

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/K0/SK/2014-2016

Nauroz In Kashmir: Rediscovering The Essence Beyond Sectarian Lines

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Nauroz, the festival of spring and the first day in the Persian New Year is celebrated across Central Asia. Pertinently, Nauroz starts at the exact moment of the vernal equinox, commencing the start of the spring. Exact moment of the vernal equinox in Srinagar, commonly known as 'Tahvil', this year (20th March 2024) was at 08:36:26 a.m. on Wednesday.

In Kashmir however, the festival has sadly attained

sectarian connotation and this has decreased its significance for the general public.

"It is sad Nauroz in Kashmir has been associated with a sect and seen from a sectarian perspective", said Prof G. N. Khaki, former Director of the Centre of Central Asian Studies at the University of Kashmir. Prof Khaki believes that this spring festival belongs to the whole Muslim community.

"This year, it is coinciding with the month of Ramazan, which has doubled its essence, and we should be grateful to



God for the kind of bounties he has provided us with. Life is infused into all things on this day

and it signifies rebirth" he said. He further said that there is nothing wrong in celebrating

HARAT

NEWS

cultural festivities as long as they do not clash with the religious beliefs. Imam Abu Hanifa (r.a) has put it rightly, quotes Prof Khaki, "As long as traditions do not contradict Islamic fundamentals and beliefs, we can continue with them".

According to Dr. Abid Gulzar, Assistant Professor at the CCAS Kashmir University, "It is primarily celebrated in the countries where the Persian empire shared the arc of influence and political authority for long periods of time.

Islamic Reflecting on

teachings, Dr. Gulzar asserted that Islam never opposes cultural festivities and the indigenous festival of a place. He drew a historical parallel, stating, "Even when we look at the history of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h) did not change the names of people after they embraced Islam because changing names after embracing faith is not necessary and is not an essential matter of the faith." But in Kashmir, we saw

hundreds of people changing names just | More on P6

'Punish Those

Of Democracy'

Who Deprived You

goes for its first

Amajor election since

the abrogation of Article

370, Union minister Amit

Shah at the CNN-News18

Rising India Summit 2024

not matter whether the

BJP will get a mandate in

the Union Territory, but the

three 'Parivarvadi parties'

People's Democratic Party

democracy flourish in the

The people of | More on P6

region should be wiped out.

- the Congress, National

Conference (NC) and

(PDP) – who did not let

on Wednesday said it does

s Jammu and Kashmir

PM, LG, DGP Greet People On Nauroz

Prime Minister Srinagar: Modi, Lieutenant Narendra Governor Manoj Sinha, Director General of Police (DGP) and political leaders greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Nauroz.

"Navroz Mubarak! On this blessed day, I wish for everyone's joy and wellbeing. May the coming year be filled with success, growth and enhance the bond of unity in our society," Narendra Modi wrote on X.

"Warm greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Navroz. May this festival bring joy, happiness and prosperity to everyone. Navroz | More on P6

Poll Notification Issued For Udhampur

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The notification for the Lok Sabha poll in Udhampur constituency on April 19 was issued on Wednesday, an election official said. The Udhampur-Kathua constituency is one of 102 segments across the country going to the polls in the first phase on April 19.

Kathua District Magistrate Rakesh Minhas, who is also the returning officer for the constituency, issued the notification for filing nominations from Wednesday.

The last date to file nominations is March 27. The papers will be scrutinised on March 28 while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is March 30, Minhas told reporters in Kathua. So far, only the BJP and the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) have announced their candidates for the seat. Union Minister Jitendra Singh

is contesting | More on P6

Centre Using Full Might To Defeat NČ: Omar

Says NC Ready For Polls, B or C Teams Won't Affect Its Prospects

Press Trust Of India Srinagar: National Conference Omar Abdullah leader on Wednesday claimed the Centre was using all its might to defeat the National Conference in the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The NC does not take any elections lightly and is prepar-ing for Lok Sabha elections, the

former Jammu and Kashmir

Fresh WD To Affect J&K From Today

Rains, Snow Expected At Many Places: MeT

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: As the day temperature has gone up in J&K parts, the weatherman here has predicted two-day wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir from tomorrow (March 21), saying that light to moder-ate rains and snow is expected at many places.

According to the meteorological department, a fresh Western Disturbance is affecting Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow and under its influence light to moderate rain and snow is expected to commence in parts of Kashmir from tomorrow afternoon onwards.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather would remain generally cloudy; there is a possibility of light to moderate rains, snow at many places with thunder, lightning and gusty winds over plans of Kashmir and Jammu division.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng also stated that by evening tomorrow, most parts in Kashmir Valley would have received a spell of rain and snow.

Rain and snow can activities can continue in some areas

expected in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts.

There is a possibility of hailstorm and gusty winds in some areas during this period, he added.

However, the MeT Director stated that the weather would remain generally dry on March 23 while on March 24, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy with light rain and snow at isolated places.

While the weather is expected to remain dry during March 25 and 26, the MeT Director said on March 27 to March 29, the weather would remain generally cloudy with possibility of light rain and snow at few places.

Amid forecast for rains and snow, night temperature recorded a rise at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

Srinagar recorded a minimum of 4.2°C against 2.5°C on the previous night which was below normal by 0.5°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year. Qazigund recorded a minimum of 2.4°C against 2.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low o

Assembly Elections In J&K Will Be Held Before September Deadline: Amit Shah

KO WEB DESK

New Delhi: Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be conducted be-fore September 30, Union Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

Speaking at CNN-News18 Rising India Summit 2024 in New Delhi, Shah said, "Voting in Jammu and Kashmir will happen before the Supreme Court of India's deadline of September 30." On December 11, 2023,

the apex court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct elections

DH NEWS NEWS NE AMIT SHAH

in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024. We direct that steps shall be taken to conduct elections

for the Legislative Assembly

TODAY, EVERY KASHMIRI GETS AN ANNUAL health insurance of Rs 5 lakh, water supply and rice, tourism is flourishing, theatres have opened after 30 years, this is all because of democracy."

PARTY LOYALTIES IN FLUX! 35 Politicians Switch Sides In J&K Since Art 370 Abrogation

Agencies Srinagar: The 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and

Kashmir are





September 30, 2024, and statehood shall be restored as soon as possible," the bench said. The last | More on P6

on 22nd March, he said, adding that least impact of WD is minus 1.1°C against minus 0.9°C on the previous | More on P6

LOK SABHA POLLS **Jailed Er Rashid To Contest From Baramulla**

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Engineer Rashid, who is currently lodged in jail on UAPA charges, will contest the Lok Sabha elections from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla constituency on an Awami Ittehad Party ticket. Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Engineer Rashid (56) is a former MLA.

He was arrested in 2019 and charged by the National

Investigation Agency under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), becoming the first mainstream politician to be booked under the stringent anti-terror law.

"The political affairs committee of the Awami Ittehad Party decided that we will field Engineer Rashid as our candidate from the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency," Firdous Baba, the | More on P6

be both significant and intriguing for several reasons. Primarily, following the abrogation of Article 370, it will serve as a litmus test in the altered political landscape for the first time.

anticipated to

Over the past five years, there has been a considerable transformation in the political dynamics of the region. During the electioneering process, one can expect to witness the emergence of contenders affiliated with non-traditional political entities challenging the dominance of established family-based parties. Notably, three newly registered parties have surfaced in Jammu and Kashmir, poised to challenge their parent parties. Numerous leaders, former ministers, and ex-MLAs are

anticipated to actively engage in politics within this evolved political milieu. A notable trend has been the significant number of leaders, former ministers, and MLAs switching allegiances in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the revocation of Article 370, Kashmir experienced initial political upheaval. Several senior leaders distanced themselves from the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Notably, former

minister Syed Altaf Bukhari, previously aligned with PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, parted ways with the PDP to establish a new entity, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party. In the inaugural District Development Council (DDC) elections, the party demonstrated commendable performance in various regions, challenging the dominance of its parent party, the PDP. Subsequently, influen-

tial | More on P6

chief minister said. "No elections are easy to win. There are different situations in each election. This time the entire might of the Centre is busy trying to defeat us. In earlier elections, guns were used. The NC has been the biggest target of militancy. We have contested elections in most trying times whether it was in 1996, or when I contested my elections in 1998 and 1999 in the face of strong boycott calls," he told reporters while leaving the party office here. "We don't take any elections



lightly, we are making our preparations and we hope to win,' he added.

Asked about a third front of local parties coming up in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said it does not make much of a difference as such attempts have been made in the past as well.

"We have seen such tie-ups earlier also when all the parties came together against Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah in 1977. The result is known to everyone. So, whether it is a B team or C team, it does | More on P6

Gun License To Ineligible Persons CBI Files Chargesheet Against 15, Including Officials

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Wednesday filed two charge sheets against 15 people, including a former district magistrate and an additional district magistrate of Kupwara, in connection with the issuance of firearm licences to ineligible candidates in violation of rules during 2012-16.

In the charge sheets filed before a special court in Srinagar, the CBI submitted its findings on around 15,000 such licences issued allegedly based on forged documents.

One of the two charge sheets is on the alleged role of the thendistrict magistrate Itrat Hussain Rafiqima and nine other people, including four gun house dealers and a middleman. The second

one pertains to the alleged role of ADM Ravinder Kumar Bhat and four others, including gun house dealers and middlemen.

The CBI registered the case in 2018 at the request of the thenstate government of Jammu and Kashmir. The matter pertains to the issuance of a large number of arms licences to ineligible people without following the due processes between 2012 and 2016.

"An investigation disclosed the nexus of the then licensing authority or district magistrate with middlemen and other gun house dealers," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The official said in furtherance of the criminal conspiracy, the gun house dealers lured defence personnel posted at far away places in the | More on P6

Rape Of Minor Srinagar Girl **Bihar Resident** Sent To Jail For 8 Yrs

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A fast-track court on Wednesday awarded eight years' rigorous imprisonment to a mason from Bihar for kidnapping and raping a minor girl in Habba Kadal

area of Srinagar in 2016. Four days after convicting the mason, Santosh Kumar Paswan son of Saider

Paswan of Lalpora Bhim Nagar Bihar, 2nd Additional Sessions Judge (Fast Track Court pertaining to rape cases)— Renu Dogra Gupta—also imposed Rs 20000 on him.I sentence 8 (eight)

years of rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs 20,000/- to the Convict Santosh Kumar Paswanfor the commission of the offence under section 376 RPC (rape)," the court said, adding, "For the commission of offence under Section 363 RPC (kidnapping) the convict shall undergo rigorous imprisonment for 7 years (Seven years) and a fine of Rs. 10,000.".

However the court ordered that both the sentenc-

es shall run concurrently. "In case of default in payment of fine, the convict shall further undergo simple imprisonment for a period of 2 months," the court said and ordered | More on P6

Sikhs In Kashmir Demand Pahari Status, Job Package

Announce Formation Of Gurdwara Co-ordination Committee

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Sikhs in Kashmir on Wednesday announced the formation of the All Kashmir District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Coordination Committee.

