

J&K Tops In Delivering E-services

Offers 1117 Services, 10 More Coming Soon



Jahangir Sofi

Srinagar: In a significant development, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as the frontrunner, providing the maximum number of e-services (1,117) among all the states and UTs, according to a National e-Services Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) report. The NeSDA Way Forward Report 2023 report released by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, a copy of which also lies with Kashmir Observer shows that Jammu & Kashmir dominated with

1,117 e-services mapped on the NeSDA Dashboard. According to the report, of the total 16,487 e-services provided across States/UTs, Jammu and Kashmir provides the maximum (1117) number of e-services, across States/UTs. The report states that J&K, Kerala, Assam and Odisha provide 100% of their services through their identified Single Unified Service Delivery Portal i.e., e-UNNAT, e-Sevanam, Sewa Setu and Odisha One, respectively. Chief Executive Officer Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), Anuradha Gupta, | [More on P6](#)

6 AFTER THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE TOP LEVEL ADMINISTRATION and LG's office, we brought the public services under a single window for ensuring increased transparency, and effectiveness for citizen services."

New Era of Sports Emerged In J&K Under PM Modi's Leadership: LG

Champions Peace and Harmony At Khelo India Winter Games

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a new era of sports has emerged in Jammu Kashmir. "Renewed thrust on state-of-art infrastructure and allied facilities has given a huge impetus to the sports sector," Sinha said. He made these remarks at the inauguration of snow sports event of 4th Khelo India Games at the world-famous ski resort, Gulmarg.



The LG conveyed his best wishes to athletes from all over the country participating in different winter-sports disciplines. "It is a momentous occasion for more than 600 athletes who have been preparing for this spectacular event," he said. | [More on P6](#)

Efforts On To Create Inclusive, Equitable Society In J&K: LG

Press Trust Of India

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said his administration is working to ensure an inclusive and equitable society so that all enjoy the benefits of national development. The lieutenant governor was interacting with a 20-member delegation of the Padari | [More on P6](#)

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT OF 33 LAKH

Branch Manager Missing, Case Filed

KO Web Desk

Srinagar- A branch manager of Elaquie Dehati Bank in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district is missing after allegedly embezzling Rs 33 Lakh by tampering signatures.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the branch manager identified as Me'raj Alam son of Mohd Nazir of Bihar is missing since February 17.

He said that he has allegedly embezzled | [More on P6](#)

65 Drugs, 38 Diagnostics Now Free at Health Centers: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Health and Medical Education Department has notified a list of drugs and diagnostics to be made available free of cost at various health and wellness centres across the Union Territory.

According to an order, at least 65 drugs and 38 diagnostics will now be available free of cost in Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres across Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect.

Notably, NHM J&K had proposed to increase the number of drugs and diagnostics at



Health & Wellness Centres and had also suggested constituting a committee to examine and recommend the list.

Accordingly, a committee was set up for finalisation of the list of free drugs and diagnostics to be made available at Health and | [More on P6](#)

PM's J&K Visit Boosts BJP Hopes For LS Sweep

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Buoyed by the massive turnout of people at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rally here, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Wednesday exuded confidence of winning all the six Lok Sabha seats in J&K and Ladakh in the upcoming polls.

Modi visited Jammu on Tuesday to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple developmental projects. He also addressed a rally in the city.

Raina also said the doors of his party are open for anyone who wishes to join the party

SPEEDY TRIAL FOR DRUG OFFENCES

J&K Gets Five Special Courts

M Ahmad

Srinagar: In order to ensure speedy justice, the government on Wednesday approved five Special Courts for trial of offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act).

According to an order by government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, sanction has been accorded to establishment of one each Special Court at Jammu, Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama and Srinagar. In all, sanction has been accorded for creation for 50 posts, 10 each for the courts, to the extent of number of posts.

The posts include one each of Presiding | [More on P6](#)



and serve the people under the leadership of the prime minister. There are five Lok Sabha seats in J&K and one in Ladakh.

"Preparations are going on in all the six Lok Sabha constituencies of J&K and Ladakh and we will fight the elections on our own strength. We will win all these | [More on P6](#)




Naya Jammu Kashmir

Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making Competition

Last date extended upto 10.03.2024

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Winner ₹2.5 lakh	First runner up ₹1.5 lakh	Second runner up ₹75,000	Three Consolation Prizes ₹40,000
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For facilitation and convenience of students in case of any query, please contact
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Directorate of Information & Public Relations, J & K

Consignment Of Banned Drugs Seized At Srinagar Airport

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Drug Control Department along with airport and sales taxes department on Wednesday seized a consignment containing 190 strips of psychotropic drug at Srinagar International Airport.

Irfana Ahmad, Joint Drugs Controller said they received a tip off that a consignment of drugs had arrived at Srinagar Airport. "Our drug control officer along with the sales tax department and airport authorities seized a courier containing 190

strips of "Tapentadol tablets," she said.

Ahmad added that it is an unregulated drug and has come through an unregulated channel and they are investigating the matter.

"We have also seized one more consignment along with abortion kits and the said consignment is under investigation," she said while requesting people to take precautions while buying medicine and seek proper bills." She added that the suspects have not been arrested yet but the investigation is on.

KU Celebrates International Mother Language Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To reaffirm the dedication to nurture linguistic heritage and encourage a deeper appreciation for diverse linguistic traditions, the Department of Kashmiri, Kashmir University (KU) Wednesday celebrated the 'International Mother Language Day' with fervor and enthusiasm here on the main campus.

Every year, on February 21, the day is celebrat-

ed to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.

The event witnessed a huge convergence of faculty members including, Dr Tahir Ahmad, Dr Mohammad Younis and Dr Nusrat Bashir; guests, staff, students and research scholars and various other university teachers and officials, all united to honor and promote linguistic diversity, an official press release read.



Srinagar To Have 200 Electric Buses By Dec 2025: SSCL

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: To further electrify the public transport system in Srinagar, the Srinagar Smart City Ltd (SSCL) will be increasing the number of electric buses by a hundred in the summer capital by December 2025, General Manager SSCL, Anuj Kumar Malhotra said on Wednesday.

There would be a total of 200 e-buses in Srinagar by the end of the year 2025, procurement process of which is underway, Malhotra said addressing media here.

Lessening the demand on private cars and addressing the growing environmental challenges with an eco-friendly approach are the main objectives of introducing electric buses in Srinagar, Malhotra added.

He claimed that the Prime Minister's Seva Scheme, which aims to electrify urban settlements in the country, will cover the cost of purchasing the additional 100 e-buses.

"The Prime Minister has a vision to electrify all urban settle-



Lessening the demand on private cars and addressing the growing environmental challenges with an eco-friendly approach are the main objectives of introducing electric buses in Srinagar, Malhotra added.

ments in the country by 2030 because he is dedicated to improving the lives of city dwellers," said Malhotra.

Malhotra said the effort to completely electrify the public transport industry in the summer capital would involve purchasing more e-buses over the course of the next few years.

"As stated earlier, e-buses have the potential to mitigate environmental pollution in Srinagar—that is, if the public supports and adopts the service," he added.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Single Cover System

E-NIT No.160 of R&B /11363-72 Dated: -19 /02/2024

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

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

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H.O.F Account	Class Of Contactor
1	Construction of compound walling and development of parking slot in the premises of SDH Chadoora.	7.87	300.00	15,740.00	25	District Capex 2023-24	C/D
2	Restoration of road from Masjid Sharief Wadipora to Palkha.	5.91	300.00	11,820.00	12	3054 M&R	C/D
3	Upgradation of Wanbal Handiebagh and Kralpora. inner links.	10.00	600.00	20,000.00	15	3054 M&R	C/D

Position of AAA: - Accorded
Position of funds: - Available
Position of TS: - Sanctioned
Project Authority: Chief Engineer R&B Central Kashmir / DDC Budgam

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.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	19/02/2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	19/02/2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	19/02/2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	26/02/2024 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	26/02/2024 at 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity.

3. 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., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder 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.

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

6. The earnest money/ performance Security 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 the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

8(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

8.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original documents related to the bid shall be submitted by LI before issuance of Allotment in his favour.

8.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest Money Deposit, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

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

8.6(a) Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering in PWD/ Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

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

9 For item rate method the unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

10 The %age rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above / below / at par at the bottom of the BOQ percentage template for the work. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

12 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited

13 Price escalation and Taxes:-The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes excluding GST up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.

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

15 In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.

16. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 11363-72
DIPK-16801/23 Dated: 21/02/2024

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

Office of Advocate Mohd Moonis Manzoor

Lic No.: 1070/23

In the case of Sangam Cricket Club Through its president
1. Wajahat Majeed (Age 40)
2. Fayaz Ahmad (Secretary Age 41)
3. Majid Ahmad (treasurer Age 39) (Caveators)

V/S

PUBLIC AT LARGE
(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C the caveator has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a suit of any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground of Distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any other.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Change of location of the Travel unit running under the name & style "M/s Sehar International Tour & Travels".

Public Notice.

