happening for 76 years should continue.

This has only be brought to polarise ahead of elections," he said.

Opposing the uniform civil code bill, AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi said the country's beauty is its pluralism and the "BJP hates it".

AIUDF MP Badruddin Ajmal said, "Our country is like a beautiful garden and its diversity is its beauty."

"When they do not succeed, then they try to bring out something new like this and to attract the attention of people. The Uniform Civil Code is brought to please Modi ji, but it will not work in India and needs to be thrown in the dustbin," he said. Suspended BSP MP Danish

Ali said the UCC Bill is nothing but "BJP's agenda for (Lok Sabha) 2024 (elections)". "The state has no right to

bring UCC, it comes under the power of central government. Since they (BJP) are failing, they brought UCC; nothing is going

to happen," Danish Ali said.

Congress leader Imran Pratapgarhi said the BJP wants to colour the entire country with one colour even when the country is known for its diversity and myriad hues.

"It is not good for the country," he said, adding that how can they enforce uniformity.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said the Modi government ruled for 10 years so "why is it that all these things are coming ahead of the Lok Sabha elections".

"This is because the government does not have to answer questions on economic inequality, unemployment and price rise and rising crimes against women. "If they do not do this, then

how will they distract the country and they will not succeed in doing so," she said.

"New trivial issues will be unleashed till the time of (Lok

Sabha) elections so that there is no discussion on issues like unemployment, inflation, economic disparity, agriculture," Shrinate said.

Rajasthan Congress MLA Rafek Kumar said that every issue is brought up by the BJP "keeping in mind the elections".

"No issue of BJP is without political motivation," he said, adding that the government should bring everyone on board on an issue like UCC.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board opposed the UCC Bill, calling it an interference in religious matters. It also questioned the relevance of the Bill when it exempts the tribal population of the state.

"Basically, there is no use of such kind of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) when you are yourself saying that certain communities will be exempted from the Act. Then where is the uniformity?

#### CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE 1**

#### **Bill To Grant**

Jammu & Kashmir.

The ST Bill also includes Gadda Brahman, Koli and Paddari communities to the ST list of Jammu and Kashmir. The house was adjourned for the day soon after the two Bills were passed.

The Bills will now be taken up in the Rajya Sabha for consideration and passage. These Bills were passed nearly seven months after they were introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 26 last year.

The announcement to grant ST status to Pahari Ethnic Group was made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during public rallies in Baramulla and Rajouri in October 2022.

The grant of ST status would make Paharis eligible for all benefits available to ST category in Jammu and Kashmir. The Paharis are in majority in Nowshera, Kalakote-Sunderbani, Rajouri, Thanmandi, Surankote, Poonch-Haveli, Mendhar, Uri and Karnah assembly segments of J&K.

Notably, Paharis have been fighting for more than three decades for their inclusion in the Schedule Tribe (ST) category.

The inclusion of these communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir will have absolutely no impact on the current level of reservations available to the existing Scheduled Tribe communities such as Gujjars and Bakarwals. They will continue to get reservations like before, said the government in an official handout.

"Reservation to the newly listed Scheduled Tribes will be provided in such a manner that it does not cause any harm to the communities which are already listed as Scheduled Tribes. After the Bill is passed by the Parliament, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will issue necessary notifications on reservation, which will ensure that the people included in the existing list of Scheduled Tribes continue to get the same level of reservation," it added.

#### **LS Nod To Bill**

the opposition members, participating in the debate, were resorting to a drama of supporting the bill granting reservation to OBCs in panchayats and municipalities in Jammu and Kashmir and were raising other issues.

"I wish to make one thing clear, no matter how much you go around in circles, but in Jammu and Kashmir wherever you go you will only hear 'Modi, Modi' and the development ushered in by Modi," the minister said.

Earlier, opposition members in the Lok Sabha urged the government to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest.

Participating in the debate, Hasnain Masoodi of the National Conference (NC) demanded that the polls in the Union territory be held soon.

He said the central government should have decided on the polls before the Supreme Court had to intervene in the matter.

The top court had a few months back asked the Election Commission to hold assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by September this year.

Masoodi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Monday said his government would take big decisions. Polls in the Union territory should be held before other big ticket decisions are taken, Masoodi said.

Minister of State for Home Ajay Misra intervened to point out that local bodies' elections were held in the erstwhile state.

Participating in the debate, TMC leader Saugata Roy also referred to the Supreme Court observation and pitched for early assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

On August 5, 2019, Jammu and

Kashmir was made a Union territory with a provision for a legislative assembly after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state.

Supriya Sule of the NCP demanded a timeline and "not a vague" answer from the government on holding assembly polls and giving statehood to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

She said while the Election Commission will decide on the date, the government could at least give a tentative timeline for holding the democratic exercise.

BJP member from Jammu and Kashmir Jugal Kishore Sharma said the bill would ensure justice to OBCs.

Chinta Anuradha of the YSRCP said this was a progressive legislation and would help streamline the election process in the local bodies, including panchayats.