The objective behind the committee's formation is to get "Pahari" status for Sikhinhabited areas of Kashmir, special job packages for Sikh youngsters and political reservation for the community, Jaspal Singh, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's chief in Srinagar, said in a statement.

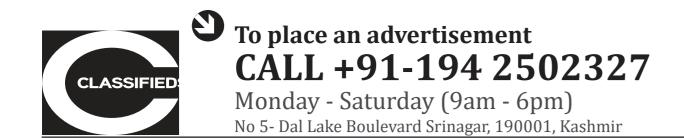
The other objectives include implementation of Punjabi language in schools and heritage status for gurdwaras in Amira Kadal and Maharajganj. During a press conference in

Srinagar, committee members raised questions regarding the selective allocation of Pahari status, expressing concerns over the exclusion of the Sikh community from the move.

Why has Pahari status been selectively granted, leaving out communities like Sikh?," Sikh Committee members question.

The committee also emphasized urgent land issues and concerns surrounding Gurdwara Mattan Sahab Anantnag, in south Kashmir.

Seeking assistance and permissions, the committee advocated for the construction of Gurdwara Sahab at Gulmarg and a | More on P6



KASHMIR OBSERVER[™] | ∩ Srinagar | Thursday | 21-03-2024

Study Flags Dietary Trends That Enhance Risk Of Non-Communicable Diseases

Press Trust Of India

recent study has flagged disturbing dietary trends of excessive salt consumption and inadequate potassium intake, which increase the risk of development of hypertension, cardiovascular and chronic kidney diseases.

According to the study, conducted by researchers at The George Institute for Global Health India in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, protein consumption was below the recommended dietary allowance and men exhibited higher nutrient intake compared to women.

The comprehensive study on the dietary habits of north Indian population was conducted focusing on the intake of sodium, potassium, phosphorus, and protein, that have an impact on the risk of development of non-communicable diseases such as hyperten-

sion, cardiovascular disease, and chronic kidney disease.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers in Nutrition, involved more than 400 adult participants encompassing healthy adults and those with early-stage chronic kidney disease (CKD). It utilized 24-hour urinary

excretion analysis to assess nutrient intake.

This method is considered more accurate than dietary recall because it is less prone to errors related to memory or estimation of portion sizes. Care was taken to ensure the urine samples' reliability for analysis. 'Meticulous analysis revealed

some alarming trends -- excessive salt consumption surpassing recommended levels, inadequate potassium intake (both of which increase the risk of development of hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and chronic kidney disease), and protein consumption below the recommended dietary allowance," professor Vivekanand Jha, Executive Director, The George



Institute for Global Health. India and the lead study author, said.

A poor nutritious diet is a major risk element for non-communicable diseases (NCD), which are of considerable public health concern. In India, people eat different foods, so it is important to know exactly what nutrients they are getting to help prevent and manage these diseases, Jha said. The high salt intake and low potassium intake point to the

need to develop interventions targeted to individuals and societies, Jha stated.

These findings highlight the fact that while the dietary intake of several nutrients is necessary for good cardiovascular and kidney health, their consumption is suboptimal. It also highlighted the need for personalized changes in diet to reduce the risks of common non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The study also emphasizes the importance of accurate dietary assessments to provide personalized advice and develop effective policies.

Emphasizing the urgency for public awareness campaigns, individual counselling, and food policy reforms, Jha added, "The study shows that it is important to have dietary guidelines that are specific to local area. We need to take action to fix imbalances in nutrients and encourage people to eat more healthily by increasing diversity." To lower the risks of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), researchers suggested using multi-faceted strategies, including providing better information on food labels so people can make healthier choices, reducing salt in processed foods, and encouraging people to eat more fruits and vegetables rich in potassium.

This study shows how to take proactive steps to fight NCDs, fostering a healthier future for North Indian communities.

STAGE CONTRACT

<u>Grand Bagh</u> Rajpora Road Harwan FOR BOOKING OF **1.Balcony Delux Room Double** (Free Break Fast) 2.Delux Room Double (Free Breakfast) CONTACT Faroog Ahmed | 7006270985

NORTHERN RAILWAY Notice for Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal (EOI) The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India Invites EOI (Expression of Interest) for setting

up of Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal at stations over Firozpur Division under GCT Scheme as per GCT Policy issued vide no. 2021/TC(EM)/18/23 dated 06.12.2022. Eligible and interested parties may submit their interest for any of the station over Firozpur Division. Expresion submitted will be scrutinized and asibility of stations proposed by the applicant will be provided if found feasible

For more details & other information kindly visit Northern Railway's website: www.nr.indianrailway.gov.in or contact 9779233950.

Last date of submission of EOI: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 28.03.2024 No.: 2-AC/EOI/GCT/2024 Date: 20.03.2024

885/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Usman chechi s/o Mohammad Shafi chechi r/o khodi lolab kupwara Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 08-02-2018 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class** fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

from (old name) Mahmooda to (New name) Mahmooda Khan. In future I will be known as (New name) Mahmooda Khan. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After that no objection wil be

accepted

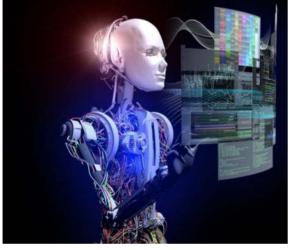
'Indian Workers With AI Skills Could See Pay Hikes Of Over 54%'

IANS

hen artificial intelligence (AI) is fully harnessed, Indian workers with AI skills and expertise could see salary hikes of more than 54 per cent, with workers in IT (65 per cent), and research and development (62 per cent) enjoying the highest pay increases, a new report said on Tuesday.

According to Amazon Web Services (AWS), 97 per cent of workers in India expect their AI skills to have a positive impact on their careers, including increased job efficiency and career advancement.

"From financial services to construction and retail, industries are embracing AI at a rapid pace, which is why an AI-skilled workforce is essential to unleashing a culture of innovation and driving pro-ductivity in India," said Amit Mehta, head of AWS



From financial services to construction and retail, industries are embracing AI at a rapid pace, which is why an AI-skilled workforce is essential to unleashing

a culture of innovation

of Gen X workers want to acquire AI skills, while 90 per cent of baby boomers said they would enrol in an AI upskilling course if it was offered.

Further, the report suggested that employers expect their organisation's productivity to increase by 68 per cent as AI technol-

0194-2310283 exenrajbaghsgr@gmail.com Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) **Division Rajbagh Srinagar.** Lal Mandi, Near L.D. Hospital Srinagar- 190008.

ELECTION URGENT

E-NIT No.103/R&B/RAJ of 2023-24 issued under Endorsement No.8824-34 Dated: 19.03.2024

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:-

| S. No | Name of Work | | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest Money (In Rupees) | Time of completion | | Class of Contractor |
|----------|---|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Î | Stage Contract for Construction/ Distribution Centre for upcoming Parliamentary Elections at Amar Singh College (Chanapora Constitu- ency), Institute of Hotel Management Rajbagh, S.P College Srinagar (21 Habbakadal Constituency). | 23.75 | 800/- | 47500/- | 07 Days | Lok Sabha Election 2024 | "BEE/CEE" |
| 2 | Stage Contract for Construction/ Distribution Centre for upcoming- Parliamentary Elections at S.P.Hr. Secondary School Srinagar (Zadibal Constituency). | 18.64 | 800/- | 37280/- | 07 Days | | "BEE/CEE" |

Position of AAA:

Position of TS:

Position of Funds: Available/Committed/Budgeted.

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

| uut | es given below. | |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 19.03.2024. |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bid- | 20.03.2024from 10:00AM |
| | ding documents | |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 20.03.2024from 10:00AM |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 25.03.2024Upto 04.00 PM. |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids | 26.03.2024 at 11.00AMin the office of Executive Engineer |
| | (Online) | R&B Division Raibagh Srinagar. |
| | · · · | , |

NOTICE **Public Notice** have changed my name

My DOB in my school records has been wrongly written as 14-04-2017 while my correct DOB is 14-04-2016 which needs to be corrected, if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Modern Public School Achan Pulwama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Fatima Fayaz D/o Fayaz Ahmad Dar Ρ/Ο ΔΟΗΔΝ ΡΗΙΙ Μ fko

training and certification, AWS India.

The report surveyed over 1,600 workers and 500 employers in India. Moreover, the report mentioned that 95 per cent of Indian workers indicated a keen interest in develop-

and driving productivity in India ing AI skills to accelerate their careers. About 95 per cent of

tasks (71 per cent), encourages learning of new skills (68 per cent), and improves workflow and outcomes (64 per cent). Workers believe AI could raise their Gen Z, 96 per cent of milefficiency by as much as 66 lennials, and 93 per cent per cent.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Enginee R&D Division RajbaghSrinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challanshould be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division RajbaghSrinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security equal to 2% of the Ad-At the time of the line ing, at the blocks most optical lanes, where you be set to vide Performance Security @ 5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BGat the time of contract award. The Earnest Money/Bid Security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released under rules after successful completion of the DLP.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.iktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Wel Site in the Office of theExecutive Engineer R&B Division RajbaghSrinagar(Tender Receiving Authority).

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

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.iktenders.gov.into acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

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

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challaninfavour of R&B Division RajbaghSrinagar(The date of Treasury Challanshould be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Divi sion Rajbagh Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender do other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

The name of work or NIT No.S.No. should clearly be mentioned on the Treasury Challan and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No. A/24(2017)-651

Dated: 07-06-2018 which reads as under:- (a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared Ist Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids. (b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.

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. 10. Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited. 11. Subject to the Award Criteria remains Maintained, authorization from the competent authority, Any item/items of work

found necessary during execution of work though not in the BOQ shall have to be got executed and shall be paid At Par the %age quoted by the bidder. 12.

Any addendum issued shall be the part of NIT.

Price Escalation and Taxes: - The %age quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include Price Escalation And All Taxes Upto Completion Of The Work; unless otherwise recommended/specified by the competent authority/Govt.
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 billpayment

The normal deposits shall be deducted as per the relevant rules from running bills to be released under rules after total completion of the work

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 In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification informa their bids:

All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and principal Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.

Registration Card / Enlistment Certificate duly renewed/valid for the year2023-24. JKPWDOMS Contractor Registration / Enlistment duly renewed/valid for the year 2023-24 Bidders having Registration/Enlistment other than JKPWDOMSshall upload Verification Certificate duly issued by the card thority or an Affidavit duly certified by 1st class Judicial Magistrate to the effect of genuineness of theirRegistration or Enlist-

All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan and Earnest Money Deposit.

All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest GST clearance certificate - FORM GSTR-3B of last e. October- December2023-24 or preceeding month i.e. January-2024.