Whereas, Mr. Peer Gulzar ahmad Shah S/o Mr. Peer Ghulam Mohammad Shah R/o Peerbagh Hyderpora Srinagar proprietor of "M/s Sehar International Tour & Travels" has applied this office for change of location from Omar abad Colony Airport Road to Tulip Complex Near Jamkesh Pvt Ltd Hyderpora Bypass Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the unit is registered with this office vide Registration No:- Reg/2178/742/DTK/L-13/P-14 (JKTA00002140) dated 18.06.2019, and is renewed upto 31.12.2025.

Whereas, the applicant along with his application has submitted the requisite documents as mention below:-

1. Registration Certificate.
2. Rent Deed.
3. Affidavit.
4. NOC from concerned Bank

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for change of location of the unit, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. Objections received beyond period of 7 days will not be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules.

DIPK-16765/23
Dated: 21.02.2024

Sd/-
Assistant Director Tourism,
Registration (Kashmir).
No:Reg/T/2178/849/DTK

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

11 Shaban
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 44
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4: 41
Magrib	6:25
ISHA	7: 45

This Day In History

- 896 - Pope Formosus crowned Arnulf King of Carinthia and Holy Roman Emperor
- 1071 - Battle of Cassel; Robert I the Frisian defeats Arnulf III/I
- 1281 - Simon de Brion elected Pope Martinus IV
- 1288 - Girolamo Masci elected Pope Nicolas IV
- 1300 - Pope Boniface VIII delegates degree
- 1495 - French King Charles VIII enters Naples to claim crown
- 1744 - Battle of Toulon or Battle of Cape Sicié: British vs. French & Spanish fleet
- 1746 - French troops conquer Brussels
- 1784 - 1st US ship to trade with China, "Empress of China", sails from NY
- 1797 - The Last Invasion of Britain by the French, begins near Fishguard, Wales
- 1821 - Spain sells (east) Florida to United States for \$5 million
- 1825 - Russia & Britain establish Alaska-Canada boundary
- 1828 - Russia & Persia sign Peace of Turkmentsjai
- 1836 - Dutch garrison evacuates fort Du Bus New Guinea
- 1864 - Battle at Dalton Georgia
- 1904 - The United Kingdom sells a meteorological station on the South Orkney Islands to Argentina; the islands are subsequently claimed by the United Kingdom in 1908.
- 1904 - The Hague Tribunal gives its decision in claims against Venezuela; it sets the sum to be paid by Venezuela and gives preferential treatment to the three powers that initiated the block - Britain, Germany, and Italy.
- 1922 - London issues a unilateral declaration of Egyptian independence
- 1940 - German air force sinks 2 German destroyers, killing 578
- 1942 - World War II: President Franklin Roosevelt orders General Douglas MacArthur out of the Philippines as American defenses collapse
- 1945 - Arab League forms (Cairo)
- 1945 - British troops take Ramree Island, Burma
- 1965 - USSR launches Kosmos 57 into earth orbit (Voshkod Test)
- 1966 - Soviets launch Kosmos 110 with Veterok & Ugolek, 1st 2-dog crew
- 1972 - US President Richard Nixon, meets with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Beijing.
- 1973 - US & China agree to establish liaison offices in Beijing & Washington, D.C.
- 1979 - St Lucia gains independence from Britain.
- 1980 - Afghanistan declares martial law
- 1983 - Hindus kill 3000 Muslims in Assam, India.
- 1986 - Start of the People Power Revolution in the Philippines.
- 1989 - UK physicist Stephen Hawking calls Star Wars a "deliberate fraud".
- 1989 - US authors demonstrate against Iranian death threats against Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses"
- 1991 - Bush & US Gulf War allies give Iraq 24 hrs to begin Kuwait withdrawal.
- 1995 - Algiers police kill at least 99 prison rioters.
- 997 - Dolly the Sheep, world's first cloned mammal (from an adult cell) is announced by the Roslin Institute in Scotland.
- 2012 - Train crash in Buenos Aires, Argentina, kills 50 and injures hundreds.
- 2013 - 29 people are killed and 150 are injured by 3 Syrian army missiles in Aleppo.
- 2013 - The European Commission forecast for 2013 expects growth of 0.1% across the 27 members of the EU but a contraction of 0.3% in the Eurozone economy.
- 2014 - Matteo Renzi becomes Prime Minister of Italy
- 2016 - 10 million people are without water in Delhi after caste protests in Jat sabotage the Munak water canal
- 2017 - Discovery of 7 Earth-sized planets orbiting star Trappist-1 announced in Journal "Nature" - raises possibility of alien life 2018- Neanderthals, not humans, were the first artists on Earth, producing red cave paintings 65,000 years ago in Spain, according to new research published in "Science"

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Thursday | 22-02-2024

NC's solo stand

The recent announcement by National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah that his party intends to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections independently has triggered ripples of unease among the members of the INDIA bloc alliance in Jammu and Kashmir. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), a key ally in the coalition, has reportedly been miffed by the NC decision.

The alliance, comprising NC, PDP, and Congress, has been facing internal challenges ranging from desertions to challenging negotiations over the distribution of seats, although there aren't enough seats to distribute. Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have six parliamentary seats of which were won by the BJP last time. However, the latest stance taken by the NC, asserting its unwillingness to allocate any of the three Lok Sabha seats from Kashmir to its allies, has intensified the strains within the coalition.

PDP, which expected a share in the three Valley seats, may also decide to go solo and contest independently, as may Congress. This will split the votes among the three parties. Votes will further fragment with the other non-allied parties like People's Conference, Apni Party and Democratic Azad Party also throwing their hat in the ring. This will be a certain advantage for the BJP which will fight all the six seats in J&K and Ladakh.

Incidentally, the NC and the PDP are part of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), where both NC and PDP have stood together in the past. The PAGD, formed with the objective of restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, faces an internal challenge as its constituent members grapple with divergent interests and ambitions.

Farooq Abdullah's categorical statement during a press conference in Srinagar, declaring that the National Conference will independently contest all five Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir, has reverberated through the political landscape. While his son and party vice-president Omar Abdullah later attempted to clarify that NC remains a part of the INDIA alliance and will engage in talks with Congress, the omission of any mention of the PDP has not gone unnoticed.

As both the NC and PDP actively mobilize their efforts to assess their strengths across the five Lok Sabha constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, the unfolding political drama raises fundamental questions about the stability and coherence of the INDIA bloc alliance. The fissures within the coalition highlight the intricate challenges of managing alliances in a region characterized by complex political dynamics, regional aspirations, and individual party ambitions. As the electoral landscape evolves, the fate of the coalition and its impact on the broader political scenario in Jammu and Kashmir remain uncertain. It remains to be seen whether the alliance survives the fresh strain. And it would be better for them to stick together. Going their respective ways will benefit none of them. There is an eminent possibility that all of them will lose in the process.

OTHER OPINION

El Nino, La Nina

The study found that the fact that Delhi air was cleaner than usual, and Mumbai air dirtier than usual in the winter of 2022 could, in part, be explained by the record-breaking La Nina event in the Pacific Ocean, which was persisting for the third consecutive year at that time.

A new study has linked air pollution over cities like Delhi and Mumbai to external factors like El Nino and La Nina, and climate change. This is the first time that such external phenomena have been noticed to have an impact over air quality in Indian cities. To be sure, these external factors do not generate any new sources of pollution. But they have the potential to influence the distribution of pollutants over different regions by altering meteorological conditions like wind patterns and temperatures.

The study found that the fact that Delhi air was cleaner than usual, and Mumbai air dirtier than usual in the winter of 2022 could, in part, be explained by the record-breaking La Nina event in the Pacific Ocean, which was persisting for the third consecutive year at that time. The study also suggested that under climate change scenarios, expected to exacerbate the strengths and frequencies of El Nino and La Nina kind of events, such external influences might have a bigger role to play in the distribution of air pollutants over Indian cities.

These influences are pretty weak as of now. As the study suggests, only very strong El Nino or La Nina events are likely to have any significant impact on the local meteorological conditions. But this could still have implications for India's efforts to clean up its air. The influences could potentially grow stronger under climate change scenarios as the study suggests, and that would mean that clean-up measures would face another hurdle that is completely beyond human control. This could result in entirely unexpected scenarios, as was seen in Mumbai in the 2022 winter, something the cities are not prepared for.

Tackling the emissions of pollutants at source still remains the most effective way of addressing air pollution. Air in Indian cities is dirty because the baseload emissions are very high. Once in a while, favourable meteorological conditions might help in reducing the impacts, but there is no short-cut to cutting down on baseload emissions. Fancy, or quick fix, solutions like artificial rain or odd-even schemes are nothing more than window dressing, and quite ineffective at that. The study also recommends that the focus of the government must remain on long-term strategies to reduce emissions from the sources themselves and not rely on quick fix solutions. That would be a win-win solution for both air quality and climate change, it says.

Indian Express

Kashmir's Pediatric Obesity - A Growing Problem

Dr. Ufaq Trambo

This pattern fuels unhealthy eating habits, contributing to weight gain. Excessive screen time, particularly before bed, disrupts sleep patterns. The blue light emitted from screens suppresses melatonin production, a hormone crucial for regulating sleep

Kashmir valley faces a concerning rise in pediatric obesity, mirroring a global trend. One potential contributor is the surge in screen time, raising concerns about its impact on children's health.