Shiv Sena member Pratap Jadhav, Navneet Rana (Ind), Kaushalendra Kumar (JD-U), Ramesh Bidhuri (BJP), Veeraswamy Kalanidhi (DMK), N K Premachandran (RSP), Ve Vaithilingam and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (both Congress) also participated in the debate.

#### **Inclusion Of New**

Bill, 2024 to grant scheduled tribe status to Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli & Gadda Brahmin, fulfilling the long pending demand of these communities," Sinha said.

"Under leadership of PM Narendra Modi Ji, the government has ensured inclusion of these communities in the Scheduled Tribes list will have no impact on the current level of reservations available to Gujjars, Bakarwals& other tribes & they will continue to get reservation like before," the LG said.

Sinha added that after the bill is cleared in Rajya Sabha, the UT administration will issue necessary notifications ensuring that the people included in the existing list of Scheduled Tribes continue to get the same level of reservation.

"The UT administration is committed to build a J&K which focuses on balanced development and benefits all sections of society with the Mantra of inclusive development," LG said.

He appealed to the people and community elders to discharge their responsibilities well and counter any misinformation being spread by miscreants on the level of reservation to the communities.

"I reiterate that the inclusion of new communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes will not impact the current level of reservations available to the existing Scheduled Tribe communities such as Gujjars and Bakarwals," the LG said.

#### **Permanent Homes**

During the meeting, the Prime Minister inaugurated the campus of National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Cuncolim, National Institute of Water Sports at Dona Paula and Waste Management Facility at Curchorem.

He also laid foundation stones for a ropeway project between Panaji and Reis Magos fort and a 100 MLD water treatment plant at Xelpem in South

Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant were present at the event.

Speaking further, Modi said his government has so far allotted pucca (concrete) homes to four crore households and more will get permanent roof over their heads.

"Our guarantee is that we will give permanent homes to two crore more families. If you have any family who lives in a shanty, tell them Modiji has given guarantee that even your house will be permanent (pucca)," he said, adding an announcement about this was made in the February 1 Union Budget.

The PM pointed out that the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme has been extended to cover ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and Anganwadi (child care centre) workers.

Modi said the fishing sector is also under his government's focus.

He said financial assistance being given to fishermen by the government will be increased which will help them to get more resources and facilities.

"This will boost seafood exports. Lakhs of new employment opportunities can be created in the fisheries sector itself," the Prime Minister said.

Insurance cover (for accidental death or permanent disability) has been increased for fishermen from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh while subsidy has been provided to modernise their canoes, he said.

Modi maintained the BJP's "double engine government" (same party

in power at the Centre and also in a state) is making record investment in infrastructure.

"You can see how rapidly road, rail and airport networks are expanding now. A sum of Rs 11 lakh crore has been earmarked in the (recent) budget....10 years ago less than Rs 2 lakh crore was spent on infrastructure," he

The PM stated that infrastructure creation generates employments for a large number of people. Creation of infrastructure like new roads, bridges, railway routes, airports, educational institutes will give a new pace to development of the country.

He said tourism, a key source of revenue and jobs for local residents, is getting renewed attention from the government.

"There was no vision for tourism (before 2014). Due to lack of good airports and adequate number of roads and trains, good tourism spots were left in isolation," he stated.

#### **Kashmir Mourns**

Party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed deep sadness, saying, "His (Nazki's) literary brilliance & media presence were unparalleled. His contribution in the field of broadcasting and literature will have an everlasting impact on our cultural and literary treasure."

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah conveyed his condolences, stating: "I'm saddened to hear about the passing of eminent writer-broadcaster Farooq Nazki sahib. My sincere condolences and sympathies to his family & numerous admirers."

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti expressed deep sadness, stating, "His words were a beacon of light in the world of literature."

Former Jammu and Kashmir finance minister Haseeb Drabu, who is also Nazki's son-in-law said: "The passing away of a qalander is not to be mourned; his fulfilling life is to be celebrated. For he has left this station after enriching it in many ways. A societal loss which is a personal bereavement. RIP Mir Mohammed Farooq Nazki (1940 - 2024)."

#### **17 Groups Declared**

Extremist Organizations, namely-(i) Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) and its political wing, the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF);United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and its armed wing, the Manipur Peoples' Army (MPA); (iii) Peoples' Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and its Armed wing, the 'Red Army'; (iv) Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and its armed wing, also called the 'Red Army';(v) Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL); (vi) Coordination (CorCom); and(vii) Committee Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK). In addition to these, All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), National

Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC), Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) , National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) [NSCN (K)] ,Islamic Research Foundation (IRF),Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Jammu ,Islamic Research Foundation and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (Mohd. Yasin Malik faction), Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala.

#### **701 Sedition, 5023**

Similarly, in cases registered under the UAPA, the number has gone up from 814 in 2021 to 1005 in 2022, he said in a written reply to a question.