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

167/23 Dated:20.03.2024

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Imran Ali Dar s/o shabir Ahmad dar r/o Talwan pora Mirgund Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 19-05-2021 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class** fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mr.Umar Afzal Dar S/O Mr. Mohd Afzal Dar R/O Hazratbal Naseem Bagh Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s Explorers United"situated at Baba Demg Naqashpora Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate ,Pan Card ,Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years) Character Certificate (Police Department) ,Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000) ,Site Plan ,Affidavit ,Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Materilal (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and outdoor) and two passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure Tour Operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/Financial Institutions/Bak/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddreg13@gmail.com)within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley .No objection beyond

a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

Executive Engineer,

Srinagar (NM)

R&B Raibagh Division

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST of Short-Term e-Tender e-NIT No: MDSK/TS /2023-24/44 Date: 19.03.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railway/State/central Government organization for the below mentioned work: -

| Name of the | Cost of Tender | Estimated Cost | EMD in Rs | Position of Funds | |
|--|------------------|----------------|-----------|--|---|
| Work | Doc. (In rupees) | (In Rs) | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Repairs/re- placement to CCTV's installed at M&HED com- plex Shalteng Srinagar. | | 52340.00 | | Works programme ap- proved by CE vide No. MED/K/Acctt/ 403 of 2023 Dt. 26-05-2023 | |
| 0 | | | | | |

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

| | 11 10. |
|------------------------------|--|
| 19-03-2024(18 Hrs) | 16.1. |
| 19-03-2024(18:30 Hrs) | tion with th |
| 19-03-2024(18:55 Hrs) | a. place of Bu |
| 25-03-2024(18 Hrs) | |
| 26-03-2024(14:00hrs) | L C. |
| | d. |
| | issuing aut |
| Sd/ | ment Certif |
| (Er. Kaplaish Pandita) | e. |
| · · · / | I. g. |
| 5, | guarter i.e. |
| Machinery Division, Shinagar | 117. |
| | No.8824-3 |
| | DIPK-1816 |
| | 11 |
| | 19-03-2024(18:30 Hrs) 19-03-2024(18:55 Hrs) 25-03-2024(18 Hrs) 26-03-2024(14:00hrs) |

Media Line

ogy automates repetitive



KASHMIR OBSERVER | Srinagar | Thursday | 21-03-2024 🔾

AIRPORTS

RAILWAYS

Lok Sabha Elections-2024

DEO Srinagar Inspects Election Strong Rooms Cum Distribution/ Collection Centre's

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of proposed election Strong Rooms cum Collection/ Distribution Centre's being established for all 08 Assembly constituencies of Srinagar District.

The inspection was undertaken to assess the preparedness for smooth conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha Election-2024 in the District.

During the visit, the DEO/DC took onsite review of the arrangements and facilities at Strong Room cum Collection/ Distribution Centre's for all 08 Assembly Constituencies viz 19-Hazratbal, 20-Khanyar, 21-Habbakadal, 22-LalChowk, 23-Chanapora, 24-Zadibal, 25-Eidgah and 26-Central Shalteng.

During the inspection, the DEO stressed upon the concerned Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) to take up necessary measures to ensure that all required arrangements are put in place well in advance to facilitate smooth and efficient election process.

He asked them to make proper arrangements for polling staff, adequate parking and separate entry/exit of the vehicles carrying election material at Strong Rooms cum Collection/Distribution Centre's. He also laid emphasis

on placing adequate spac-



es for counters to be placed at Collection/Distribution Centre's in order to avoid any cluttering during distribution/collection of election materials.

District.

While interacting with the AROs and other concerned staff, the DEO/DC underscored the importance of ensuring that all Strong Rooms cum Collection/Distribution Centre's adhere to prescribed standards of Election Commission of India to uphold the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

He stressed on proper handling/ management of election material besides ensuring efficient and secure mechanisms for its storage.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ ERO- Zadibal), Dr Khalid Hussain Malik, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ARO/ERO- Hazratbal), Syed Ahmad Kataria, Deputy District Election Officer, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Other AROs, and other concerned officers accompanied the DEO during the visit



As spring approaches, the sprawling Badamwari garden in Srinagar is dazzling with almond blossom. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Court Summons Facebook Page Admin In Defamation Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A local court here has issued a notice to a Facebook admin in a defamation plea filed by a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) "Smile Foundation" for allegedly circulating "malafide vid-

eos" against it. In an order, the court of Munsiff/Sub Registrar Srinagar Adnan Manzoor Naqashbandi, as per GNS, restrained the admin namely Mudasir Bashir, alias Mudasir Aziz, from 'interfering with the affairs of the NGO or uploading any video related to the organization.'

The defamation suit was filed by the plaintiff non government



In an order, the ee court of Munsiff/Sub **Registrar Srinagar Adnan** Manzoor Nagashbandi, as per GNS, restrained the admin namely Mudasir Bashir, alias Mudasir Aziz, from 'interfering with the affairs of the NGO or uploading any video related to the organization.'

organization (NGO) Smile Foundation in response to the defamatory content allegedly uploaded by the defendant, Mudasir Bashir a few days ago, following which the court issued summon and directed the defendant to remove all the content immediately.

The court also directed admin to remove all the related content to the case in hand from his Facebook pages.

The admin has also been asked by the court to respond to the notice by the next date of hearing on March 26.

The plaintiff NGO was represented in the court by advocates Talib Hussain and Seerat Mehraj.

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153 **HIGHWAY STATUS** Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open) Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar-Leh-(Closed) **PRAYERS FAJR** 5:11 **HIJRI** ZUHR 12:40 CALENDAR ASR 4:58 10 Ramzan Magrib 6:46 1445 **ISHA** 8:06

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

X

PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

This Day In History

- 630- Byzantine emperor Heraclius restores the True Cross to Jerusalem
- 717- Battle of Vincy fought in the Cambrai during Frankish Civil War; Charles Martel's forces defeat those of King Chilperic II and his mayor Ragenfrid 1188- Accession to the throne of Japan by
- emperor Antoku 1804 -Napoleonic Code adopted in France,
- stresses clearly written and accessible law 1864-Battle at Henderson's Hill (Bayou Rapids)
- Louisiana 1865- Battle of Bentonville ends, last
- Confederate effort to stop Sherman
- 1899 British & French accord over West Africa 1907 - US sends troops to Honduras to halt the Nicaraguan army takeover
- 1918- World War I: Germany launches Somme
- 1925- Iran adopts Khorshidi solar Hijri calendar
- 1927- Guomindang Army conquers Shanghai as British marines flee
- 1934- Fire destroys Hakodate Japan, killing about 1,500
- 1935- Persia is officially renamed Iran
- 1942 Convoy QP9 departs Great Britain to Murmansk
- 1943 Assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler fails
 - 1945 During WW II Allied bombers begin 4-day

Mirwaiz To Address Worshippers At Dastgeer Sahib Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srihas informed that hammad Umar Farooq, will address the faithful at Aastan e Aaliya Dastgeer Sahib Khanyar

Srinagar: The iconic 'Badamwari Garden' here has come alive with the breathtaking beauty of al

Observer News Service

Locals, Visitors Enjoy Badamwari's Almond Bloom of spring," said Azan, a resident of Zafran Colony Srinagar. "It's a

drop of snow-capped mountains evoke a sense of wonder and revsight that fills our hearts with joy erence among the people. and reminds us of the resilience of

The beauty of Badamwari Garden during almond bloom is Sahil a local said unnaralleled adding that it is like stepping into a fairytale, where every tree is adorned with delicate flowers.

- offensive

in connection with the passing away anniversary of Umm ul Momineen Hazrat Khadijah Al Kubra (RA), Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Mu-

Ramazan, from 4:00 pm till Asr praver. In a statement issued

on Thursday, 10th of

here, the Anjuman has requested the people to participate in the gathering in large numbers.

mond bloom, much to the delight of locals who eagerly anticipate this annual spectacle. "For us Kashmiri's, the bloom-

ing of almond trees in Badamwari Garden is a cherished and beautiful view that marks the beginning

mired in inertia. Despite

substantial allocations

However, in

sponse to a question

over the absence of

overhead bridge during

a recent event, Secre-

tarv health for Jammu

and Kashmir Dr. Syed

Abid Rasheed Shah cit-

ed the technical issue

as an impediment, but

said they along with

the team of concerned

engineers are trying to

find a solution.

re

of the Rahul from Mumbai said the enchanting beauty of Badamwari Garden's almond bloom and the arrival of spring is like seeing heaven with vour naked eyes.

our land."

The vibrant hues of pink and white blossoms against the back-

Families are gathered amidst the blossoms to celebrate the arrival of spring, and the air is filled with a festive look.

2019 'Aerobridge' Project Connecting **SMHS With SHH Hospital Stalled**

Deliberations On To Fix Technical Issues: Sec Health

Jahangir Sofi

Srinagar: The absence of a crucial overhead bridge, between the SMHS (Shri Maharaja Hari Singh) hospital and its multi-specialty counterpart, the Super Specialty Hospital (SSH), has left patients and their attendants grappling with daunting challenges.

Despite the sanctioning of an "Aerobridge" project in 2019 aimed at facilitating seamless transfer between the two healthcare facilities, no tangible progress has been made, exacerbating the plight of those in need of specialized medical care.

attendants Several and patients complained

to the health department in the region's budget for the year 2023-24, the long-standing issue persists, underscoring the disconnect between policy intentions and onground realities.

"There is no seamless movement between the two hospitals, although sometimes there are ambulances available, but that does not happen to be always," said an attendant

The proposed Aerobridge project, conceived to enhance the quality of healthcare services and expedite patient transfers, remains

NIT Srinagar To Host 2 Day National **Conference On RASE-2024**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Conference on Role of Academic-driven Startups in Developing Economy of J&K (RASE-2024) will be hosted by NIT Srinagar from 29-30th June this year.

The conference will be held in association with prestigious institutions including the Department of Holistic Education, Vidya Bharti, Punjab.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A Ravinder Nath released a brochure of the (RASE-2024). It was attended by Dr. Thakur SKR, Sci/Engr-SF and Director, DHE & VBITR, eminent educationists Vijay Nadda and Deshraj Sharma,

Dr. Saad Parvez, Head, IIEDC, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. H S Pali, Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Rout and Shahid Abbas Mir. CEO- iTBI Greenovator, Incubation Foundation, NIT Srinagar.

In his keynote address, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath said this innovative conference is expected to bridge between academia and industry.

"The conference will serve as a dynamic platform for students, researchers, and entrepreneurs, facilitating discussions on various aspects of startup culture, spanning from ideation to execution. It will offer valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities present within the startup ecosystem," he said.