Increased screen time promotes a sedentary lifestyle, replacing active play with passive entertainment. This lack of physical activity leads to decreased calorie expenditure, a key factor in weight gain. Furthermore, screen time often coincides with unhealthy snacking. Children engrossed in screens are less mindful of their food choices, opting for readily available, processed snacks heavily advertised during their screen time.

This pattern fuels unhealthy eating habits, contributing to weight gain. Excessive screen time, particularly before bed, disrupts sleep patterns. The blue light emitted from screens suppresses melatonin production, a hormone crucial for regulating sleep. Sleep deprivation impairs the body's ability to regulate hormones controlling appetite and metabolism, further increasing obesity risk.

It's important to remember that correlation doesn't imply causation. Genetics, family history, and overall diet also play crucial roles in obesity. Gadgets are not the problem, it's the amount



and type of screen time that matters most.

Addressing this complex issue requires a multi-pronged approach. Promoting physical activity through outdoor play, active transportation, and engaging in sports can counter the sedentary nature of screen time. Educating children and families about healthy food choices while limiting processed foods and sugary drinks advertised on screens is crucial. Setting clear screen time limits, prioritizing age-appropriate content, and encourag-

ing alternative activities are essential steps. Finally, addressing socioeconomic factors by ensuring equitable access to healthy food options, safe play areas, and educational resources across all groups is vital. By acknowledging the potential link between screen time and pediatric obesity and taking comprehensive action, we can create a healthier environment for our future generations.

The author is a Clinical Research Fellow, New Jersey, USA

The National Curriculum Framework of 2022 emphasizes the importance of teaching children in their mother tongue until the age of eight. According to Section 29(f) of Chapter V in the Right to Education Act of 2009, it clearly states that the medium of instruction should, as much as possible, be in the child's mother tongue.

This approach recognizes the significance of fostering a strong foundation in the language spoken at home during the formative years of a child. By using the mother tongue as the medium of instruction, children can grasp concepts more effectively, aiding in their overall understanding and learning experience.

Research suggests that early education in one's mother tongue positively influences cognitive development and helps build a solid linguistic foundation. It not only enhances communication skills but also instills a sense of cultural identity and pride in one's heritage.

Furthermore, the Right to Education Act's commitment to using the mother tongue as the medium of instruction aligns with the idea of inclusivity and accessibility in education. It ensures that language is not a barrier to learning, especially in the crucial early years of a child's education.

The Ministry of Education in India is taking significant strides to enhance the learning experience for students by prioritizing the development and implementation of a curriculum framework that emphasizes learning in one's mother tongue. This initiative aligns with the recommendations outlined in the National Education Policy of 2020.

Recognizing the importance of promoting Indian languages, a high-powered committee has been established to delve into this matter and provide valuable recommenda-

Mother Tongue as a Part of Education

Sadaket Ali Malik

tions. An exemplary initiative by the Indian Government is the DIKSHA portal, which offers course materials for Grades 1-12 not only in Indian Sign Language but also in 32 other Indian languages.

The DIKSHA portal plays a crucial role in supporting inclusive education by providing a comprehensive library of resources, including textbooks and teaching materials. This initiative simplifies the process for teachers to create inclusive learning environments, allowing students the valuable opportunity to learn in their native language. By embracing linguistic diversity, the education system aims to empower students, foster cultural pride, and create a more accessible and inclusive learning environment.

The importance of the mother tongue in education has become a focal point in India's quest to be recognized globally as a knowledge hub. In the pursuit of transforming the traditional education model into a modern ed-tech framework, the recognition of the mother tongue's significance has led to its introduction in foundational education under the Indian school curriculum. This shift bridges the gap between traditional and modern education systems, aiming to make learning more effective.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions using the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language as the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, preferably till

The Ministry of Education in India is taking significant strides to enhance the learning experience for students by prioritizing the development and implementation of a curriculum framework that emphasizes learning in one's mother tongue

Grade 8 and beyond. The NIPUN Bharat Mission, Vidya Pravesh, and NISHITHA FLN emphasize the importance of teaching and learning in the mother tongue. As per UDISE+ 2020-21, teaching is conducted in 28 languages from grades 1-5. The NEP 2020 was formulated through extensive consultations, including discussions with State/UT Governments, MPs, public feedback, and a special meeting of CABE. The finalized NEP 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29.07.2020, aiming to promote education in regional languages and mother tongues.

The National Education Policy 2020 supports this approach, advocating for the use of the mother tongue or regional language as the medium of education until at least Grade 5, preferably until Grade 8 and beyond. Recognizing linguistic diversity, the policy emphasizes e-learning, with the DIKSHA

portal offering course materials in Indian Sign Language and 32 other Indian languages.

Implementing the mother tongue in education faces challenges such as a shortage of qualified teachers proficient in regional languages and a lack of standardized curricula. However, the benefits are substantial, including better student engagement, improved cognitive development, preservation of cultural heritage, enhanced communication skills, and stronger teacher-student relationships.

E-learning can play a pivotal role in promoting the mother tongue as the medium of instruction, providing accessibility, enabling content creation in multiple languages, personalization, teacher training, and fostering collaboration between students and teachers. While challenges exist, addressing them is crucial to realizing the full potential of mother tongue-based education, contributing to a more inclusive and effective learning environment in India.

In Jammu and Kashmir, a rich set of indigenous languages such as Bharderwahi, Bhalesi, Pogali, Sarazi, Paddari, Khashali, Kishtwari, and Rudhari exist, highlighting the linguistic diversity of the region. It is essential to recognize and document these languages to preserve and celebrate the cultural heritage they represent. Documentation can play a crucial role in safeguarding these indigenous languages, ensuring that they are not lost over time. Efforts to document and promote these languages contribute to the broader goal of preserving the unique linguistic identity of Jammu and Kashmir.

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



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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Wind Power Energy Potential

This refers to the article titled "Why isn't J&K tapping into its Wind Energy potential" by Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat published in The Kashmir Observer newspaper on Feb 13th 2024. The author has beautifully enlightened the concept of the

wind energy which remains unexplored in J&K till day.

In contrast to this, states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are way ahead and are doing great work in this sector. If the same would be replicated in J&K also I'm certain that this would be a great

step towards tapping clean energy and would also help overcome the electricity crisis as well. I would really appreciate it if the J&K Govt puts its Wind Energy Policy into operation by exploring this potential in Reasi, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Yusmarg and other areas

where we see fast winds blowing across the year. Wind Energy is a clean energy source and should be explored in J&K without any delay.

Zainab Muzaffar

Electrifying Transportation for a Greener Future

10 Ways to Shift the Climate Narrative in Kashmir

Sheikh Yameen

Kashmir, a land of breathtaking beauty, faces a growing threat: climate change. Transportation, a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, demands immediate attention to ensure a sustainable future for the region. Here are 10 ways to transform transportation and shift the climate narrative in Kashmir:

1. Embrace the Electric Wave: Replacing fossil fuel-powered buses and Auto Rickshaws with electric alternatives like e-buses, e-bikes and e-rickshaws can significantly reduce emissions. This creates cleaner air, improved public health, and a stronger commitment to a green economy.

2. Empower Active Travel: Encouraging cycling and walking through dedicated lanes, infrastructure advancements, and public awareness campaigns is crucial. Investing in safe pedestrian and cycling paths, along with promoting walking and cycling groups, can make active travel a desirable and healthy choice.

3. Embrace Micro Mobility: Small, electric vehicles like e-scooters and e-bikes are perfect for short commutes, reducing traffic congestion and emissions. Expanding access to and encouraging the use of these solutions can revolutionize how people move within cities.

4. Decarbonize Freight Transport: Utilizing green logistics practices is essential. Partnering with businesses to offer sustainable delivery options like electric cargo bikes or optimizing delivery routes can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the



logistics sector.

5. Invest in Robust Public Transit: Upgrading and expanding public transportation systems with buses, trains, and metros promotes ridership and reduces car dependence. Investing in clean, efficient, and affordable public transportation options makes sustainable travel accessible to all.



UPGRADING AND EXPANDING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS WITH BUSES, TRAINS, AND METROS PROMOTES RIDERSHIP AND REDUCES CAR DEPENDENCE. Investing in clean, efficient, and affordable public transportation options makes sustainable travel accessible to all

6. Explore Alternative Fuels: Biofuels and hydrogen fuel cells offer cleaner alternatives for specific transportation segments. Supporting research and development in these areas and exploring their feasibility in the Kashmiri context can lead to long-term benefits.

7. Leverage Smart Technologies: Implementing intelligent

traffic management systems, optimizing routes, and promoting carpooling can reduce congestion and emissions. Utilizing technology to streamline traffic flow and encourage shared mobility solutions can significantly impact the environmental footprint of transportation.

8. Educate and Engage Communities: Raising awareness about the impact of transportation on climate change and promoting sustainable travel choices is crucial. Community outreach programs, educational initiatives, and public events can foster a culture of environmental responsibility and encourage behavior change.

9. Foster Collaboration: Effective climate action requires the collective effort of government, NGOs, businesses, and individuals. Establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships can develop comprehensive climate-friendly transportation strategies specific to Kashmir's needs and context.