The minister said during this period, 788 people were arrested and a charge sheet was filed against 500 in sedition and offences against state cases. A total of 131 people were acquitted too. He said under the UAPA, 8,947 people were arrested and 6,503 people were named in charge sheets. A total of 550 people were acquitted too.

#### Wanted In J&K

is a retired Army officer, had boarded the Mahakaushal Express from Jabalpur and reached Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station around 3 pm on Friday, February 3.

"From there, Ahmed took an auto and reached New Delhi Railway Station on Sunday. Ahmed was heading to a hideout," said Malhotra.

Both Ahmed and Altaf retired from the Indian Army on January 31, the DCP said.

#### **Saffron Production**

However, the irrigation facilities are not being utilized fully as the User Groups for management and upkeep of these bore wells have not been created as per the Mission Guidelines and have not been handed over to the farmer user groups."

The minister also said that as per the information received from the Planning, Agriculture Production Department of J&K, there has been no report of adverse effect on saffron flowers due to factors such as cement dust from any industrial establishments.

"The Agriculture Production Department along with the revenue authorities, UT of J&K are implementing the Saffron Act, Saffron rules and other revenue laws which safeguards the saffron land from being diverted for any other purposes."

for any other purposes."

He further said that no high-level committee has been constituted by the Govt. of India to look into the declining condition of

Saffron production. "However, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. Of India has requested the UT Administration to conduct a detailed review of all the activities taken up under the National Saffron Mission in J&K to ensure the effective utilization of infrastructure and facilities created under the National Saffron Mission for the overall development of Saffron sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

#### **No HC Relief**

the matter to the Arbitral Tribunal, requesting them to nominate an Arbitrator on their behalf.

Both parities among others had agreed that The Board of arbitrators shall consist of 3 arbitrators, with each Party appointing one arbitrator and the third arbitrator being appointed by the two arbitrators so appointed.

"If the parties cannot agree on the appointment of the Arbitrator within a period of one month from the notification by one party to the other of existence of such dispute, then the Arbitrator shall be appointed by the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir."

Feeling aggrieved of the same, the government has filed the present petition under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, seeking interim protection from this Court.

The law is settled that by way of a Section 9 petition under the Act, a party cannot seek specific performance of the contract, the court. Since the insurance contract stands terminated, the court said it cannot intervene under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act to direct specific performance of the contract.

"The law is well settled that whether the termination/exit notice met the requirement of the contract or not and thus, whether the termination/exit was valid or not, would be questions which are required to be examined and adjudicated upon by the Arbitrator," the court said while rejecting government's petition under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 seeking interim relief

However, the Court made it clear that its observations are only a prima facie evaluation undertaken for the purpose of passing the order under Section 9 of the Act.

"The Arbitral Tribunal which is yet to be constituted shall not be bound by any of the observations made in this order," the court said, adding, "The Arbitral Tribunal shall deal with the issues raised before it, even if they are the same as raised before this Court, independently, without, being influenced by any of observation made in this order or the findings recorded by this Court, prima facie."

#### No Respite From

as sun shone over the valley after nearly four days of overcast skies.



#### **Holistic Approach Needed For Road Safety: RTO Kashmir**



**Agencies** 

**SOPORE:** Regional Transport Officer Kashmir Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari said that road safety is not a singular challenge but requires a collective and holistic approach involving various stakeholders.

Speaking to the news agency, during his visit to Sopore, he said that people should recognize the gravity of their responsibilities on the road.

"Until and unless individuals conscientiously adhere to preventive measures, road accidents will persist," Bukhari said. "Everyone has to play a crucial role in ensuring road safety through responsible behavior and compliance with traffic rules. Non-compliance with traffic norms leads to accidents.'

He said that a holistic and collective approach is imperative for tackling road safety challenges effectively. "We must involve all stakeholders, including politicians, educational institutions, journalists and the community at large to have significant results — reduce traffic accidents," he

**KO NEWS SERVICE** 

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Com-

missioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul

Haseeb on Tuesday convened a

meeting to review the working

of Agriculture and other allied

departments in a meeting with

concerned district officers of

these departments in the district.

viewed the implementation sta-

tus and progress of various flag-

ship schemes and development

works being undertaken in Agri-

The chair was apprised by

the officers of concerned de-

partments about the ongoing

activities and progress thereof.

wise performance of agricul-

ture, horticulture, Animal, Sheep, Fisheries, etc the DC

called upon officers to create

more awareness among the

masses about the different in-

come generating schemes and

While reviewing the sector-

culture and allied sectors.

On the occasion, the DC re-

**DC Shopian Directs Officers To** 

**Popularise Organic Farming** 

"Journalists have a crucial role in promoting road safety. Through creative and emotional storytelling you can spread awareness and encourage everyone to follow road rules," he added.

He said that they have made significant strides in digitizing services since September but some procedures still require physical presence. "Our commitment to a faceless approach is reflected in the fact that 93% of our services, such as permit issuance and vehicle transfers can be

availed online," said the RTO. Bukhari also said that the recent accident in Boniyar resulting in the loss of 10 lives is tragic, insisting people should prioritize their safety over convenience.