NORTHERN RAILW

Notice Inviting Tender

ST. DELTRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 15.04.2024 at 15.00 Hrs. only Manual offers are not allowed against this tende nd any such manual offer received shall not be cons

| Tender No. | Name of work | App Cost (Rs.) | Cost of Tender form (Rs.) | Date & time for submission of tender | Money # | Completion period | Opening of tender | Website Particulars |
|---|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| TRD- FZR- 2023-24 | Strengthening of earthing arrangement by replacement of overaged earthin system at various Traction Sub Stations and Switching Stations in Sahnewal-Amritsar section over Firozpur division | 83,11,251.07p | NIL | Upto 15.04.2024 15:00 Hrs | 1,66,200/- | 12 Months | 15.04.2024 after 15:00 Hrs. | www. ireps.gov.ii |
| TRD- FZR- | TRD work in c/w provision of new washing Line No. 10 at Badgam (BDGM) yard over Firozpur division | 1,63,29,558.87 | NIL | Upto 15.04.2024 15:00 Hrs | 2,31,700/- | 06 Months | 15.04.2024 after 15:00 Hrs. | www. ireps.gov.ii |
| Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shal have no claim on Railway. | | | | | | | | |
| No. 511F & 524B-TRD-FZR-2023-24 Dated: 19.03.2024 879/202 | | | | | | | | |

Serving Customers With A Smile

raid over Germany

- 1958 USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test
- 1962 Yogi the bear becomes the 1st creature to be ejected at supersonic speeds by the US military testing ejection seats
- 1965 US Ranger 9 launched; takes 5,814 pictures before lunar impact
- 1975 Ethiopia abolishes its monarchy after 3,000 years
- Egyptian Parliament unanimously 1979 approve peace treaty with Israel
- 1990 Namibia becomes independent of South Africa, Sam Nujoma becomes president
- 1991 27 lost at sea when 2 US Navy antisubmarine planes collide
- 1991 UN Security Council panel decided to lift the food embargo on Iraq
- 1992 Pakistan scores 6-264 to overhaul NZ in exciting World Cup semi
- 1994 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) enters into force after being ratified by the required number of nations
- 1999 Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones become the first to circumnavigate the Earth in a hot air balloon.
- 2002 In Pakistan, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh along with three other suspects are charged with murder for their part in the kidnapping and killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.
- 2006 Immigrant workers constructing the Burj Dubayy in Dubai, The United Arab Emirates and a new terminal of Dubai International Airport join together and riot, causing \$1M in damage.
- 2012 Five former Guatemalan paramilitaries are sentenced to 7,710 years in jail for their role in the Plan de Sanchez massacre in 1982
- 2012 Greek Parliament votes in favour of an international bailout deal
- 2013 42 people are killed and 84 are injured by a bombing in a mosque in Damascus, Syria
- 2013 At least 45 people drown and 60 are missing after a Nigerian boat sinks off the shore of Gabon
- 2013 24 people are killed and 100 are injured by a tornado and hail storm in southern China
- 2013 The European Space Agency reveals new data that indicates that the universe is 13.82 billion years old
- 2014 ussia formally annexes Crimea amid international condemnation
- 2018 Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg admits they "made mistakes" after data on 50 million users is harvested by Cambridge Analytica

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Nazir Ahmad S/o Mohd Ismail Ganai to Nazir Ahmad Ganai S/o Mohd Ismail Ganai in future I will be known as Nazir Ahmad Ganai S/o Mohd Ismail Ganai. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of sven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Nazir Ahmad Ganai S/o Mohd Ismail Ganai inf

that they had to shift their patients on stretcher or wheelchair through a highly congested traffic road between SSH and SMHS hospital.

Think Opinion, Analysis, Essays

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®] Srinagar | Thursday | 21-03-2024

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Thursday | 21-03-2024

Escalating Climate Crisis

he fresh report released by the United Nations and the India Meteorological Department paints a grim picture of our planet's climate crisis. Global temperatures continue to soar, with 2023 marking the hottest year on record. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warns that 2024 is likely to surpass even these alarming levels. The consequences of this unprecedented warming are dire and far-reaching, affecting every corner of the globe.

One of the most alarming trends highlighted in the report is the prevalence of marine heatwaves, which have gripped nearly a third of the world's oceans. These extreme events have devastating impacts on marine ecosystems, further exacerbating biodiversity loss. Moreover, glaciers worldwide are experiencing record ice loss, leading to rising sea levels and threatening coastal communities.

The implications of these climate shifts are not confined to distant regions; they are felt close to home as well. Kashmir, a region known for its natural beauty, is has been intermittently reeling under intense and record-breaking heatwaves. In September last year, Srinagar experienced its second-hottest day in over a century, with temperatures soaring well above normal levels. The dry weather during Chilai Kalan and the attendant warmth have exacerbated the situation, posing significant challenges to agriculture and impacting vital cash crops like apples and saffron.

The heatwave in Kashmir is not an isolated event but rather part of a broader pattern of extreme weather events occurring with increased frequency worldwide. Climate scientists warn that unless urgent action is taken to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and curb fossil fuel consumption, such events will recur, wreaking havoc on ecosystems, livelihoods, and economies.

The changing climate patterns in Kashmir also underline the urgent need for local adaptation and resilience measures. As temperatures continue to rise and precipitation patterns become more erratic, it is crucial to invest in sustainable agricultural practices, water management systems, and disaster preparedness strategies. Also, efforts to conserve forests, protect watersheds, and promote renewable energy sources are essential for building climate resilience in the region.

Addressing the climate crisis requires collective action at the global, national, and local levels. Governments, businesses, and individuals must commit to ambitious climate targets and implement concrete measures to reduce emissions and transition to a lowcarbon economy. Investing in clean energy infrastructure, promoting energy efficiency, and supporting climate-smart agriculture are essential steps towards building a sustainable future for all. The recurrent heatwaves in Kashmir, one of the world's coldest regions, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to prioritize climate action. We cannot afford to ignore the warning signs any longer.



Taliban Challenge To Pakistan

ven before the August 2021 Afghan Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)better known as the Pakistani Taliban-appeared to be on an upward trajectory, as these authors outlined in an article for CTC Sentinel in the spring of 2021. At that time, after years of organizational fragmentation, the group was beginning to show signs of a resurgence. Not only had it managed to survive the existential threat previously posed by the Islamic State, but it had also strengthened its ranks through a series of mergers, broadened its support base, introduced a series of new regulations curtailing the indiscriminate targeting of civilians in suicide bombings, and increased the tempo of its operations. In the ensuing two years, building on the Afghan Taliban's victory, and drawing strength and inspiration from it, the TTP's revival has continued to grow in strength, partly due to an 'incoeign intelligence agencies' support through the former Afghan government. Pakistani officials claimed the Taliban's recent accession to power would force the TTP to retreat from Afghan territory and eventually face a certain organizational death. As this piece will outline, many Pakistani militants did leave Afghanistan, but when they came home, with the war won in Afghanistan, they focused all their attention on the TTP's war against the Pakistani state and particularly the tribal belt adjacent to Afghanistan. This specific, and localized, focus became clear during peace negotiations in Kabul last year between the TTP and Pakistani government when the TTP stressed that the reinstatement of the semiautonomous status of the tribal belt and the implementation of sharia were its key demands.

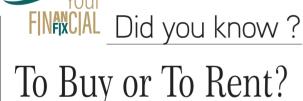
The TTP was the first militant group to officially celebrate the Taliban takeover within hours of the speech, he proclaimed that the antistate militant struggle in Pakistan continued and urged those gathered to dedicate all efforts to the jihadi front in Pakistan. Praising the locals' support and shelter of the TTP, he claimed that his group was now aiming for a comparable victory in Pakistan.

The Afghan Taliban leadership publicly discourages its members from joining the war against the Pakistani state, although the group's rank-and-file consider it a religious and national obligation to support the TTP from an ideological perspective and due to tribal and personal connections cemented in the last two decades of insurgency. Unsurprisingly, reports are emerging of Afghan militants contributing to the TTP's war against Pakistani security forces, including suicide bombers. Some Afghan Taliban foot soldiers have declared the fight against Pakistani forces as the next

Your Your

Abdul Sayed/ Tore Hamming

With the Taliban in control of Afghanistan



Irshad Mushtaq

he decision to build a house instead of renting has often been considered a sound investment. However, when we take into account the skyrocketing land rates and the high returns of other asset classes, it becomes evident that renting a house may actually be the cheaper option. Let's consider an example to illustrate this point.

In 2003, the value of land was Rs 5 lakh per kanal, and the cost of constructing a house was Rs 25 lakhs, making the total value cost at that time Rs 30 lakhs. Fast forward to today, the selling value of the house with 1 kanal of land is approximately Rs 3.5 crore, which translates to a 13% compounding annual return over the past 20 years. On the other hand, the value of the land shot up to a staggering 45 times, bringing the total value to Rs13.50 crore, equating to a 20.97% compounding annually over 20 years.

Comparing these figures, it becomes clear that the decision to build a house instead of renting has resulted in a significant loss. Over a span of 20 years, the loss incurred by building the house amounts to a staggering 10 crore rupees. This highlights the financial implications of the decision to build a house instead of opting for rental accommodation.

Unfortunately, many individuals have made the same mistake, realizing too late the financial drawbacks of owning a house. This has led to a situation where a large number of Kashmiri people are forced to live in rental accommodations, creating a social trap.

In conclusion, the example provided clearly demonstrates the financial implications of the decision to build a house instead of renting. It is imperative that we learn from these mistakes and start to think strategically about our housing decisions. We must prioritize the future of our society and focus on skill development to ensure a better standard of living for the generations to come. It is time to break free from traditional social pressures and create better living decisions for our society.

> The writer is entrepreneur partner, M I Securities ,Sharekhan Email:irshad@bp.sharekhan.com

and sympathetic to the TTP, the TTP now enjoys a level of 'strategic depth' that is arguably unparalleled in its history

military. The group is now on the trajectory to emulate the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan. With a further uptick in and geographical expansion of its operations, additional mergers, its fighters relocating from their 'victory' in Afghanistan to Pakistan, and a much more local focus and a centralized organizational structure, the TTP is now attempting to escalate its violence against the state after a series of failed peace negotiations.

herent' response from the Pakistani

This article draws on opensource materials and interviews to assess the TTP's growing strength over the past two years and analyze its potential future trajectory. The first section analyzes the implications of the Afghan Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan for the TTP. The second section examines the group's growing strength, defining four key developments: mergers, organizational centralization, growing operational activity, and a strengthening of media operations. The third section looks into the 2021-2022 negotiations between the TTP and the Pakistani government, and the fourth section outlines the TTP's recent and more localized focus. The final section investigates the January 2023 Peshawar Mosque attack and offers an assessment of the TTP's potential short-term future trajectory.

The Implications of the Taliban's Takeover in Afghanistan for the TTP

The Afghan Taliban and Pakistani Taliban have long had deeprooted relations. Yet, prior to the Afghan Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the government in Pakistan promoted the narrative that the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban were not interconnected and blamed the growing threat from the TTP on for-



Taliban entering Kabul. In a statement released on August 17, 2021, the TTP declared the Taliban's return to power as a great victory for the jihadi project. The TTP emir Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud publicly renewed his group's pledge of allegiance to the Taliban emir Hibatullah Akhundzada and promised to continue unconditional support to the Afghan Taliban. Drawing attention to the TTP's two decades of fighting U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan, Mehsud announced that his group would now work to ensure the stability and survival of the Taliban regime.

The Taliban's takeover also resulted in an instant injection of strength for the TTP with the release of hundreds of TTP members from prisons across Kabul, who had been imprisoned by U.S. forces and the former Afghan government. This included senior commanders like the TTP's founding deputy emir Maulawi Faqir Muhammad Bajauri and former spokesperson Mufti Khalid Bulti, arrested in Afghanistan in 2013 and 2015, respectively. Immediately after his release, Bajauri was seen addressing large gatherings of TTP fighters in Kunar province adjacent to his native Bajaur tribal district in Pakistan. During his phase of their jihad.