10. Invest in Research and Development: Supporting research on advanced electric vehicle technologies, renewable energy sources, and sustainable urban planning is vital for long-term solutions. Investing in local research efforts and collaborating with research institutions can lead to innovative solutions tailored to Kashmir's unique challenges.

By implementing these 10 strategies, Kashmir can embark on a journey towards a cleaner, greener future. Electrifying transportation, promoting active travel, and embracing innovation are key steps in shifting the climate narrative and ensuring a sustainable future for this beautiful region.

THE SPIRITUAL CHECKLIST

Preparing The Heart For The Month Of Ramadan

SEEDS OF SELMA

Sow the seeds in Rajab
Irrigate the crop in Sha'ban
Reap the harvest in Ramadan
A Ramadan well-prepared for can change your life, in fact I have felt the blessings are limitless, we are reminded this through Qur'an and Hadith: "He leaves his food, drink, desire for Me. Fasting belongs to Me and I reward for it." [Bukhari]. The Sahabah (RA) used to prepare for Ramadan six months in advance and we should and can feel inspired to do so too.

The habits that we develop and strengthen in the lead up to and during Ramadan should InshaAllah continue long after the blessed month has ended and according to scholars, this is a sign for us all that our Ramadan will be accepted. We as humans are creatures of habit and the word 'habit' itself comes from the Latin word 'Habitaris' which means to live. Indeed, habits make up a lifetime, and it is up to us whether or not they are conducive to our spiritual growth.

The goal is to always start small, and to not feel overwhelmed, with the intention to stay consistent as according to the narration of Aisha (RA), The Prophet ﷺ stated that

"The best deeds are those which are consistent even if they are small."

Small pockets of the day can be used to increase us in barakah, protect us from sin, weigh heavily on our scales and keep us connected to our Lord which is the ultimate goal.

It is about setting the spiritual standard and prioritising spiritual health.

The Deen provides us with practical steps to implement, and slowly but surely building yourself up to continue to seek in the path of Allah. If you walk to Him, He comes to you running, all it takes is one step. We often start Ramadan strong and slowly lose momentum over the month, but start working on your spiritual toolkit now, so that your habits will continue long after in sha Allah.

WUDHU

Be mindful when you are performing wudhu, in fact, start by visualising the water wash away the sins from each part of what is being cleansed. Aim to stay in wudhu so that it pushes you to be mindful of your actions like speech and thus not using harsh words or listening to idle talk, and lowering your gaze to the faults

of others.

SALAH

Prioritise all of your prayers by aiming to complete them on time each day and with khushoo.

Give yourself a few moments before each prayer to stabilise your breath, clear your mind, set your intentions and ease into salah. We often jump into our salah and bring whatever we were doing into that safe space. Ground yourself in this moment with your Lord and be conscious of your recitation and the movements of prayer. It is a blessing to have another chance to communicate with Allah, to express gratitude and bow in submission and obedience to the Lord of the worlds.

Also aim to pray sunnah as much as possible which help to complete the deficiencies in the farh prayer; praying the sunnah prayers is akin to building a moat around the fortress of your soul. Go further and seek the blessings and the pleasure of Allah in tahajjud—the blessed time of the last third of the night.

"The Lord descends every night to the lowest heaven when one-third of the night remains and says, 'Who will call upon Me, that I may answer Him? Who will ask of Me, that I may give him? Who will seek My forgiveness that I may forgive him?'" [Bukhari, Muslim]

As well as completing more sunnah prayers, aim to complete the sunnah fasts of Monday and Thursday, to seek the reward of Allah and to also prepare your body for the fasting month, these fast can be carried out through the whole year.

DHIKR, SALAWAT AND ISTIGHFAR

Do more Dhikr and see the Barakah in your day.

Do Salawat to increase your love for the Prophet ﷺ.

Do Istighfar to cleanse your soul of the dirt of sin.

Keep your tongue moist and heart open with dhikr and develop these as habits after praying, during the rest of the day through tasks such as preparing food, completing household tasks, walking, and whenever you remember.

Dhikr carries divine healing energy that protects you against the spiritual ills and toxicities of this dunya. It is a shield that keeps you connected to Allah (SWT) in every moment, with whatever you are doing and wherever you are, you are assured that indeed Al-



lah is near, He is listening, He is your guardian and protector.

Think of dhikr as a thread that keeps you in constant communication with Allah and inshaAllah over time will become the anchor that keeps you rooted in your purpose as a Muslim, and allow you to stand strong despite the endless pulling and tugging of this world.

CULTIVATE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLAH

Devote some time to speak to Allah on a regular basis about everything—your hopes, dreams, worries and fears.

Use the names of Allah, the beautiful names to call upon Him and seek different names based on your needs for Allah loves to give.

- Al-Razzaq for sustenance in your life and others
- Al-Fattah for opportunities and opening doors with the divine wisdom of Allah
- Al-Waduud, Al-Raouf for improving or strengthening relations with family, a spouse, children, the community

Remember that Allah is sufficient for a believer and we need Allah akin to how plants need sunlight to grow. Our souls wilt and our hearts are lifeless without Allah.

QUR'AN

The best advice I ever received was to read and recite Qur'an everyday. Even if it's just one verse a day, start small and it will help to cultivate a habit that is grand. Qur'an can be active and come alive in our lives, as we may interpret the words differently depending on our current situation, and we may even see the answers to our concerns reveal themselves to us, and this is Allah comforting you that everything is unfolding as it should. It will lead to stronger tawakkul, that feeling of trust in Allah's plan.

Listen to your favourite reciters daily, recite with them and develop a love for the words of our Lord. Listen to lectures on Tafsir, you could even explore Qur'an journaling, or take part in online Halaqas or seminars that expand your love for the words of Allah. You slowly start to yearn for the reassurance of the words of Allah and the peace that it brings you and naturally gravitate towards it.

REFLECTIONS AND MINDFULNESS

We experience a lot of excess noise and distraction which can become suffocating, and it becomes harder to sift through the clutter. We are also suffering from too much access to indulgence, which feeds the nafs.

The nafs (lower self) is like a beast that needs to be disciplined but if you constantly feed it – bear in mind with each time, the desires increase exponentially – it grows and starts to overwhelm and overpower the ruh. In Ramadan we deprive our nafs of the basal desires such as food, intimacy, sleep and instead seek to tend to the ruh which is strengthened by spiritual connection.

Pay attention to what distracts you and leads you away from your spiritual goals and develop mindfulness of your consumption. The heart is a vessel that only pours out what it contains. Ask yourself: what sort of content are you feeding your heart? The heart is the sanctuary of Allah, so protect it.

Spend time in deep reflection, ponder on your blessings, the wisdom behind everything in existence, how nothing exists without the will of Allah and how every creature seeks sustenance from Allah ultimately and Allah alone.

Developing an awe and gratitude for the blessing of Islam can really help to increase love for the deen. For me spending time in nature, where the birds and trees are in constant dhikr allow that connection.

Spending time alone is vital for our emotional and spiritual wellbeing as we

rediscover ourselves and this reminds me of the fitrah – the preordained nature of each individual – and the reality that the entire journey of the soul is to rediscover it because it knows Allah.

MUHASABAH. GO INWARD – EVALUATE YOURSELF.

Hold yourself accountable and assess what you're doing well, and what needs work. Umar RA said, "Evaluate yourselves before you are evaluated and weigh out your scales before they are weighed out for you. It's easier for you to evaluate yourself today before the ultimate hisaab tomorrow." Allah is the Most Forgiving and the Most Merciful. The mindset of not being 'good enough' is a lure of the shaytan often, who strives to stop you from seeking your lord's forgiveness.

The Deen is constantly empowering us, encouraging us to seek betterment of our souls, of our different roles, and our contributions to society.

INTENTIONS

With all that has been aforementioned, I would like to end on a beautiful note that pulls everything together and that is the necessity and power of good intentions. By constantly assessing what you are doing something for, it helps you develop a deeper awareness and conviction with yourself.

Intention is the pillar of worship: I like to visualise intentions as planting a tree.

Deeds that are not done with the purpose of pleasing Allah is like planting a tree with rotten roots, there is no goodness. Only with the right intention can the deed grow into something fruitful that will be of benefit to your soul and those around you. Goodness has a ripple effect, it spreads far and wide in your life and into your akhira, as well as into the lives of others.

May Allah grant us the ability to develop discernment with our souls, constantly strive to do and be better and to positively impact those who we cross paths with whether for a fleeting moment or for a lifetime.

May Allah allow us to live to see another Ramadan, get closer to Him and to purify our souls from spiritual debris.

May Allah make us of those who are beloved to Him

Make a prayer for all those who didn't live to see it.

– Amaliah

DC Srinagar conducts late night inspection of various ongoing construction sites

Asks concerned to ensure smooth movement of traffic on service roads so that commuters do not face any difficulty particularly the vehicles carrying the patients

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure smooth movement of Traffic on city roads particularly around ongoing construction site,

The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday late night undertook inspection of various parts of the City.

The Deputy Commissioner visited Bemina, Sanant Nagar and Nowgam crossing along bypass and other adjoining areas and took onsite inspection of traffic movement on service roads near infrastructure development sites.