"We encourage individuals, especially village Panchs and sarpanchs to report any violations or unsafe practices to the police or our department to avoid Boniyar like accident," he said, adding that people need to adopt a culture of voluntary compliance with traffic rules for creating a safer road environment for everyone—(KNO)

modernization initiatives by

and time bound registration of

farmers and families so that all

schemes are saturated and ben-

efits designed for the farming

community are extended to them.

the officers to improve the

outreach in the field and

achieve set outcomes under all

schemes so that benefits of de-

velopment reach to the masses.

The DC stressed on promo-

tion of organic, integrated

farming and popularisation of

animal, sheep and fish rearing

for diversifying the economy,

adding that the need of the

hour is to increase farmers in-

The meeting was attended

by Chief Animal Husbandry Of-

ficer, Assistant Director, Fisher-

ies, District Sheep Husbandry

Officer, Area Marketing Officer,

come by such interventions.

He also impressed upon

organizing camps.

He emphasised

## **Opposition Members Seek Timeline For Holding Assembly Polls**

**Press Trust of India** 

**DELHI:** Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday urged the government to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest

Participating in a debate on The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Hasnain Masoodi (NC) demanded that the polls in the union territory be held soon.

He said the central government should have decided on the polls before the Supreme Court had to intervene in the matter.

The top court had a few months back asked the Election Commission to hold assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by September this year.

Masoodi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Monday said his government will take big decisions. Polls in the union territory should be held before other big ticket decisions are taken, Masoodi said.

Minister of State for Home Ajay Misra intervened to point out that local bodies' elections were held in the erstwhile state. Participating in the debate,

TMC leader Saugata Roy also referred to the Supreme Court observation and pitched for

SRINAGAR: Qul

(Qul), the Kashmir-based hor-

ticultural start-up, which be-

came the union territory's first

private sector enterprise to re-

ceive global institutional capi-

tal. is confident of major trans-

formation in the horticulture

sector with such investments.

tions has received funding of

₹60 crore for operations and

research to modernise the sec-

tor, paving the way for more

foreign institutional invest-

Eighty percent of the fund-

ing is coming from Incofin In-

vestment Management and a

portion from Fiedlin Ventures.

officer of the start-up told a

news agency, that Rs 60 crore

funding will open the door for

more foreign investments into

Kashmir's horticulture industry.

post-harvest management and

our firm has helped the grow-

ers to enhance their income.

We led the foundation of the

CA store and introduced the

concept of high-density plan-

tation. With these achieve-

ments, we went to investors

and secured a funding of Rs 60

**LOK SABHA ELECTIONS** 

"We are dealing with pre and

Irtik Shamim, Chief Financial

ment in the region.

Qul Fruitwall Farm Installa-

Fruitwall

early assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir

On August 5, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was made a union territory with a provision for a legislative assembly through abrogation of Article 370.

At present, the UT is under central rule.

Supriya Sule of the NCP demanded a timeline and "not a vague" answer from the government on holding assembly polls and giving statehood to the people of J-K.

She said while the Election Commission will decide on the date, the government could at least give a tentative timeline for holding the democratic exercise.

member from Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma said the Jammu and Kashmir Lo-

Transformation with Rs 60 Cr Funding

**Qul Fruitwall Targets Horticulture** 

crore." he said.

With this funding, the com-

pany's valuation has raised

close to Rs 400 crores. "This

is the kind of First Global in-

vestment in the UT with one

of Europe's Large impact Fund

as the lead investor. This will

open a whole new opportunity

for the budding entrepreneurs

who are doing meaningful

work but are not able to take

their business forward beyond

He said the start-up is work-

ing on various models to trans-

form the horticulture sector of

ery year diseases like scab in-

fest our orchards and affect the

quality of our apples. We are

currently working on a project,

through which we will be able

to predict diseases in apple or-

"We are witnessing that ev-

a certain point," Irtik said

the vallev.

cal Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill would ensure justice to the other backward classes (OBCs) in the UT.

Chinta Anuradha (YSRCP) said this is a progressive legislation and would help streamline the election process in the local bodies, including panchayats.

Moving the bill for discus-

sion, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said after the abrogation of Article 370, the OBCs in J-K, who were being ignored earlier, have been put on the path of development.

This bill will ensure justice to the OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Currently, there is no provision for reservation of seats for OBCs in panchayats and municipalities in the Union territory.

chards," Irtik said.

Irtik also said that they have

been actively working to en-

hance the production through

the introduction of modern and

scientific farming in the valley.

only 12-13 tonnes of apples

per hectare. While as in Eu-

rope it is around 70-90 tonnes

apple per hectare. We are

raising awareness among the

to follow the European model

of farming to enhance produc-

"Our soil is way more fertile

than that of Europe and we

have a scope of getting an en-

hanced production and qual-

ity apple. By adopting modern

and scientific farming, the in-

come of our farmers can grow

by more than five times," Irtik

farmers and convincing

tion," he said.

added—(KNO)

"In Kashmir, we produce

### **Police Attaches Property Of Notorious Drug** Peddler In Kulgam

**KO NEWS SERVICE** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday attached property of a notorious drug peddler in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

"Continuing its action against drug peddlers, Kulgam Police attached property (02 storied residential house) belonging to a notorious drug peddler namely Khursheed Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Ismail Bhat resident of Sopat Devsar under section 68-F of NDPS Act 1985", said a police spokesperson in a statement.