The TTP legitimizes its war against the state by applying the same arguments that the Taliban used in Afghanistan. An interesting manifestation of this overlap is the TTP's response to a statement from a senior Pakistani religious leader Mufti Taqi Usmani in January 2023, who declared any armed uprising against the state illegitimate. In response, the TTP's central Umar Media foundation released an archived statement from the Taliban's supreme leader supporting the TTP in its jihad against the Pakistani state.

In sum, the Taliban victory in Afghanistan has emboldened and strengthened the TTP. With the Taliban in control of Afghanistan and sympathetic to the TTP, and the group no longer having to fear operations against it there, the TTP now enjoys a level of 'strategic depth' that is arguably unparalleled in its history.

—This is the abridged version of the article originally published by CTC.westpoint.edu

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

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP | Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K | Editor: Sajjad Haider | RNI Registration No: 69503/98 | Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 | Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705 | Editorial: (0194) 2502327 | Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net



PENMAN'S DESK Written Words And The Song Of Spades

S.Sarwar.Malik

Tith changing times, among many things that change, is our understanding of the past. Spoken words do transmit from one generation to another what one experientially gathers, but since mortals we are, human life is limited to some years and usually during the sunset years, memories fade and so do other things, stored within our system

Inherent quality of written word is that it can be transmitted to other individuals and generations and that it suffers little change, comparatively. With the birth of written-language legends, myths and tales , in simple prose or ornate verse-form got preserved and subsequently the treasure house of literature on varied subjects, came to be amassed.

Language, in simple words, is the structured system of communication. Speech, (-including gestures) and writing together constitute language. Names of thousands of languages can be listed with a little labour but it is most probably impossible to trace all of them to a single original universal human language. Sumerian, Akkadian, Egyptian, Aramaic, classical Hebrew, Arabic, Archaic Chinese, Tamil and Sanskrit are said to figure in the list of ancient languages. Summerian, which was spoken in Mesopotamian areas of Babylonia and Assyria (Iraq) as per some, as early as 3500 BC, (but surely before 2600 BC), is long extinct. Akkadian that was also spoken in ancient Mesopotamia, including Babylonia as early as 2500 BC, is also extinct. Aramaic (- the proto-Semitic language), dated back to 1,000-700 Bc, was spoken in ancient Syria, Sinai peninsula and also Mesopotamia. (David and Ezra chapters of the Old Testament are said to have used this lingo.)

Till 19th Century AD, Hebrew was largely thought to be the most ancient written-language, by those who professed Jewish/ Christian faith.

Likewise, Hindus claim the same for Sanskrit, though Telugu/Tamilspeaking populace contest it. The Arabic speaking world ,too, has its separate claim.

The earliest writing system, called Cuneiform, (-derived from the Latin word Cuneus, wedge), was first used in URUK,(east of Euphrates), whose mples were discovered by archae-



among these were deciphered by the German Philologist, George Friedrich Grotefend, from 1800 to1836 AD.

Imagine the great spade work of the battery of great archaeologists; carried relentlessly, investing sweat, time and money as a result of which Mari tablets were found in 1933 AD; (-Mari is on West of Euphrates, Syria) & of Nineveh around 1840-50 AD; both are Akkadians.(Nineveh was the Assyrian area on the eastern bank of Tigris river, in north Iraq). Those found in Sippar around 1880 AD are Babylonian; those found in Hattusa (in 1906 AD) are Hittite; those found in Drehem are Summerian; those found in Persepolis (1933 AD) are Elamite (old Persian) and those found in Nimrud (in 1952) are Neo-Assyrian cum Neo- Babylonian tablets. Based on pictograms, phonograph and characters, Cuneiform is humankind's earliest available form of writing that has come to us. Cuneiform is believed to have most probably preceded Egyptian hieroglyphics, too (the latter, archaeologists have found in the tombs of Pharaoh.) Cuneiforms, as old as 3,000 BC, have come to us in the shape of imprinted clay-tablets. This system of recording transactions (-of sheep/goats, grains etc in the beginning); believed to have, evolved; after pottery was invented by Mankind, from pictograms/ graphs to abstracted glyph, then to signs as written on clay, syllabograms; marked by

wedge-shaped-indenting, done with stylus. The script morphed & adapted and was used in a considerably big area, first to keep track of transactions, then later used in religious, cultural & artistic practices.

Cuneiform script was used in ancient Mesopotamia for folklore writing (- Epic of Gilgamesh, of Uruk, translated in 1872 AD by George Smith from the Cuneiform); for recording laws (-like The Code of Ham*murabi*); for business documents; for listing medicine, and even for "writing mathematical equations". Hammurabi was the Babylonian king who destroyed the Mari kingdom on Euphrates around 1700 BC. This code is preserved on a Stele in Louvre Museum that was discovered in 1901 AD. This Code is believed to have been composed around 1750 BC, in Akkadian dialect. It dwells on different types of laws.

For the knowledgeable, these arheological finds transferred some



Inherent quality of written word is that it can be transmitted to other individuals and generations and that it suffers little change, comparatively. With the birth of writtenlanguage legends, myths and tales, in simple prose or

of Oriental Research came up; and archaeology departments became the Centre of focus in many countries.

Ancient Iraq, which was home of Summerians and Akkadians, spoke about its eloquent past, distinctively. The area between Euphrates, Tigris and Nile gained importance. The area from Caspian Sea to Persian Gulf, to Thebes & Nile to Cyprus & to Ararat Hills suddenly emerged as 'The Cradle of Humankind', as per many scholars. French archaeologists like Andre Parrot (1936-1954), C.F.A Schaeffer (1939-1949) and scores of others, and also, those writers who published their works, after studying scriptures afresh in light of these findings, like Werner Keller (German,1956 AD), became famous world wide. [This author has read a few related books during 1980's, out of which only that of W.Keller(-along with my jottings) survived in readable state, after the devastating Srinagar Flood of 2014 ADL A small note about the Hittites, mentioned above. As per Old Testament portions viz Numbers, Joshua, Judges and Exodus, Hittites were a 'nation' that lived with other four nations including Amorites and Canaanites etc, somewhere in the expanse from the coast of Jordan, Euphrates, Lebanon to mountains, to the "land flowing with milk and honey"; whom (as per *Deuteronomy*), Prophet Moses (a.s) drove out, after living with these

'nations' for sometime. Note Uriah in the story of Prophet David (given in Bible) was a Hittite. Likewise other people mentioned above, in the context of Cuneiform tablets are not a figment of imagination. This much about Cuneiforms.

To state briefly Semitic/Proto-Canaanite, Phoenician, Greek, Roman/ Latin scripts etc all contributed to the development of the alphabets, much before the English language was standardised in Britain around the 15th Century AD. Students of English literature know that Canterbury Tales of Geoffrey Chaucer (1387-1400 AD) present some samples of what is called Middle English. Here I end the main body of my write-up: written words and the song of spades.

Few more interesting pieces of information, as dessert:

The story of the Flood given in the Old Testament/Bible, as well as holy Quran,(-account related to Prophet Noah a.s); is fairly known. The Epic Of Gilgamesh, mentioned in preceding paras (-that are the heroic sagas; given in Utnapishtum portion, is the story of The Great Flood) is another account of The Great Deluge.

Sanskrit, we know, is the lingua franca of many Indian languages. Brahmi was its ancient script & devanagari of later time; possibly dating back to 1500 BC, as per some researchers. It claims to have the richest literature in the world. Among the holy books of Hinduism, there exists one called Matsva-Purana, wherein Lord Vishnu (- who is said to have manifested in ten major forms/avatars) in one form, (-that is half fish, half human), informs Manu, about the coming flood, instructs him to construct a huge ark, to lodge living creatures, including seeds of plants, and at the end guides him to a rocky peak; thereby saving them for starting afresh. (Surprised?) It is said that Matsya-Purana, that is in Sanskrit, has many versions, including one in Tamil. Are these all different accounts of one universal deluge or multiple localised ones? Only time will tell after chronological issues are settled scientifically.

Now one more interesting similarity. As per Hinduism the first man(equivalent to Adam of OT) is called Manu and first Female Ananti. (Remember, the Sanskrit word for humankind is Maanav.)

Now the Parting Shot, dear readers: As per Hindu scholars, Sanskrit scriptures say 'three hundred sixty days make one solar year. One solar year is equal to one Divine Day (sounds familiar?) and one Maha-yug is equal to 12,000 Divine Years'. Adieu, till we meet again.

ologists. Cuneiform kept evolving with time at different places. They are named as Summerian-Cuneiform (2600 BC); Babylonian-Cuneiform; Elamite-Cuneiform (-Persian Cuneiform; believed to have developed independently) and Hittite- Cuneiform (-related to Akkadian logograms; read ahead, about this race) are the famous four Cuneiform types that are preserved in great numbers in reputed museums of the world. First three

tales to the realm of history but largely changed the very position that the Bible (Old Testament) occupied, as many questions arose about the Great Deluge & Laws of Moses (a.s) and also many other aspects of scriptures but laity remained untouched. People read with great interest books written by great American, English, French and German scholars after a century of digging in the Middle East, in Mesopotamia, Palestine and Egypt. Schools

ornate verse-form got preserved and subsequently the treasure house of literature on varied subjects, came to be amassed

 $The \ author \ is \ a \ Srinagar \ based$ Penman, Columnist & Poet, who has been contributing nonpolitical writeups to newspapers Samp; literary journals, from over two decades

Criterion of Success

Dr Ashraf Amin

an is born creative, ambitious, and progressive. He is dynamic and always aims at excelling. However at times he fails to grasp up with the true spirit of success and excellence. He is sometimes carried away by the opinions of others. His success is steered by the views of others. In short he is lost in mass consciousness. This stays true with our generation. Our youth have a great difficulty in defining success. They perceive money and prestige as the ultimate parameters of success. In fact the general psychology of society prompts them to see things through the lens of money, power and prestige. They would hardly think of contribution to social welfare as the primary goal of their career. As soon as they set out to achieve the goal of securing a lucrative job or making an enterprise of material fortunes, they would already surrender their creativity, wit and wisdom. Their efforts and aims are not self-driven but society driven. They have been made subservient to someone else's aspirations.

The contemporary mind-set that

pervades our society defines and measures success in terms of monetarygains. We would be often seen lauding an IAS officer or Doctor for that matter, but we would be miserly in acknowledging the contribution of an innovator or scientist or a social activist. Our general psychology does not allow us to produce social scientists, thinkers, reformers and philosophers. Money and matter seem the pivotal elements in taking up our career. And when success is measured in terms of money and prestige belittling other career options, society as a whole loses real assets of scholars, thinkers, innovators and social workers.

God has favored every single being with a unique trait that makes him distinct from the rest of his fellow beings. That characteristic trait is manifested in the profession one takes up, when one listens to his heart and soul. The society flourishes only when there is a wholesome development in its all domains. The teachers, parents imposing career choices on their students and wards beyond their capacities or tastes is not only unethical but equally barbaric. They not only distort the personality of a student but also rob society off from his/her genuine



contribution. The harms induced by wrong choices in careers under the impression of general thinking are not only reflected in the split personality one attains as result but also in the form of suicides or drug addictions. A young man must ascertain that success is self-defined. Success is not measured through luxurious homes and large cars, huge office rooms and rocking chairs. Success is measured by the contribution one makes to the cause of humanity, to the cause of virtue and righteousness. The worst feeling that one gets even after getting a deluxe job is when he feels a misfit at his working place. He constantly curses his choice. He realizes that he was made for something else. Success is not pleasing the general psychology of the society. Success is reforming the thinking of society. Success is reminding the society what priorities to take up, what matters to solve first. Success is feeling good, proud at one's own place, in one's own profession. Success is satisfying one's own intellectual conscience.