During the inspection, the DC passed spot directions to the concerned executing agencies to ensure smooth Traffic



regulation on service roads so that commuters do not face any difficulty particularly the

vehicles carrying the patients.

Taking cognizance of public appeals regarding traffic congestion in some areas caused due to rough conditions of service roads, the DC instructed the executing agencies to upgrade these service road stretches to ensure smooth ply of traffic.

He also asked them to remove bottlenecks, if any hindering the traffic movement to ensure better traffic regulation in city.

The DC also asked them to speed up the pace of ongoing works to ensure their timely completion.

During the visit the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by concerned officers and

General Manager Reviews Performance Of Northern Railway

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs (through video conferencing) at Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi today. The GM emphasized that Safety is the utmost priority over Railways and all out efforts should be made for safe train operations with ensuring the maintenance of the tracks, rolling stock, signaling and electric overhead wires and other equipment etc. are working in proper manner. He directed the departments to regularly conduct training and refresher courses for the staff to keep them motivated and informed of the working of the system to



minimize human error. The General Manager reviewed the progress of enhancement of passenger amenities and other ongoing projects and instructed the

concerned officials to expedite the work. All out efforts should be made for timely completion of ROB/RUB works to enhance railways safety as well as safety of the road users.

He also instructed to expedite approvals for tree cutting wherever needed from the Forest Department so that these do not pose a threat to the tracks or OHE wires. He also emphasized on focusing on electrical safety on tracks as well as safety in relay and panel rooms for error free movement of trains. He stressed upon minimizing the human failure in train operation. He also instructed the department heads and DRMs, to maintain punctuality and keep pace for freight loading with safety as priority. Strict action should also be taken against the trespassers under Railway Act.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

J&K Tops

told Kashmir Observer that through e-governance the government is currently providing 1117 online services in J&K, and that they are in consultation with other departments to bring ten more services on e-platform.

"We are in the process of developing more services for the people. We are working on adding 10 more services which will be available for the people most likely by next month," she said.

She said that soon after the instructions from the top level administration and LG's office, they coordinated with the departments and under the guidance of the IT department they brought the public services under a single window for ensuring increased transparency, and effectiveness for citizen services.

"As and when any department informs us about bringing any service on E-platform, we will start working with the concerned department to bring that service online," she added.

The report further states, for the Unified Service Delivery Portal Service, which integrates services across departments to provide better service availability to ensure entitlements are available on the cloud, and enhance the ease of doing business, and integrate a number of technologies for development activities, Jammu and Kashmir stands on top of the list with 100% e-services available on the identified single unified service delivery portal - e-UNNAT.

The report states that of over 1118 e-services on e-UNNAT - J&K portal, it has received 55,26,245 applications and has made 12,87,533 certificated deliveries within PSGA.

New Era of

He invited the athletes, team officials and sports enthusiasts to enjoy the warm hospitality of Jammu and Kashmir, enjoy the thrill of Alpine Ski, Nordic Ski, snow Mountaineering competitions and also enjoy the incredible sights and cuisine of the paradise on earth.

"The 4th Khelo India Winter Games, over the next 4 days, will honor the hard work, skills, dedication and sporting excellence on the ski slope and I am confident it will renew the spirit of brotherhood, peace and harmony among all the teams," the LG said.

At the inaugural ceremony, the LG highlighted the efforts of the government to promote robust sports culture in cities and villages of the Union Territory.

"Our talented sportspersons have proved

their mettle in national and international sports events. Their achievements are inspiring the budding athletes to bring laurels to the UT and the nation," he said.

He also expressed gratitude to the Government of India, Union Sports Ministry, Sports Authority of India for their support and cooperation. Under PMDP, national and international level sports infrastructure has been developed in J&K, he added.

Nisith Pramanik, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports and Home Affairs also graced the occasion.

Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, through a video message, extended his best wishes for the successful conduct of the Khelo India Winter Games event and encouraged the participating athletes to give their best in the tournament.

Nisith Pramanik, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports and Home Affairs lauded the Lt Governor led UT Administration for developing sports infrastructure at grassroot level and setting a milestone for other states as well.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson, J&K KVIB; Maj Gen J. Fernandes, HAWS; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services & Sports; Minga Sherpa, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, senior officials, representatives of Sports Authority of India and various sports organizations, prominent sports personalities and sports enthusiasts in large numbers were present.

Efforts On To

tribe, who called on him at the Raj Bhawan here this morning, an official spokesman said.

"Our effort is to create an inclusive and equitable society, empower the marginalised and ensure they enjoy the benefits of national development," Sinha said.

The lieutenant governor said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to inclusive development of every section of the society with the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

The delegation led by BJP leader and former minister Sunil Sharma expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the lieutenant governor-led administration for Scheduled Tribe status to the Padari tribe.

The members of the delegation said the historic decision has paved the way for the socio-economic empowerment of the community and it will create an enabling environment for the tribe to contribute to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

The BJP-led Central government recently added four more communities -- Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Padari tribe and Pahari ethnic group -- to the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Jammu and Kashmir.

On February 12, a separate Pahari community and Other Backward Class (OBC) delegations met the lieutenant governor at the Raj Bhawan and expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for empowering them.

J&K Gets Five

Officer (District and Sessions Judge), PA cum Sr. Scale Stenographer, Section Officer (Reader), Head Assistant (Nazir), Criminal Clerk (Senior Assistant), Copyist (Junior Assistant), Misc Clerk (Junior Assistant), Driver Grade-II and Orderly (2 each for one court).

The posts shall be created in the applicable Pay Levels prescribed in the Recruitment Rules governing the services, the order said. The Recruitment Rules shall be amended accordingly, it added.

The order comes days over 50 days after the Chief Secretary impressed upon the administration to put the ball rolling for establishment of NDPS courts for speedy trial of the accused under this legislation.

At the 8th UT level Apex committee meeting of NCORD on January 1, the Chief Secretary had also stressed to deal with the drug menace very forcefully to weed it out from J&K.

He had stressed upon police on using resources optimally to gather information and laying hands over the big suppliers "who are pivotal in supporting this illicit trade here".

Branch Manager

Rs 33 lakhs by tampering signatures of several account holders.

A case FIR number 13/2024 U/S 409 IPC registered has been registered at police station Tral and

further investigation has been taken up.

65 Drugs, 38 Diagnostics

Wellness Centres in line with recommendations of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, states the order.

The order states that based on the recommendations submitted by the committee the list of free drugs and diagnostics is notified and will be made available at Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centre in Jammu and Kashmir.

PM's J&K Visit


seats with the support of the people who will give their votes to Modi," Raina told reporters here.

He said his party is sure that the people would whole-heartedly support Modi who opened the coffers of his government to facilitate massive development in all the three regions of erstwhile state besides providing justice to the people, especially those who have been deprived of their rights over the past seven decades.

He thanked the leaders of various opposition parties including National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and former deputy chief minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig for praising Modi during the prime minister's public rally at Maulana Azad Stadium on Tuesday.

While Abdullah joined the function at Nowgam railway station in Srinagar, Baig attended the rally.

Asked about rumours of former minister Choudhary Lal Singh returning to the party fold ahead of the elections, he said, "It is good



Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Under Department of Empowerment of PwDs (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
4, Vishnu Digamber Marg, New Delhi - 110002

WALK IN INTERACTION

A walk in Interview for the following posts on contractual basis is scheduled to be held on 27th, 28th & 29th of February, 2024 respectively at 11.00 AM onwards in the premises of **Composite Regional Centre, Samba, (UT of Jammu & Kashmir), 11 D Gandhi Nagar, Second Extension, Jammu 180004.**

Sr. No.	Name of post	No. of Posts	Consolidated Remuneration per month
1.	Assistant Professor (PMR) (Consultant)	01	₹75,000/-
2.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Psychology) (Consultant)	01	₹75,000/-
3.	Lecturer (Occupational Therapy) (Consultant)	01	₹60,000/-
4.	Administrative Officer (Consultant)	01	₹50,000/-
5..	Vocational Instructor (Consultant)	01	₹45,000/-
6..	Clinical Assistant (Speech Therapist) (Consultant)	01	₹50,000/-
7.	Workshop Supervisor cum Store Keeper (Consultant)	01	₹35,000/-

For more details regarding Age, Qualifications, experience & timing etc., please visit at www.pdunippd.in.

Dy. Director (Admn.)
(PDUNIPPD)

cbc 38103/12/0016/2324

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR
Email : dydirectorestates@gmail.com Tel/Fax 0914-2502279/2502281

E- Bid Document (Auction ID: 10489)

Out-sourcing of "Operation Management" of Tourism Cafeteria at Pokhribal, Srinagar, J&K for a period of 05-years on License Basis through GeM Portal.