"The said notorious drug peddler is involved in several NDPS cases including Case FIR No.63/2019 U/S 8/15, 20 NDPS Act, Case FIR No. 11/2021 U/S 8/20, 29 NDPS Act and 31/2021 U/S 8/20, 22 of NDPS Act of police station Devsar", reads the statement.

The property, the statement reads, was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police.

'The property was acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the drug peddler. The notorious drug peddler is currently under detention at Kot-Bhalwal Jammu under the PIT-NDPS Act.

"This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of Police with regard to the attachment of immovable properties which have been raised/used from illicit trafficking of narcotics by the drug peddler in the district Kulgam ", reads the statement further.

#### **Seminar on Commercial Beekeeping Commences at Kupwara**

**KUPWARA:** Two days district level seminar on 'Potential and

Seminar, organized by Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Kupwara was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Rouf ur Rahman and

More than 200 farmers, programme.

ADC while addressing the gathering highlighted the im-

dress, Gurdeep Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer Kupwara presented a detailed overview of the scope and potential of beekeeping in Kupwara district. He elaborated on the schemes being offered by the UT government for the bee-

He also highlighted the Holistic Agriculture Development

Lead District Manager Kup-

lighted the availability of financing facilities under various subsidized schemes available for farmers.

On the occasion, it was informed that 6 projects amounting to Rs.176 lac under NBHM were approved by District Level Committee and UT level Committee and are being established in the district which includes Beekeeping Custom Hiring Centre, Beekeeping equipment manufacturing Jnits, Honey Processing Units.

Additionally a Project Proposal in Public sector for the establishment of Centre of Excellence with project cost of Rs.98 lac in Apiculture in Handwara has been approved by the UT level Committee which will enable expanding the Apiculture Sector in the district.

Resource Persons and experts on the occasion urged educated unemployed youth of the district to take up this lucrative business, harness its potential and contribute to the economy of the district.

They further said that Kupwara district has huge natural resources like forests, crops and herbs which offer an ample scope for agriculture, allied activities especially beekeeping.

They urged the farmers to take maximum benefit under the programme by getting ferent Government schemes to establish their income generating units under the Apiculture

#### **KO NEWS SERVICE** keeping business and high-

Prospects of Commercial Beekeeping in District Kupwara' sponsored by National Bee-keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM), Ministry of Agriculture Government of India commenced on Tuesday at Town Hall Kupwara.

will conclude on 7th Feb, 2024.

On the occasion, a Souvenir was also released.

most of them beekeepers, aspiring beekeepers from all over the district attended the

portance of Apiculture in creating employment in the district and assured full support to the farming community for undertaking mega projects to uplift the economy of the Earlier in his inaugural ad-

Programme (HADP) in the Agriculture Sector and detailed the Projects being implemented for promotion of beekeeping under HADP.

wara, Mehboob Illahi Khan urged farmers to take up beesector. During the seminar, the

resource persons provided awareness to the aspiring beekeepers. The participants were also familiarised about getting registered on Madhukranti Portal and National Beekeeping and Honey Mission.

### Road Safety: MVD B'la Organises **Multiple Activities At Sopore**

**KO NEWS SERVICE** 

BARAMULLA: As part of the National Road Safety Month, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Baramulla today organized a series of engaging activities to raise awareness about road safety among students and the general public.

The activities, including a Painting Competition and an Essay Competition on Road Safety, were conducted at Sanctorium School Sopore.

Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bhukhari graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, RTO Kashmir said that the 'Road Safety Month' is being organized every year to educate people about the road safety measures. He stressed for complete adherence to traffic rules and regulations to avoid accidents, thus saving precious lives. These activities were organised to imbibe traffic sense and promote responsible road behavior from a young age.

ARTO Baramulla, Muazzam

driving habits and outlined

various initiatives undertaken to reach a wider audience with road safety messages. competitions

saw enthusiastic participation, with 25 their artistic skills in the Painting Competition and 20 students expressing their views on road safety through the Essay Competition. The top performers will be honored during the closing ceremony of the Road

Earlier, a student rally on Road Safety was organized in collaboration with Government Degree College Sopore. Students carrying placards with road safety messages participated actively, underscoring

Ali emphasized the role of education in cultivating safe

students showcasing Safety Month.

commitment to promoting safer roads.



BANDIPORA: With regard to the General Election to Lok Sabha 2024, Election Department Bandipora in collaboration with the Department of Education today conducted a daylong training programme for Lecturers and masters to be designated for various election related activities.

presided over by Deputy District Election Officer Bandipora. Mohammad Rafeeq Bhat, and training was imparted by District Level Master Trainer, Mohd Igbal Samoon.