The author is Assistant Professor; Department of Religious Studies, Central University of Kashmir

News

Deteriorating Conditions' Of Wetlands, Water bodies **NGT Issues Notice To Authorities Including JKPCC**

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal has issued notices to the authorities, including the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee, over the alleged deteriorating conditions of wetlands and water bodies.

The green tribunal was hearing a matter in which it had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a news report highlighting the "worsening condition" of wetlands and water bodies in the Union Territory.

The report said wetlands and water bodies in the Union Territory are in decline due to both natural and man-made causes such as rising temperatures, unchecked deposition of millions of tons of sediments annually, encroachment and waste discharge.

It also claimed pollution in water bodies such as Dal, Wular, Anchar and Manasbal lakes and wetlands, including Haigam Rakh in the Ihelum Valley, Hokersar near Srinagar and Shalbug in the central district of Ganderbal.

A bench of National Green Tribunal Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Expert Member A Senthil Vel said, "The news item reflects the need for effective management of wetlands and water bodies and swift and tangible



measures to ensure their sustainability."

It also raised a "substantial issue" related to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules and the Environment (Protection) Act.

In an order passed last week, the tribunal impleaded as parties several authorities, including member secretar-ies of the Jammu and Kashmir

Pollution Control Committee submitted by the Jammu and and the Central Pollution Control Board, the secretary of the Union Territory's Forest, Ecology and Environment department and the regional Freshkoori, officer of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and and Manasbal.

Climate Change. "Let notice be issued to the above respondent for filing their response at least one week before the next date of hearing (on May 22)," the tribunal said. It noted that a report was

Kashmir Pollution Control Committee regarding the monitoring of nine wetlands --Hokarsar, Mirgund, Manibugh, Chattlam. Kranchoo, Shallbugh, Hygam

The committee, however, did not "disclose the physicochemical and biological, including bacteriological, data in terms of numeric values which may be needed for proper assessment of water bodies", the tribunal noted.

Ashok Leyland Opens New Dealership In Srinagar

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

SRINAGAR | THURSDAY | 20.03.2024



Expands Footprint In UT Of J&K KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Ashok Leyland, the Indian flagship of the Hinduja Group and the country's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, inaugurated a new 3S (sales/service/spares) dealership, M/s Amco Automobiles at Sampora, Pantha Chowk in Srinagar (UT of Jammu & Kashmir). This state-of-theart dealership is strategically located at NH-44, connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari. With this facility, Ashok Leyland now has 12 touchpoints in the state.

The dealership is equipped with modern tools and equipment and service vans, and

will cater to medium and heavy vehicles in districts of Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam, Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Bandipur and Ganderbal. The 3S dealership

has 24x7 breakdown support and a comfortable driver lounge with night halt facility. Commenting on the dealer-ship launch, Ajay Arora (Head-Network) from Ashok Leyland, said, "Srinagar Valley is an important market for us. We have created a strong foothold in the region, and this new dealership will further bolster our presence in this geography. Our long-term partner Amco Automobiles, with this outlet will ensure we serve our customers in this region better. With a focus on enhancing both pre and post-sales experience,

we are dedicated to upholding our brand promise of 'Koi Manzil Door Nahin'."

Present at the inauguration, Abdulla Bacha, Director -AMCO Automobiles, said, "We are excited to further strengthen our partnership with Ashok Leyland and serve the increasing demands of customers in Srinagar. The new dealership showroom is tactically positioned in a prominent area, which will bolster the brand's presence in this region. We strive to give the best-in-class ownership experience to our customers, and we look forward to not only growing our customer base but also addressing their transportation needs comprehensively by delivering complete mobility solutions through this partnership."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Nauroz In Kashmir:

because they were not Arabic, this is a hyper religious attitude and it has very less to do with our faith.

Regarding the cultural landscape, Dr. Gulzar noted, "We need to understand that everything Arabic is not Islamic and everything non-Arabic is not anti-Islam.

After the advent of Islam, they continued their names and traditions because it is a civilization. The Arabization did not take place in Iran barring some instances where some Arabic words got infused in the Persian language.'

Quoting Hazrat Ali (a.s), Dr. Gulzar conveyed, "Imam in a letter to Maalike-Ashtar tells him if you go to Egypt, promote the cultural traditions and promote them provided it does not lead to infidelity." He underscored the compatibility of certain traditions with Islamic principles, stating, We go and see loved ones, visit the families of the deceased. These things do not go against our faith but are encouraged." Explaining the tradition of Nauroz in Kashmir, Dr. Gulzar explained the reason for Kashmiris celebrating Nauroz. "We have become Muslims by virtue of Iranians and not Arabs. He traced Kashmir's cultural roots to Persian lands, noting, Mir Syed Ali Hamdani and majority of people before and after him who visited Kashmir came from Iran bringing with them culture and traditions of that place. These traditions got infused in our society over a period of time" he said. However, Dr. Gulzar agreed the decline in Nauroz celebrations, stating that over the years the sheen around Nauroz has faded. Earlier, people would feast for weeks altogether now due to scarcity of time people celebrate it for a day or two. People need to come forward and preserve the legacy of our ancestors. Author and architect with deep interest in history Sameer Hamdani highlighted the significance of Nauroz while talking to Kashmir Observer. "After a prolonged winter, we have greenery coming back to the trees in the wake of spring, which signifies life coming back to earth. Historically, the festival has been celebrated for 3000 years. Expounding on its historical and cultural importance, Hamdani said that Islamic symbolism is primarily concerned with the notion that Imam Ali was crowned as the Caliph on this day. But primarily, this is a spring festival which marks the arrival of the Persian New Year. Delving into the context of Nauroz during the Muslim rule in India, Hamdani remarked, "During the Muslim rule in India, Nauroz was the most celebrated official calendar event. Under the Mughals, it held more significance than Eid. So, Nauroz as an event was celebrated across India during Muslim rule."

day in the Mughal Calendar. During that time, two major events would be celebrated: one was the birthday of the emperor and Nauroz was another.

Transitioning its relevance in contemporary times, Hamdani said that, "when we talk about ecology and sustainability of life on earth, Nauroz is a day which brings us into equilibrium with nature. It is a day which reminds us about the importance of Nature."

PM, LG, DGP

Mubarak!,"Office of J&K LG.

Director General of Police R.R. Swain has extended greetings to the people of Jammu Kashmir, particularly members of Shia community, families of Police Parivar and other security forces on the auspicious occasion of Nauroz.

In his message, the DGP has hoped elections, Shah said he believes the party will give its best performance to date in Uttar Pradesh and will get more seats than in the 2014 polls.

The minister also stated that India will defeat the 'parivaar-waad' parties. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is

the BJP government's promise to India that all Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis should be ruled under one law, Amit Shah stressed.

There will be no interference in religion and religious practices of these sects, but a common law will govern them, as had been decided by the makers of the Constitution, Shah pointed out. "This (UCC) has been the issue for the BJP (Jan Sangh) since 1950s. We truly believe there should be one law for all in a secular country like India." Shah saic

supply and rice, tourism is flourishing, theatres have opened after 30 years, this is all because of democracy."

About the dates for the assembly elections in Kashmir, Shah said as per the Supreme Court order, the electoral exercise should be conducted by September.

The five Lok Sabha constituencies going for polls are Udhampur, Baramulla, Srinagar, Anantnag and Jammu. Voting will take place in five phases on April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13 and May 20. Counting of votes will take place on June 4.

In the 2019 election, the NDA won 2 seats while Jammu Kashmir National Conference won 3 seats. Ladakh, which was part of J&K then, was won by the BIP.

The BIP has fielded Union minister)r litendra Singh and sitting MP lugal

Muzaffar Baig, former minister Haseeb Drabu, Javed Mustafa Mir, and Ashraf Mir. Moreover, some relatives of Mehbooba Mufti have also disassociated themselves from the party. Consequently, NC, aligned with the INDIA alliance, has unequivocally stated its reluctance to engage in any seat-sharing agreement with the PDP. Furthermore, former MLA Sheikh Jabbar and former Deputy CM Parvez Qadri have also parted ways with the

Sikhs In Kashmir

Gurdwara boarding house in Tral, both in South Kashmir.

"We seek government assistance and necessary permissions in the construction of Gurdwara Sahab at Gulmarg and Gurdwara boarding house Tral to facilitate pilgrims and

Tickets of accused and prosecutrix from Srinagar to Delhi were seized, the prosecution said.

The medical examination of the prosecutrix (girl) was conducted by a doctor who has reported that in the womb of the prosecutrix a fetus of about 10 weeks and 6 days is present.

Actually, the prosecution said, the accused used to go to her home and after taking benefit of the minority and immaturity of the victim, the kidnapper had established illegal terms with the girl.

Fresh WD

night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 4.0°C against

Providing insights into its prominence during the Mughal era, Hamdani elaborated that it was an important that Nauroz will bring happiness, prosperity and progress to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, families of martyrs and police personnel. The DGP said that the beginning of a new year brings with it a sense of fresh possibilities. It gives us a chance to renew our resolution of commitment to peace.

He has prayed for peace and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir.

National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah have extended warm greetings to people on the auspicious eve of Navroz e Aalam.

In their greetings message, Dr Farooq and Omar Abdullah highlighted the region's rich legacy and inheritance of brotherhood and amity. They expressed hope that the day will herald peace, prosperity and progress in J&K.

Meanwhile, NC General Secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, Additional General Secretary Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Treasurer Shammi Oberoi, PP Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, party leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi have also extended warm greetings go people on Navroz e Aalam.

Poll Notification

for the BJP while the DPAP has fielded GM Saroori.

Assembly Elections

Assembly polls in J&K were held in 2014. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) formed a coalition government with the BJP. But in 2018, the BJP pulled out of the alliance and the government collapsed. Following that, the Assembly was dissolved and the Governor's Rule came into place.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre abrogated Article 370 and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Slamming the opposition, the Union Home Minister, at the summit. also mentioned that those who have denied democracy and welfare to Kashmir for 75 years should be punished.

Talking about BJP's performance in the upcoming Lok Sabha 2024

The Union home minister explained that the BJP accepted the UCC as the "guiding principle", which BR Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Jawahar Lal Nehru and Rajendra Prasad too believed in. They decided that the UCC should be implemented in the country during the right time, and the BJP government in Uttarakhand did it.

When News18 told Shah that the DMK, which is part of the INDIA alliance, has said it will repeal the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and UCC when it will come to power, Shah quipped that "won't happen".

On Opposition parties' counter that the Muslims of India have the right to live as per the Sharia law, Shah said such practices have already been abandoned even by the Islamic countries. He said the Muslims of India have not been living under the Sharia law since 1937. "This is Congress' appeasement policy," he added.