No : Estates / 38-B / DTK / 1444 dated 21 / 02 / 2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e - bids are invited online through GeM Portal for Out-sourcing of "Operation Management" of Tourism Cafeteria at Pokhribal, Srinagar, J&K for a period of 05-years on License Basis through GeM Portal. The details are as under:

S.No	Particulars	Date/Amount	Remarks
1.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	23.02.2024 10:00 AM	Nil
2.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	28.02.2024 04:00 PM	Nil
3.	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date & Time	01.03.2024 04:00 PM	Nil
4.	EMD Start Date	02.03.2024 10:00 AM	Nil
5.	EMD End Date	07.03.2024 4:00 PM	Nil
6.	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR/FDR/DD	Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir.
7.	Bid Submission/ Auction Start Date	08.03.2024 10:00 AM	Nil
8.	Bid Submission/ Auction End Date & Time	13.03.2024 4:00 PM	Nil
9.	Reserve Bid Amount	Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Only)	Nil

The e-auction shall be finalized by the Outsourcing Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism, Kashmir. Reliable/resourceful and experienced agencies/persons, who fulfill the **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE QUALIFICATION)** detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the e - bidding process.

PRE -QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM PORTAL)

- The bidder shall have to upload Certificate of Registration for Hotel or Restaurant duly issued by the Tourism Department and/or Relevant qualification (Degree/Diploma/Certificate Course) in the Hospitality sector and/or having experience in the Hospitality sector with documentary Proof be uploaded.
- The bidder shall have to upload a **Character Certificate** from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC)/Police Station or alternatively copy of a **valid Passport**.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.

Sd/-
Dy. Director Tourism
Estates

DIPK-16815/23
dated: 21-02-2024

Temp Falls At Most Places After Snowfall, Rains

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: After snowfall and rains, minimum temperatures recorded a drop at most places in Jammu and Kashmir with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 9.4°C on Wednesday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that Srinagar received 5.5cms of snow in 24 hours till 0830 hours. Similarly, he said, Qazigund received 34 cms of snow, Pahalgam 50cms, Kupwara 5cms, Kokernag 59cms and Gulmarg 40cms of snowfall during the time.

He said Gulmarg, which received 130 cms (4.26-ft) of snowfall in the last 72 hours, recorded a low of minus 9.4°C against minus 4.0°C on the previous night. The temperature was below normal by 2.7°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir which is set to host the 4th edition of Khelo India games from today.

He said Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.0°C against minus 0.7°C on the previous night. It was below normal by 0.9°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 0.0°C, same as on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the MET official said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of

minus 1.6°C against minus 0.5°C on the previous night and it was 2.4°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 3.4°C against 0.3°C on the previous night and the temperature was below normal by 2.7°C for the place, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of minus 0.4°C, same as on the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal there, the official said.

Jammu, he said, received 5.6mm of rain during the last 24 hours and recorded a minimum of 9.2°C and it was below normal by 1.4°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal received 71.8mm of rain in 24 hours and recorded a low of minus 0.2°C. Batote received 43.8mm and had a low of minus 0.6°C while Baderwah received 27.4mm of rain and recorded a minimum of 0.0°C, he said. The weatherman has forecast improvement in weather in Jammu and Kashmir from today.

"No significant weather activity is expected till February 27," he added.

While 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter ended on January 29 and 20-day-long winter period called 'Chillai-Khurd' ended on February 19, Kashmir is the middle 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which culminates on March 1.



Avalanche Blocks Sindh Stream In Sonamarg

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An avalanche has blocked Sindh stream in Sonamarg area of Jammu and Kashmir, changing the course of the waterbody, officials said here on Wednesday.

An avalanche struck the Hung area of Sonamarg on Srinagar-Leh road, blocking the flow of water in the Sindh stream, they said. The blockade caused by the avalanche debris forced a change in the course of the stream and water started flowing over the road adjacent to it, the officials said.

Authorities have pressed heavy machinery into service to clear the debris of the avalanche so that the waterbody takes its original course.

Kashmir witnessed "moderate" to "heavy" snowfall over the past three days, increasing the possibility of avalanches in hilly and mountainous areas of the valley.

Srinagar-Jammu Highway Partially Opened For Traffic

Agencies

JAMMU: The 270-km strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway was opened for one-way traffic on Wednesday afternoon after remaining closed for the past two days due to multiple landslides in Ramban district, officials of the traffic department said.

The highway was closed for vehicular traffic on Monday morning after landslides and shooting of stones from the hillocks hit the highway, the only all weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, at over a dozen places, they said.

The officials said the operations to clear the debris from the arterial road at Dalwas, Peerha, near Peerha Tunnel,

Mehad-Cafeteria, Jaiswal bridge, Trishul Morh, Seri, T2, Monkey Morh, Mom Passi, Gangroo, Hingni Marog, Kishtwari Pather, Shalghari Rampari, Tabela and Chalmwas were hampered by incessant rains and snowfall.

With improvement in weather this morning, the concerned road clearance agencies mobilized more men and machines and managed to partially open the highway for one-way traffic this afternoon, paving the way for clearance of the stranded vehicles between Nashi and Banihal, they said.

The officials said the clearance operation was going on and the road is likely to be made trafficable for both ways by tonight.

HC Gives Govt 'Final Chance' To Respond To Mirwaiz's Petition

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has given the "last and final opportunity" to the Union territory administration to file a reply to a petition filed by Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq against curbs on his movement.

The court fixed the next date of hearing on March 6.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Narwal,

authorities to know the reasons for curbs placed on him on Fridays and other important religious days.

"After my release in September 2023 from four years of arbitrary house detention, I was only allowed to attend three consecutive Friday congregations in Jamia masjid. Since then I have been prevented from going to Jamia masjid on Fridays or addressing the faithful in any other mosque of re-

ligious congregations as the Mirwaiz," Farooq told PTI.

He said authorities use "dilly dalling" tactics when asked by Anjuman, the managing body of the historic Jamia Masjid, for the reasons for the curbs.

"They say they will check with their higher ups and get back, which they never do. Recently, despite the important religious occasion of shab e Miraj, I was again not allowed to go to Jamia masjid," he said.

The Mirwaiz said the approach of the authorities was disconcerting as the fasting month of Ramzan was approaching and "there are multiple religious events and congregations planned for me as the Mirwaiz".



while granting the plea of the government seeking one week's time for filing the reply to Mirwaiz's petition, said it was the "last and final opportunity".

"Reluctantly and in the interest of justice, one week's time as prayed for is granted for doing the needful, which however, shall be the last and final opportunity."

"It is made clear, if a reply is not filed, then the matter will be heard on the next date of hearing," the court ordered.

On February 2, the court had asked the administration to file a reply positively by or before February 19.

Meanwhile, Mirwaiz said the Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid had approached the district

Labour Commissioner Reviews Preparation For Amarnath Yatra



KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Labour Commissioner, J&K Charandeep Singh Wednesday chaired a preparatory meeting regarding Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2024 with the Labour Department Officials here.

Deputy Labour Commissioner, Jammu, Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), Deputy Director (Planning), Assistant Labour Commissioners of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Anantnag, Reasi, Doda, Kishwar, Ramban, Udhampur and Rajouri besides other officials were present.

Detailed deliberations were held regarding the Action Plan-2024 for Registration of Service Providers viz Ponywalas, Palkiwalas, Pithuwalas and Dandiwalas who come from various districts of Jammu & Kashmir and facilitate the Yatries in their journey to the Holy Cave of Shri Amarnathji from both the Pahalgam and the Baltal Axis each year.

The Labour Commissioner asked the officers and officials

of the Labour Department to gear up for timely and hassle free registration of service providers for smooth conduct of the SANJY-2024.

"Labour Department has a significant role in the smooth conduct of the Yatra", Labour Commissioner, J&K said and added that Labour Department will be facilitating advance Registration of Service Providers both in their native districts and also at camps located in Ganderbal and Anantnag Districts besides ensuring timely and hassle free issuance of RFID Cards in their favour in coordination with the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and concerned District Administrations.

The Labour Commissioner instructed that as and when the dates for commencement of the Registration Process are finalized, the same shall be communicated to the service providers through the print and electronic media as well as social media.

DC Bandipora Commends Women's Entrepreneurial Spirit



KO NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: In a gesture of support and admiration for local entrepreneurship, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman Rather on Wednesday visited the business unit of Shaheena Begum, a 35-year-old dynamic entrepreneur and educated Self Help Group (SHG) member of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) from Sonerwani Bandipora. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ACD Bandipora Mumtaz Peer, BPM NRLM and other officials.

Shaheena Begum is a shining example of determination and business acumen, successfully managing multiple ventures with an estimated cost of 10.50 lakhs. Her ventures include a rice mill, flour mill, masala mill, oil expeller, beekeeping, and poultry farming, showcasing a diverse and sustainable business model.

FROM THE OFFICE OF M/S FERDZ AHMAD & ASSOCIATE ADVOCATES AT SRINAGAR.

In the Case of:
1. Mohammad Farooq Koshangar S/O Habibullah Roshangar
2. Sami Ullash Rather S/O Abdul Majeed Rather
R/o Nishat Srinagar Site At: Haft Chinar Srinagar.

VSCaveators
Public at largeNon-Caveator

In the matter of: Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148A of C.P.C. The Caveators have reasons to believe/apprehension that Non-Caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble Court at Srinagar against the order NO: SMC/2024/2209 dated: 03-01-2024 in the above titled name on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/exparte against the caveators and such eventually the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be provided an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order.