Deputy Chief Education officer Bandipora, G. M Pujoo deliberated upon various aspects of training and manpower management during election.



This office e-NIT No. IFCDB/18 of 2023-24 Dated: 13.01.2024, issued under No. I&FCDB/

CS/8929-50 Dated: 13.01.2024

Please read the following data for various levels of Lift Irrigation Scheme Gantmulla stage 1st and Stage 2nd;

Value S No Parameters Required Discharge at LIS Gantmulla Stage 1st 12 Cusec 2. Required Discharge at LIS Gantmulla Stage 2<sup>nd</sup> 05 Cusec 7.00 Mtr. (from bed level of sump) Machine floor level at stage 1s 4. Machine floor level at Stage 2<sup>n</sup> 3.00 Mtr. (from bed level of sump) 5. Minimum water level of sump/ source at stage 1st 0.60 Mtr 06. Maximum water level of sump/ source at stage 1st 5.50 Mtr 07. Minimum water level of sump/ source at stage 2<sup>nd</sup> 0.15 Mtr 0.45 Mtr. 08. Maximum water level of sump/ source at stage 2<sup>n</sup> 09. Static Head for Stage 1st 64.30 Mtr. 10. Length of rising main for Stage 1st 420.00 Mtr. Static Head of Stage 2nd 104.00 Mtr

12. Length of rising main for stage 2<sup>nd</sup> All other terms and conditions shall remain in force as laid down in the original e-NIT/ SBD.

No: IFCDB/CS/9613-21 Dated: 06/02/2024. DT: 06/02/2024

Reference:

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** Irrigation & F C Division



#### RECRUITMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINERS (CONTRACTUAL BASIS)



LNJ Institute Of Skills & Technology Pvt Ltd., is a National Skill Development Corporation NSDC Empanneled Vocational Training Partner (VTP), invites Applications for purely contractual positions of Vocational Trainers (Total No.Of Positions 4) to be engaged in Schools of Jammu & Kashmir.

**Position Qualification:** Bachelors in Business Administration from a recognized university with 2 years of teaching/work experience or Graduate with Diploma in Retail Management /P.G. Diploma in marketing with at least 50% marks & 2 years teaching/work experience. Preference shall be given to higher education with MBA (Retail Marketing)

Location: PULWAMA (1) SRINAGAR (1) KUPWARA (1) BARAMULL (1) . Minimum Competency: Effective Communication skills (Oral & Written), Basic Computting skills Technical Competency ,Soft Skills ,Facilitation skills. The Candidate should be Domicile of J&K UT.

Age Limit: 18-40 years (As on Jan.01, 2024) Age relaxation to be provided as per Govt. rules. The suggested qualification is the minimum criteria. However higher qualification will also

**Note**: All communication for job application to be done through e-mails. All positions purely on Contractual basis. This is not a Government Job and the selection process is strictly based on merit and management reserves

the right to accept/reject an application without assigning any reasons whatsoever. (Only shortlisted candidates will be called for written & Personal interview ) All-inclusive Gross Honorarium 20,000/-Per month.

LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS: 14-02-2024 UPTO 6:00 PM

Interested Candidates can send updated CV on this Mail ID: RMG@LNJSKILLS.COM For More Information Call: +91 9873082062

## **'Cricketing Decision': MI Coach Boucher On Removing Rohit From Skipper Role**

**Press Trust of India** 

CAPE TOWN: Mumbai Indians head coach Mark Boucher has revealed that Rohit Sharma's removal from the team's captaincy was a tough decision meant to free him as a batter given that he did not have a great run in the past couple of seasons.

Reliance-owned franchise, in the most talked about one-way 'all-cash trade' in the IPL history, bought back all-rounder Hardik Pandya after his successful two-year stint with Gujarat Titans.

The team subsequently named him the skipper replacing Rohit, who led the side to five IPL titles.

"We saw a window to get Hardik back as a player," Boucher told South Africa-based podcast 'Banter

with The Boys'. "We still want him (Rohit) as a player, absolutely because we know he has some great value to add and just go out there and actually enjoy it, without the hype of being the captain," he said.

"He probably hasn't had



While the hype around

an Indian skipper will

still be there but Boucher

expects Rohit to operate

"He will still captain In-

dia so that hype is going to

be there but when he steps

into the IPL, may be take

that extra bit of pressure

more freely with the bat.

the best couple of seasons with the bat but he has done well as captain and I just thought after speaking with whole Mumbai Indians group, we thought may be this is an opportunity for him to step in for his last year or so," the coach added.

Rohit Sharma...," he hoped. "...playing with nice smile on his face and

off him as captain and may be we get the best out of

spending time with beautiful family that he has got, there's no easy way to do it," he said.

Boucher said Rohit's busy schedule also puts pressure on Indian captain.