"Pelting stones on rapists to death, chopping the hands off thieves, hanging anti-nationals, does the Opposition want this to happen?" Shah questioned.

'Punish Those

Kashmir should be brave. They should "punish" those who kept them deprived of democracy and constitutional rights for 75 years. "You can vote for whichever party you want, but these three parties (Congress, NC, PDP) should be taught a lesson," Shah said.

With five Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir going to polls from next month, Shah said, "I want to say to all the Muslim brothers and sisters of the Valley that if you want democracy to reach to the grassroots of Kashmir, then you must wipe out these three political parties."

On the grass-root development in Kashmir, Shah said, "Since Independence, the region has not witnessed the Panchayat election. For the first time, we appointed 30,000 Sarpanches and Panches. We formed Tehsils and Zila Parishads in Kashmir."

When asked about reforms in the region after the removal of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said, "Today, every Kashmiri gets an annual health insurance of Rs 5 lakh, water Kishore from Udhampur and Jammu

Parliamentary seats, respectively. **Centre Using**

not matter. The sooner they make

an announcement about it the better. We are ready for this test," he added. Abdullah was reacting to speculation that the DPAP of Ghulam Nabi Azad might tie up with the Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari.

35 Politicians Switch

leader Ghulam Nabi Azad severed ties with the Congress to form the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP).

The emergence of DPAP stirred significant commotion within the Congress, leading to the defection of several former ministers and MLAs to Azad's camp. However, some leaders who initially joined Azad eventually returned to the Congress fold. DPAP is currently exploring electoral prospects across various constituencies, including Jammu, Udhampur, and Anantnag-Rajouri. Additionally, the Apni Party is actively considering alliance possibilities in Kashmir. Advocate Ankush Sharma's Ekam Sanatan Dharma Dal, primarily active in the Jammu division, has also emerged as a noteworthy political entity

NC faced a setback in the Jammu division when its divisional president, Devendra Singh Rana, along with his supporters, joined the BJP in 2022. Notably, former minister Surjit Singh Salathia accompanied him, followed by former MLAs Kamal Arora and Premsagar Aziz defecting from the NC. Recently, after the hills were granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) reservation status, Dr. Shahnaz Ganai, an MLC from Poonch, formally joined the BJP. Additionally, former MLA Mushtaq Bukhari, Chaudhary Arshad, Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, Somnath Khajuria, among others, have joined the party.

In addition to Syed Altaf Bukhari, several other notable figures have severed ties with the PDP, including former minister Imran Raza Ansari, Basharat Bukhari, Abdul Rahim Rather, former Deputy Chief Minister

promote religious tourism," said the committee members while addressing a press conference.

Bihar Resident

police to lodged Paswan in Central Jail Srinagar to serve the sentence so imposed.

...the custody undergone by the convict (Paswan) during investigation and trial of the case shall be set off against the sentence of imprisonment so imposed upon the convict."

Earlier, AAP Farooq Ahmad Malik prayed for maximum punishment of life imprisonment to the convict keeping in view his "brutal act", arguing that the minor girl of less than 16 years was raped by convict, resulting into her pregnancy.

On the other hand, the defence counsel argued that Paswan is labourer by profession and was the sole bread earner for his family including his wife and three minor children and old aged mother.

Paswan, he said, has already serve detention of more than 7 years and now the sentence awarded to him is punishment to family members as there is no one who can maintain them and provide them the necessities of their life.

The police had filed the chargesheet against Paswan regarding kidnapping and rape of the minor girl (name withheld) in 2016.

According to prosecution, on 1 September 2016 a complainant was lodged with the police of Police Station Kralkhud to the effect by girl's father that in his house a person namely Santosh Kumar Paswan was doing mason work and after completing his work at his home, he often used to visit his house.

The complainant said his daughter (name with-held) was missing from her house and that he is having strong doubt that she has been enticed. During the course of search, the girl and kidnapper were found riding on a motorcycle near Humhama and going in suspicious condition towards Airport, the prosecution said. Subsequently, the prosecution said, they were apprehended and brought to Police post Humhama. The motorcycle, Air 3.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C above normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 1.9°C against 1.5°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.8°C against minus 1.0°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.5°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 14.6°C and it was below normal by 0.3°C for the winter capital of I&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 8.6°C, Batote 9.3°C and Bhaderwah 4.6°C, he said.

Jailed Er Rashid

party's spokesperson, said on Wednesday.

The party is hopeful that Rashid will be released from prison before the elections, he said.

"In case that does not happen, it has been decided that Rashid will contest the polls from jail. Our Constitution allows an accused person, who is not convicted, to contest elections from jail," Baba added.

Rashid was first elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly from Langate in 2008 and re-elected in 2014.

He contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Baramulla, finishing in third place.

CBI Files Chargesheet

country and got their arms licences illegally issued from district Kupwara without police verification as those personnel were neither residents of the state nor posted in the district.

The CBI alleged that illegal gratification per licence was sought and collected by the gun house dealers and middlemen.

"The illegal issuance of a large number of arms licences in a bordering district like Kupwara to ineligible persons is a matter of grave concern and poses a serious threat to law and order and public safety," the spokesperson said.

It is alleged that over 2.5 lakh such licences were issued based on forged documents.

STATE

Kargil observes strike amid rally for statehood, Sixth Schedule

Agencies

KARGIL: Shops and business establishments were closed as thousands of people marched on Wednesday in support of their demand for statehood and Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Separately, the hunger strike by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk in Leh to "remind" the BJP-led Centre of its promise to safeguard the Union Territory's fragile ecology and unique indigenous tribal culture entered its 15th day.

Responding to a call from the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), which announced a half-day strike and a protest rally in the town to express solidarity with Wangchuk, a large number of people took out a rally from Fatima Chowk to Hussaini Park via the main market and raised slogans demanding statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule.

All shops and business establishments remained closed while those taking part in the procession held up banners, some of which read "Ladakh demands statehood and Sixth Schedule" and "Save Ladakh, Save Democracy"

The Apex Body, Leh (ABL), and the KDA -- both separate groupings of various political, social and religious organisations representing the two districts -- are jointly spearheading the agitation for various demands.

The two groups have been demanding statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution over the past four years.

The provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, were abrogated on August 5, 2019, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into



Centre should heed demand for Ladakh: Tarigami

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Centre should pay heed to the demand for the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, CPI(M) leader Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami said on Wednesday.

"Today, there is a unified call for constitutional guarantees under the Sixth Schedule. We share a common history and concerns for Ladakh, resonating deeply with the aspirations of its people. It's imperative for the government of India to heed their voices and address their grievances promptly," Tarigami said in a statement. He said the people of

the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The KDA leadership ad-

dressed a huge gathering at Hussaini Park and urged the people to prepare for a long struggle following the failure

Jammu and Kashmir never desired for Ladakh to be separated from the erstwhile state. "Yet, it happened abruptly

against our wishes. While a faction of the society in Leh were demanding Union Territory status for Ladakh and celebrated it later, they now acknowledge the drawbacks and express a preference for constitutional guarantees for their empowerment," the CPI(M) leader added. Tarigami said the char-

ter of demands of the Apex Body, Leh (ABL), and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) include safeguards under the Sixth Schedule -- a constitutional provision safeguarding tribal culture as 90 per cent of the region's

of its talks with the Centre. They also announced the commencement of a hunger strike in Kargil from March 24. "We want resolution of our main demands through dialogue but the central govern-

population is tribal, and protection of rights of land and jobs.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir stand in solidarity with Ladakh, advocating for democratic rights and constitutional assurances. We urge the government of India to recognise that these artificial lines cannot divide us and the arbitrary divisions imposed on August 5, 2019, cannot fracture our unity," he added. The provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special sta-

tus to Jammu and Kashmir, were abrogated on August 5, 2019, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

ment closed the door of talks on March 4 by rejecting both our main demands -- statehood and (inclusion under) Sixth Schedule -- compelling the people to hit the roads,' Asgar Ali Karbalai, the KDA's

co-chairman, told reporters after the rally. He added the people of La-

dakh are determined to carry forward the struggle for their rights.

'We had several rounds of talks with the government of India but, unfortunately, they have been rude and gave cold-shoulder responses. They (government) believe that they will suppress the people of Ladakh with the might of their power but this is not going to happen as we will remain steadfast and raise the demands forcefully in the coming days," he said.

Karbalai said the KDA leadership is leaving for Leh on Thursday and will meet the ABL leadership to chalk out a joint strategy and roadmap to carry forward the agitation with more vigour.

"We are united and the people of Kargil will always remain in the forefront of the agitation," he said.

In Leh, Wangchuk said he is fine surviving on just water and salts.

"Along with me, 125 people slept hungry outdoors under clear skies (in minus 11 degrees Celsius). Let us understand that saving Ladakh's glaciers is not just a concern for the people of Ladakh alone,' he said in a post on X.

Wangchuk, through a video message, said the hunger strike is meant to remind the Centre of its promises to safeguard Ladakh's fragile ecology and its unique indigenous tribal culture.

We all know global warming melts these (Himalayan) glaciers but many of us don't know is that apart from global warming, which has to do with the lifestyle of the people in all the cities of the world, what affects the glaciers equally is the black carbon or soot that is released by local human activities," he said.

11th Standard Question Paper Distributed To 12th Class Students

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Srinagar | Thursday | 21-03-2024

Govt constitutes committee to probe the matter, JKBOSE postpone the exams

JKBOSE SHOCKER...

while.'

"We got the information of **SRINAGAR:** In a bizarre twist, the issue and we have decided the Jammu and Kashmir Board to reschedule the exams. New of School Education (JKBOSE) dates will be issued soon." the Wednesday distributed Physiofficial said. cal Education question papers Meanwhile, the school eduof 11th standard to 12th stancation department has constituted a committee to enquire

dard candidates. Hundreds of 12th standard candidates were left to lurch who had sleepless nights to prepare for the annual regular exams of physical education paper. The news agency spoke to some of exam in-charges and candidates appearing in the annual regular exams of 12th standard who expressed con-

Agencies

cern about the lackadaisical approach of board. One of the students said that the examination pattern of the physical education was entirely different as was shown and notified by the board. "Ironically, only two marks

were taken from the 12th standard syllabus. Rest the question paper of 12th standard was set from 11th standard syllabus," she said.

One of the exam in-charge said that students in the center were crying 'even a couple of students fainted'.

Officials of JKBOSE said, "We findings report to the adminhave postponed the exams and istrative within seven days," it will issue the notification in reads—(KNO)

Man Found Dead in Sopore

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 40-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in an orchard in Duroo village of Sopore in North Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday. Quoting an official, news

agency KNO reported that the

body has been recovered from the orchard and was subsequently taken to sub-district hospital Sopore.

about the distribution of wrong

School Education Department

Piyush Singla accordingly ac-

corded the constitution of the

committee, composed of Direc-

tors of School Education of both

Singla said that the investiga-

tion into the incident of wrong

distribution of 11th class ques-

tion paper to 12th class stu-

dents appeared in the Board ex-

amination on March-20-2024

by the Jammu and Kashmir

It also said that the commit-

tee shall look into circumstanc-

es of the cancellation of the

examination and the responsi-

bility shall be fixed on super-

visory and administrative level

any Chief Education Officer

and other officer and submit its

"The committee shall co-opt

for the negligence.