Dated: 21-02-2024 M/S Ferdz Ahmad and Associate Advocates J&K HIGH COURT SRG NU

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject:- Appointment of Assistant Professor, in Veterinary Technology in the Higher Education Department.
Reference: Letter No.PSC/DR-HE/AP-Veterinary Technology/2023 dated 27-10-2023 from the J&K Public Service Commission, J&K.

Government Order No. 82-JK(HE) of 2024
Dated: 20-02-2024

On the recommendations of the J&K Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of following candidates as Assistant Professor (Veterinary Technology) on regular temporary basis in the pay band of Rs. 15600-39100 with AGP Rs. 6000/- (Pre-revised) Academic Level-10 with pay structure of Rs. 57700/- in the Higher Education Department:-

S.No	Name Mr./Mrs.	Parentage	Address	Selection Category
1.	Sheikh Shubeena	Abdul Ahad Sheikh	House No. 8 Beigh Mohalla Wahidpora Sumbal Sonawari	OM
2.	Shabir Ahmad Bhat	Gh Ahmad Bhat	27 Badampora Wakura	OM
3.	Savleen Kour	Dilbagh Singh	Nil Sec-1 Lane-7 Gtb Nagar Channi Rama	OM
4.	Khan Idrees Mohd	Gh Mohd Khan	131 Brinty Batpora Anantnag	OM
5.	Suhail Ahmad Bhat	Gulam Hassan Bhat	105 Lurgam Loh Gam Loragam Aripal Tral	OM
6.	Sheikh Mohd Usman	Mohd Ashraf	Ward No 13 Upper Malipath Kishtwar	OM
7.	Nasir Akbar Mir	Mohmad Akbar Mir	212 Lalpora Beerwah	OM
8.	Mudasir Mohd Rather	Gh Mohd Rather	Abu Bakr Mohalla Pandach Ganderbal Abu Bakr Mohalla Pandach Ganderbal	OM
9.	Irfan Ahmad Bhat	Ab Ghani Bhat	House No. 3 Village Anzwalla Anantnag	OM
10.	Haneef Ahmad Rather	Mohd Akram Rather	04 Sopat Devsar	RBA
11.	Bilal Ahmad Malla	Ab Gani Malla	Sogam Chadora District Budgam	RBA
12.	Sikander Shabab Khan	Adalt Khan	Ward No 8 Opposite Horticulture Office Akhnoor	ST
13.	Farzana Choudhary	Mohd Bashir	101/A Shiva Enclave Roop Nagar	ST
14.	Aquil Mohamad	Gh Mohamad Hajam	98 Wadura Payeen Sopore	SLC
15.	Apurva	Chander Parkash	Blaran Kotli Jhajar Dansal	SC
16.	Dinesh Kumar	Gurdas Ram	04 Chak Jangi Samba	SC
17.	Suhasani Tandon	Abhinav Jamwal	Dhanore Loharan Rajouri	PSP

Above mentioned candidates shall report to the Nodal Principal, A.S College, Srinagar/GCW Parade, Jammu within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order failing which their appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled without any notice.

The appointment of candidates shall be subject to the following Conditions :-

- The appointees will be on probation for a period of two years from the date of joining.
- The appointment of the above candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
- The appointees shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principal.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and Marks Cards/Degrees.
 - Category Certificate as may be applicable to the appointees.
 - Health and Medical Certificate.
 - Any other certificate as required under law.

The salary of the appointees shall be drawn and disbursed only after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate and subject to production of an affidavit (as per Annexure-A) to this order. The seniority of the candidates shall be determined in term of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The appointment of the candidates shall remain provisional till such time as the certificates get verified by the concerned Principals and found to be in order. In case any certificate is found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with the eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidate shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

The appointment of the candidates shall be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any Court of Law. By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

No. HED-GAZ/356/2023-04 (7327581)
Dated: 20-02-2024

Sd/-
(Alok Kumar),IRS
Principal Secretary to the Government

Annexure-A to Government Order No.- 82 -JK(HE) of 2024
Dated:- 20.02.2024

AFFIDAVIT

I, _____ S/o / D/o _____
R/o _____ do hereby solemnly declare on oath that:

- My name has been recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission for appointment as Assistant Professor _____ in the Higher Education Department.
- I understand that the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate has not been furnished by the concerned verifying agency in my case.

I, therefore, undertake that in the event of permitting me to join, pending receipt of the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate, I shall have no claim for the post in the event of my being adversely reported upon by the verifying agency found not to be genuine.

VERIFICATION

The contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.
DIPK-16753-23
DT: 21/02/2024

DEPONENT

DEPONENT

J&K HANDICRAFTS (S&E) CORPORATION

RESIDENCY ROAD, EMPORIUM BUILDING, SRINAGAR
UDYOG BHAWAN, RAIL HEAD COMPLEX, JAMMU.
E-mail: jkhckgae@hotmail.com

Srinagar Office Phone No.0194-2479825, 2486927 Fax No-2452376 | Jammu Office Phone No.0191-2477694 Fax No.2475705.
No: JKHC/Mktg/2023-24/ 97

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Dated: 20 /02/2024

Since the J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation is in the continuous process of procurement of artifacts directly from the grass-root level artisans of J&K to eliminate the role of middleman-ship. The Corporation in the interest of artisan community, promotion of GI Labeled /QR Coded Products/Crafts and development of Handicraft /Handloom of J&K origin, intends to procure GI Labeled / QR coded products of crafts which have been brought under GI Label /QR code and also other craft products of J&K origin which have not yet been brought under GI / QR code, from the registered artisans of Jammu and Kashmir for its sale at various showrooms located across the country to build customer confidence so that the visiting customers will find genuine / authentic products of J&K origin under one roof.

The interested artisans/clusters/Unit holders/ Cooperative societies of J&K registered with concerned Departments having the GI/QR Coded products of crafts viz Pashmina, Sozni, Kashmir Hand-knotted Carpets, Basohli Pashmina/ Painting, Copperware, Silverware, Namdha, Crewel Embroidery, Chain Stitch, Willow Wicker, Kani Pashmina Shawl, Paper Machie, Walnut-Wood Carving and other Non-GI/ QR Coded crafts viz Hand embroidered Garments, Hand embroidered/ plain Woolen Shawls/stoles, Gabba, Pottery may enroll their names within 7days from the date of publication of this EOI. The enrolled parties will be informed telephonically to present their products along with their offers before the Empowered Procurement Committee (EPC) for selection/ negotiations on rates as and when needed/ required.

The selection / purchase of quantity from the artisans shall be as per the requirement of the Corporation. The interested parties shall have to present required products whenever called. The enrolment shall be valid upto 31st of March 2025. The registered Artisans/Artisan Clusters/manufacturers/Unit holders/Co-operative Societies who have not participated in the earlier procurement process from January' 2021 to December' 2023 shall be given first preference in an effort to give chance / benefit to new artisans. Further, every registered Artisan/ Cluster head/ manufacturers/ Unit holders /Co-operative Societies from whom the goods shall be procured will have to submit an affidavit to the effect that the goods are genuine handmade and of desired quality and shall be responsible for the quality of the product supplied.

DIPK-NB-5768-23
DT: 21/02/2024

Manager Marketing
JKHC

Khelo India Winter Games 2024 Begin In Gulmarg

Observer News Service

GULMARG: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the second-leg of the 4th edition of Khelo India Winter Games 2024 on Wednesday at the world-famous ski resort Gulmarg. Almost 800 athletes are set to participate in the games.

Nisith Pramanik, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports and Home Affairs, was also present on the occasion.

At the inaugural ceremony, the LG highlighted the efforts of the government to promote robust sports culture in cities and villages of the Union Territory.

With the stage laid open, on Day 1, the J&K Sports Council and associated departments organized two events of Nordic Skiing one each for Women & Men category.



Image via Akamisha Thakur/FB

ana and Uttarakhand. Bhavani Thekkada from Karnataka emerged the winner in the Nordic Sports event while Selma Soreng and Sapna of ITBP got second and third position respectively.

Meanwhile, the second sports event of the day, the Nordic Men for Sprint 10 KM, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 33 players including ten from

Army, nine from ITBP, five J&K, two each from Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, and one from West Bengal.

In men's category, all three positions were taken by Army as Padma Namgail achieved first position, Mangeet second while Rameez Ahmad Paddar settled with third.

The games commenced amid the traditional local

cultural presentation of Bandpather wielding the occasion with music and soulful essence.

One of the many attractions of the 4th Khelo India Winter Games is its Snow Leopard mascot, the role is being played by Adil, an employee of J&K Sports Council. He has been enthralled the spectacle with choreographed moves for the second time in KIWG.

In-Form Jaiswal Breaks Into Top-20 Of ICC Test Rankings



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Young India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Wednesday broke into the top-20 of the ICC Test Rankings, rising 14 spots to 15th in the batting charts after scoring back-to-back double centuries in the ongoing series against England.

The 22-year-old left-hander joined a select band of seven cricketers to score double centuries in two consecutive Tests including two Indians -- Vinod Kambli and Virat Kohli.

Jaiswal scored 209 in India's first innings in the second Test at Visakhapatnam and then hit unbeaten 214 runs in the second essay at Rajkot to contribute in the home team's massive 434-run victory over England that took them 2-1 up in the series.