"One thing I picked up with Roh (nickname) is that he is a fantastic guy and he has been captaining for ages and he has been doing really well and not just for MI but for India as well, he walks into a place and there are cameras on him and he is so busy," Boucher said.

Rohit enjoys a massive fan base in social media and Boucher urged fans to understand his removal was a cricketing decision.

"A lot of people don't understand this in India and people get quite emotional about it...it is more of a cricketing decision that was made...it will bring the best out of Rohit as a person and a player and let him just go out there enjoy and score some good runs."



### **Australia Beat West Indies Inside 6.5 Overs**

**The Associated Press** 

CANBERRA: Fast bowler Xavier Bartlett ran through the West Indies lineup with another impressive total of 4-21 as Australia swept the one-day international series with another resounding eight-wicket win on Tuesday.

Australia won the first match by eight wickets in Melbourne and the second by 83 runs in Sydney.

Bartlett, who grabbed four wickets in his debut ODI at MCG in the series opener before the pace bowler was rested at Sydney, ripped through West Indies batting as the visitors were bowled out for 86 – its fifth-lowest total in ODIs.

Jake Fraser-McGurk made a rapid 41 off just 18 balls as Australia sped to 87-2 in just 6.5 overs with the opening batter smacking three sixes and five fours.

Josh Inglis was also in a hurry and made a brisk unbeaten 35 off 16 balls as fast bowler Matthew Forde gave away 40 runs off his two overs with Fraser-McGurk and Inglis both showing plenty of aggression.

"It's pretty insane. It's just great to get a taste of international cricket," Bartlett said. "To cap it off with a series win was great. There was still some pressure there (today) but I relaxed a little bit more and tried to enjoy it a little bit more and they came out alright again."

Australia's 12th successive win came in its landmark 1,000th ODI as it became only the second country after India to play so many ODIs.

Bartlett was on target from the onset once Steven Smith won the

toss and elected to bowl first. He had opener Kjorn Ottley leg before wicket in his second over but television replays suggested the batter had inside edged the ball.

Lance Morris, one of the two changes Australia made with Bartlett, had an injury scare when he walked off the ground with a side strain in his fifth over.

But Bartlett, who replaced rested Josh Hazlewood, bowled at an impeccable line and length as he conceded just 11 runs in his first five-over spell.

Smith recalled Bartlett who had the wicket of Romario Shepherd with his first ball of the second spell and then cleaned up West Indies innings by having the wicket of Alzarri Joseph.

"Our batting let us down, it did for the entire series," West Indies captain Shai Hope said.

## Zimbabwe To Host India For T20Is In July



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** A second string Indian team will tour Zimbabwe for a fivematch T20I series starting July 6, the country's cricket board announced

The series that will be held immediately after the conclusion of the marquee T20 World Cup in the USA and the West Indies on June 29, is unlikely to feature any top Indian players as it has been the case during previous tours of the African nation over the years.

The five matches will be held at the Harare Sports Club on, July 6, 7, 10, 13 and 14.

The confirmation of this tour comes after productive discussions between ZC and the BCCI, with the primary objective of fortifying bilateral of collaboration between the two cricketing boards.

A tour by the Indian team takes care of Zimbabwe's entire year's TV revenue.

This will be the fourth time Zimbabwe will host India in a bilateral T20I

series, having previously faced off in 2010, 2015 and 2016 in this format.

> The last T20I clash between the two teams was played at ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2022, with India securing a victory by 71 runs in Melbourne.

All matches will be plaved at Harare Sports Club, Harare.

First T20I - 6 July Second T20I - 7 July Third T20I – 10 July Fourth T20I - 13 July Fifth T20I – 14 July

#### **Maharashtra Dominates Winter Games As Leh Leg Ends**

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** The first leg of the fourth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games in Leh, Ladakh, concluded on Tuesday, with the Maharashtra contingent dominating the event

The Maharashtrians ended the Leh leg of the 2024 Winter Games top of the leaderboard, raking in 6 Gold, 8 Silver and 6

Winter Games. J&K hosted and won the the first three events 2020, 2021 and 2023.

Telangana and Uttar Pradesh have also picked 2 Gold medals each, while and Madhya Pradesh, ITBP and Army have clinched 1 Gold each.

With a total of 21 Gold medals on the line, the first leg of the 2024 Khelo India Winter Games in Leh, Ladakh, wit-



als tally of 20. Karnataka is in second place, with 6 Gold and 2 Bronze medals.

Hosts Ladakh (in picture) have 16 medals, proving the team's prowess on ice. They have won 2 Gold, 6 Silver and 7 Bronze medals. This is the first time the region is hosting the

Bronze, for a combined med- nessed some thrilling action over five days

> A total of 344 athletes, representing 15 states and Union Territories and two public institutions, competed for medals in two sports - ice hockey and speed skating.

> The second leg is scheduled from February 21 to 25, in Gulmarg.