Ravindra Jadeja, who was the player-of-the-match in Rajkot, also climbed up in the batting rankings from 41st to 34th position after his knock of 112 in the first innings, the ICC said in a statement.

He also returned with a seven-wicket match haul that lifted him three places to sixth in the bowling rankings.

Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who entered the elite 500 Test wicket club at Rajkot, climbed a rung to the second position behind pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

India captain Rohit Sharma moved up one spot to 12th in the batting list after scoring 131 in the first innings at Rajkot, while Shubman Gill (91) progressed three places to 35th after coming close to a century in the second

innings. Debutants Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel also entered the rankings in 75th and 100th positions, respectively.

Star batter Virat Kohli, who is not playing in the series due to personal reasons, remains the only Indian in top-10 batters' chart at the seventh spot.

For England, opener Ben Duckett's quickfire 153 in the first innings lifted him 12 places to 13th.

New Zealand's Kane Williamson strengthened his position at the top of the batting rankings after notching a century against South Africa, his seventh in seven Tests, joining Aravinda de Silva, Mohammad Yousuf and Clyde Walcott as the only players to have achieved the unique feat.

He is followed by Steve Smith and Daryl Mitchell.

Skiing Courses Held At JIM & WS In Sonamarg

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Basic and intermediate skiing courses were organized by Jawahar Institute Of Mountaineering & Winter Sports at its training area of Sonamarg, attracting 93 participants from across the country. The courses aimed to provide comprehensive training in skiing techniques while fostering a

Mayank Joshi, Ayan Naik and Sheikh Misbah Ul Haque.

Cadet (NCC) Sujata Priyadarshini Sahoo (Girls) and Zubair Ahmad Dar (Boys) were acknowledged for their outstanding performance in slalom skiing and Cadet (NCC) Sujata Priyadarshini Sahoo was recognized as the best overall student.

Intermediate Skiing Course



spirit of competition and camaraderie among the trainees.

The curriculum encompassed essential skiing skills such as Sliding, Gliding, Schussing, Fall & Recovery, Side Stepping, Snow Plough & Break, Herringbone, Snow Plough Turn, Traverse & Kick Turn, Stem Turn, and Stem Swing. Additionally, participants received medical lectures and engaged in a peak-to-slalom competition.

Recognitions were awarded to Bhakti Khakkar, Suchita Verma, Mehr Billwaria, Victor, Idris Khurshid Wani, FC (NCC)

18 was focused on advanced skiing techniques including Traverse & Kick Turn, Stem Turn, Stem Swing, Dynamic Stem Swing, Parallel Turns, and Weddlen Turn. Similar to the Basic Course, participants also received medical lectures and competed in a peak-to-slalom competition.

Rahil Ahmad Chohan was honored for his proficiency in Langlauf skiing. He showcased exceptional skills in slalom skiing, earning recognition and Mr Nissar Ahmad Dar was awarded the title of the best overall student.

Improve Skiing Infrastructure In Gulmarg: Omar To Centre

Press Trust of India

GULMARG: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday asked the Central government to improve the skiing infrastructure in Gulmarg to attract more winter sports lovers to Kashmir.

"Skiing in Gulmarg has its own charm, but I have noticed the skiing infrastructure is same that we had left in 2014. Nothing new has been added in the past 10 years," Abdullah told reporters here.

"There was probably just one time (in two days) that the Gondola (cable car) went up interrupted," he added.

The former chief minister, who demitted office in 2014, claimed that several skiers who used to come to Gulmarg earlier were now going to places like Kazakhstan.

"My request to the Central government is that they should not look at Gulmarg only from the perspective of holding Khelo India games but develop the place into a complete skiing destination. Gulmarg has the potential for that," he said.

Abdullah said he was happy that Khelo India Winter games were being held at Gulmarg.



"I am happy but Khelo India is using the infrastructure that we had built. Nothing new has been added," he

said. Gulmarg has hosted all four editions of the winter games held so far.

J&K Pencak Silat Central Sports Team Shines At Nationals

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The J&K Pencak Silat Central Sports Team left a lasting impression at the 7th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2023-24 and 1st All India Pencak Silat Championship 2023-24, held in Nanded, Maharashtra.

Coach Rayees Ahmed led the J&K team with distinction, securing a Bronze medal in

ees told KNO that they trained tirelessly for this moment, and every member of the team poured their heart and soul into their performances.

"It's a testament to their dedication and the spirit of Pencak Silat. We're proud of what we've achieved, and this is just the beginning," he said.

He added, "the entire team extends heartfelt gratitude to



the Federation Cup and a Silver in the All India Championship. Meanwhile, Akhil Sharma clinched a Silver medal, while Vishal Manyal, Arvinder Singh and Asrar Malik each earned Bronze medals.

Sharing his sentiments, Ray-

DYSP Sports APHQ J&K, Kuldeep Handoo, for his unwavering support and guidance, and we also like to express our appreciation to DGP J&K Police and ADGP Armed Vijay Kumar for their continued encouragement and backing." (KNO)

Hundreds Are Set To Descend On Tahiti For Olympic Surfing. Can Locals Protect Their Way Of Life?

The Associated Press

TEAHUPOO: Peva Levy said he felt a powerful, natural energy known as "mana" when he surfed Teahupo'o's waves on a piece of plywood for the first time, rushing down a crumbling white surf in front of an untouched volcanic beach several years before the steady streams of surfers started arriving when the village got its first asphalt road over fifty years ago.

"It was a secret spot," the surfer and Tahitian native remembered, as he stood on the pristine beaches of Teahupo'o on the island's south side, waves crashing off in the distance.

"But it was not a secret spot for a long time." Teahupo'o has since achieved world renown among surfers — the roaring wave garnered a reputation for its ferocious power — and will be home to the 2024 Paris Olympics surfing competition, scheduled from July 27 to Aug. 4.

The island in French Polynesia is an overseas territory of the European nation. The decision to host part of the Games here has

thrust unprecedented challenges onto a small community that has long cherished and strives to protect a way of life more closely connected to wild lands and crystal-clear ocean than the fame promised by an Olympic stage. And while organizers are trying to adjust their plans to conserve the local environment, ensuring that the village of Teahupo'o stays a village is proving to be a struggle for locals.

The original proposed scale of the Olympic site — which called for new roads, housing units and even an aluminum judging tower that required drilling into the reef — caused a significant local backlash. Environmental and surf communities banded together to protect Teahupo'o's culture, its corals and its marine life.

"It was too much for us, a big change. And it was just for, like, one week" of competition, Levy said, who's also a member of the local environmental organization Vai Ara O Teahupo'o. Though it's known throughout the surfing world, there is not one surf shop in Teahupo'o, with the town forgoing most of the



development that's usually a staple at popular surf destinations.

At the end of the village's road lies its sole snack bar which is only open for lunch and serves fish caught that morning. Kids spend the afternoon surfing as families watch from the black sand beaches. At night, the distant roar of waves barreling down onto the reef lulls the town to sleep.

"We loved this place because it was still wild, there were not many people over here. There was a lot of fish all around, and

that good mana," Levy said. In response to criticism, now 98% of Olympic housing will be within the homes of locals, with athletes accommodated on a cruise ship anchored nearby.

The size of the judging tower has been scaled back and new infrastructure plans are being drawn up to minimize the need for new construction.

But concerns remain: Environmentalists and local fishers fear that drilling into the coral reef could attract ciguatera, a microscopic algae that infects

fish and makes people sick if eaten, and many sustain themselves by what they catch in the ocean.

Mormon Maitai, 22, makes a living from spearfishing in the lagoons, feeding his family and selling what he has left over.

"The lagoon is our refrigerator, it's where we get our dinner from," he said.

The sought-after shape of the waves could be affected, too, islanders say, if the reef were to fissure and lose the shape that the waves rely on to form.

"If it does crack and break off, there will be no more wave over here, it will be finished for us," said Levy.

In December, local fears were confirmed when a barge razed sections of coral on its way to the construction site on the reef. A video of the damage spread on social media, provoking an outcry.

Cindy Otcenasek, the president of Via Ara O Teahupo'o, called the destruction deeply hurtful. "In Polynesian culture, gods are present everywhere, in the coral, in the ocean," she said.

"The ocean is considered to be the most sacred temple."

"The fish live around the corals so if we break a coral, we break a home," she said.

Olympic organizers expressed their concern over the incident.

"It was awful for us," said Barbara Martins-Nio, a senior event manager for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organization Committee. "Tahitians have this special relationship with nature, with their lands, and it was like a bomb for us."

Martins-Nio said that their interactions with local groups are now improving, and the organizing team has taken a step back on several issues and are better involving local groups so that construction work is fully transparent.

Despite the fears, some on the island still see the Games as an opportunity. Much of the local population is in favor of the Games, the economic benefits it could bring and the standing it will give their little corner of French Polynesia.

Born and raised in Teahupo'o, Gregory Parker's morning routine consists of watching the waves crash along the horizon from his beachfront bungalow while smoking a cigarette. But while the Games are in town, he's willing to sacrifice that for a bit of spare cash by renting it out.

"I will try to live at my daughter's house during the Games. If she also rents out her house, I have a tent," Parker said.

"It's not hard for two weeks, and given all the money I will make, it's worth it."