### **Iran Question Referee Appointment** For Asian Cup SF Against Qatar

**Reuters** 

DOHA: Iran's Saeid Ezatolahi raised doubts about the AFC appointing an Arab referee for their Asian Cup semi-final clash against hosts and defending champions Qatar while he also complained about the lack of recovery time in the knockout stage.

Wednesday's semifinal will be officiated Kuwait's Ahmad Al-Ali who has taken charge of two group games and a last-16 tie at the tournament.

"What is a little bit surprising for us is that the referee for tomorrow's match is from Kuwait, told reporters on Tuesday.

"We're just wondering how it's possible that they put an Arab as a referee for tomorrow's match. "But we are the Iran national team, we are a very big team. We



have a very good players, we are professional."

Reuters has contacted the AFC for comment. Iran reached the semi-finals after they beat Asia's top-ranked side Japan 2-1 despite having only two days to recover after their last-16 tie against Syria went to extra time and

"In this tournament the players didn't have enough time to recover, specifically in the knockout stage," he added. "Many of the players came straight from the their clubs and are under a lot of pressure here."

Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei reiterated the rest period being "less than 72 hours" before they faced Japan while he also took a shot at the Video Assistant Referees. "In this tournament at least, I can say that VAR was not very kind to us. We had a situation in the match against Japan that could have been a penalty on Sardar Azmoun but VAR did not check it for us," he said.

"But we have to be stronger than everything that is happening at this tournament.'

## Little Separating Liverpool, Man City, Arsenal In PL Title Race

**The Associated Press** 

LONDON: One team is looking to make history. Another wants to give its long-time manager the perfect send-off. The other is eager for revenge.

An English Premier League title race rich with narratives is shaping up to have a thrilling finish with the top three – Liverpool, Manchester City and Arsenal — separated by just two points with 15 matches remaining.

Arsenal's 3-1 win over Liverpool on Sunday, followed by City's victory at Brentford by the same score on Monday, has left what appears to be a three-way fight for English soccer's biggest prize. It has the potential to be the closest finish between three teams for a decade, when there was only four points between eventual champion City, Liverpool and Chelsea after the final round of the 2013-14 season.

Fourth-placed Aston Villa and fifth-placed Tottenham, five and seven points off the pace respectively, could possibly be involved in the title race but few can expect them to stay the course given the pedigree of the teams above them.

Here's a closer look at the top three, what's pushing them for title glory, and what could make them fall short:

LIVERPOOL (1ST, 51 POINTS **AFTER 23 GAMES)** 



Sure, Jurgen Klopp has the won the Premier League with Liverpool, ending the storied team's 30-year wait for the title in the process. But that 2020 triumph was tinged with the slightest regret in that it came during the pandemic and there were no fans inside Anfield when then-Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson and his teammates hoisted the trophy on The Kop.

Doing it before a full house and in the final days of Klopp's nearly nine-year tenure would

be a fitting way for the German to depart. Liverpool, which has the

joint-best defensive record in the league and is second for most goals scored, still has to play City at home in mid-March and has potentially testing away games at Manchester United and Aston Villa.

The biggest thing going against Liverpool could be the fact that the team is still going for silverware on four fronts, having reached the English League Cup final, the FA Cup fifth round and the Europa League last 16. There'll be a few Thursday-Sunday turnarounds if the Reds go far in Europe, which they should.

#### **MANCHESTER CITY (2ND, 49 POINTS AFTER 22 GAMES)**

No team in the history of English soccer, dating back all the way to 1888, has won the top-flight for four straight years. That's what City is attempting to do as manager Pep Guardiola strives to break more new ground for an Abu Dhabi-owned club that won the Champions League for the first time last year and the Premier League in seven of the last 12 seasons.

For some, any trophy won by City now comes with an asterisk, given the club is under heavy scrutiny while it faces about 80 alleged breaches of the league's financial rules and 30 more relating to its alleged failure to co-operate with an investigation. That case will likely be heard during next season.

For the moment, City is focused on on-field matters and has won nine straight games in all competitions, five of them in the league. City has a fully fit squad now that Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne are over their long-term injuries and also a game in hand, leading many to believe a successful title defense is likely, maybe even inevitable.

#### ARSENAL (3RD, 49 POINTS AF-**TER 23 GAMES**)

Arsenal's push for a first league title since 2004 is being fueled by a desire to make amends for last season, when the team imploded in the closing weeks after taking an eight-point lead with nine games left.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta seems to be pacing this season better, setting up his team to control games more and not go full throttle like in the first half of the last campaign. He has a deeper squad at his disposal this time round, too. His players will likely have learned lessons from last season, especially mentally in playing under pressure in every match and going toe-totoe with an always fast-finishing City team.

dominant display against Liverpool on Sunday can only strengthen confidence, with Arsenal seemingly having gotten over a wobble either side of Christmas and winning its last three games while scoring 10 goals.

Injuries to key players would likely affect Arsenal more than City or Liverpool, however, so Arteta will hope the likes of William Saliba, Declan Rice and Bukayo Saka can stay healthy for the run-in. Arsenal might have the toughest schedule, with away games at City, Tottenham and United.