Board of School Education.

Jammu and Kashmir regions.

Secretary,

question paper.

Administrative

The cause of death is being ascertained and further investigations have been taken up, he said. The man has been identified as Mushtaq Ahmed Mir son of Ghulam Rasool Mir of Duroo.

Govt Appoints Adviser To Monitor Discrimination Against HIV Patients

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has appointed an ombudsman to whom people infected with HIV can complain about discrimination faced by them. The Health & Medical Education Department has appointed Sham Lal Lalhal, retired district and sessions judge, as ombudsman to address complaints of discrimination under the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act 2017.

or till he attains the age of 70, whichever is earlier.

The appointment has been made under the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act 2017. Under the law, every state and UT shall appoint an ombudsman, who is empowered to inquire into the complaints of discrimination against HIV infected persons and providing healthcare services to them. As per the Act, the ombudsman shall submit a report to the state/UT government every six months stating the number and nature of complaints received, the actions taken and orders passed. There is also a provision of penalty of Rs 10,000 if the ombudsman's order is not

Former Minister Lal Singh Rejoins Congress

2004 and 2009, switched from

the Congress to the BJP in 2014

and was also a minister in the

previous PDP-BJP government

in Jammu and Kashmir which

collapsed in June, 2018 after the

national party pulled out of the

Several months before the

fall of the government, Singh

resigned from the BIP and

floated the DSSP following up-

roar over his participation in a

rally in support of the accused

in the rape and murder of an

eight-year-old girl in Kathua in

January 2018. However, he de-

fended his participation in the

rally stating that he was there to

was arrested by the Enforce-

ment Directorate in connection

with a money laundering case

against an educational trust run

by his wife and former legisla-

tor Kanta Andotra. However,

he was released on bail three

On November 7 last year, he

"defuse the situation".

alliance.

Agencies

JAMMU: Congress workers on Wednesday celebrated the merger of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) led by former minister Choud



Contempt Petition

tive detention had taken place on merits and that too in

hary Lal Singh with their party here on Wednesday, expressing hope that his joining will boost the party's prospects in the Udhampur parliamentary constituency of Jammu and Kashmir.

The 65-year-old Singh, who hails from Kathua district, rejoined the Congress at its headquarters in Delhi amid speculations that he will be fielded against BJP minister Jitendra Singh from the Udhampur parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on April 19.

A group of Congress workers assembled at the Shaheedi Chowk party office here and chanted slogans to praise Singh's decision to rejoin the party.

"We welcome the merger of DSSP with Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. The return of Singh is a big boost for the party as he is a veteran leader with a clean image and secular outlook. He came forward voluntarily to support Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir," state Congress working president Raman Bhalla said.

Singh, who had won the Ud-

hampur parliamentary seat weeks after his arrest. twice on a Congress ticket in

The money laundering case stems from an October 2021 charge sheet filed by the CBI in this case which alleged criminal connivance in the issuance of land between January 4 and January 7, 2011, without mentioning details in respect of violation of the ceiling limit of 100 standard kanal imposed under Section 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, thereby giving undue pecuniary advantage to the trust.

Based on this, the trust acquired multiple pieces of land of about 329 kanal vide three gift deeds executed on January 5 and January 7, 2011, the CBI charge sheet claimed.

Union minister Jitendra Singh retained the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in 2019 by defeating Congress candidate Vikramaditya Singh, the grandson of erstwhile Maharaja Hari Singh, by a margin of 3,53,272 votes. Lal Singh only got 19,049 votes.

SRINAGAR: The High Court of the court said. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, at Srinagar, has directed the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) and Deputy Commissioner (DC)

HC Orders Appearance of

DC, SSP Baramulla Over

of Baramulla to appear in person before the court on March, 25, 2024 along with the production of the detainee before it. According to Srinagar based

Agencies

news gathering agency, a Contempt petition was filed by the mother of detune, who is the resident of Baramulla district, through his counsel Advocate Rafiq Bhat, in the backdrop of the fact that the former was in preventive detention custody vide an Order No. 19/DMB/PSA/2023 dated 20.03.2024 passed by the District Magistrate, Baramulla.

A single bench of Justice Rahul Bharti, while hearing the contempt petition, said that the said preventive detention order came to be quashed by the High Court in terms of a judgment dated 30.12.2023, with a direction to the respondents to release the detenue forthwith, provided he is not required in any other case at the time of the quashment of the order.

"The quashment of the preven-

of counsel for the respondents,"

"The mother of the petitioner waited for more than two months with regard to release of her son out of the preventive dentition custody but has not taken place, which has compelled her to approach this Court again complaining of non-compliance of the writ court's writ direction issued on 30.12.2023."

"It is being stated that the petitioner is languishing in jail outside UT of J&K and is in a jail in UP. This is a serious matter which calls for due indulgence of this Court on urgent note. Accordingly, this Court directs the personal appearance of the Deputy Commissioner (District Magistrate Baramulla and Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla along-with production of a person of Mubeen Rasool Shenwari before this Court on 25.03.2024," the court further said.

"A copy of this order be sent to Deputy Commissioner (District Magistrate Baramulla and Senior Superintendent of Police through Registrar Judicial, Srinagar of this Court for notice and compliance," the court added. (KDC)

According to a notification issued by the department, a copy of which is in possession of news agency, Sham Lal Lahal has been appointed as ombdusman for a period of three years complied with–(KNO)

Pulwama Villagers Demand Fire Service Station



Agencies

PULWAMA: The residents of Rohmoo area in Rajpora hamlet of South Kashmir's Pulwama district here have demanded a fire service station in their locality.

The residents of the area told the news agency that there are around 20-25 villages around Rohmoo, having a population in thousands but the area is yet to get a basic facility of fire service station.

The residents said that the nearest fire station for them is at Pulwama, which is around 10 KM from the town and at the time of any fire incident, they have to wait for hours for the fire tenders to reach the spot.

"By the time the fire service vehicle reaches Rohmoo and its adjacent areas, property worth lakhs gets damaged as it takes around one hour for fire tenders to reach the spot," Qayoom Khan, a local social activist said. He said that the people of Rohmoo had approached successive governments for setting up a fire service station at

Rohmoo, but to no avail. Mudasir Ahmad, another local resident said that fire incidents are increasing and there is a dire need for a fire service station in the area that will cater to around one dozen adjacent villages.

He said locals have been continuously raising this issue at every platform but there is no positive response from the government as of now, adding that hundreds of villages are dependent on fire service station Pulwama and it is not possible for them to cater hundreds of villages at some time fire incidents can take place at multiple locations simultaneously.

Manasbal Lake Echoes Voter Awareness Slogans



KO NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: An awareness program under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative reverberated across Manasbal Lake, Ganderbal, as boatmen and locals gathered to participate in the event.

The collaborative effort between the Nodal Officer SVEEP Ganderbal, the Chief Executive Officer of Manasbal Development Authority and the Block Development Officer Safapora aimed to educate the boatmen community about their voting message of voter awareness rights and the importance of active participation in the electoral process.

With a significant turnout of Boatmen with their beautiful Shikaras placed meticulously on the crystal clear waters of the Lake, the program made strides in raising awareness about voter registration, voting procedures, and the significance of exercising their franchise.

District Level Master Trainers played a pivotal role in delivering informative sessions and engaging discussions, ensuring that the

resonated effectively with the boatmen community.

Despite the logistical challenges inherent in reaching out to a community with specific occupations and schedules, the program succeeded in making a meaningful impact in instilling voter awareness among the boatmen of Manasbal Ganderbal.

This concerted effort underscores the commitment of local authorities to promote democratic participation and civic engagement across diverse segments of society.

SPORTS

T20I Rankings: SKY No. 1 In Batting List, Rashid Back Among Top-10 Bowlers

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Suryakumar Yadav maintained his numero uno position among batters despite being out of competitive cricket for the past three months while ace spinner Rashid Khan, back in Afghan jersey after an injury lay-off, is back among top-10 in bowlers' list in the latest ICC T20I rankings published on Wednesday.

Surya, who will make a comeback for Mumbai Indians in the upcoming IPL, is way ahead of the pack with 861 points under his belt. Phil Salt is a distant number two with 802 points. Surya hadn't played any cricket since December, having undergone sports hernia surgery.

Afghanistan spin wizard Rashid re-entered the elite list of the ICC men's T20I bowler rankings following his contribution in team's 2-1 series victory over Ireland.

The 25-year-old spinner re-



turned from injury in style. claiming eight wickets and his exploits saw him jump four places to ninth in the latest ranking

The Afghanistan ace collected a series-high eight wickets over the three matches at an average of 5.62 in what was his first series since he injured his back

during last year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. No.1 ranking for T20I bowlers at the start of 2018 and has

top of the rankings for T20I allrounders, with Ireland's Gareth Delany (up four places to 18th) Rashid, who first held the the biggest mover in this category following his 76 runs and a wicket against Afghanistan.

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Cricket remains in-MS Dhoni, says his former India teammate Zaheer Khan of the man with a penchant for catching

"Dhoni understood a long time ago that he is passionate about cricket and it is an integral part of his life. But it couldn't be everything," Zaheer said in an episode dedicated to him on JioCinema.

Besides his World Cup triedition in 2008.

playing, switching off (from the game) is very important. Cricket is not everything. Every cricketer has to face this eventually." "When you step away from the game, you may not have a lot of options. We've seen many athletes struggle after retiring because they gave everything to the game, and when they left it, they didn't know what to do.



Kashmir Skier Raja Khan **Clinches 3rd Spot In International Event**

Mehraj-ud-Din Khan, also known as Raja Khan, of Alpine Snowboard Team India has created history by winning the first international competition

medal. He secured a third place finish in the ongoing FIS VIA Stars Cup 2024, Giant Slalom, in Kopaonik, Serbia.

Sports Council said in a statement.



"This is a great achievement for Ski & Snowboard India administered by IOA AdHoc Committee," the J&K

De Villiers Expects Kohli To Be At His Usual Best In IPL 2024

C outh Africa great AB de Villiers has backed his former Royal Challengers Bengaluru teammate Virat Kohli to be at his usual best in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League, starting in Chennai on Friday.

"Stalwart, King Kohli, over 7000 runs, over 200 IPL matches -- but that's simply incredible. That's like a career in itself.

'Virat will be back. We've missed him dearly and absolutely cannot wait to watch the best of him this coming season," de Villiers said on his YouTube channel.

Mumbai Indians Replace Dilshan Madushanka With Kwena Maphaka

umbai Indians on Wednesday named uncapped N South African medium-pacer Kwena Maphaka as injured Sri Lankan pacer Dilshan Madushanka's replacement for the upcoming IPL season.

The 23-year-old Lankan pacer suffered a hamstring injury in the just-concluded ODI series in Bangladesh, which the visitors lost 1-2.

The 17-year-old Maphaka came into the limelight after being adjudged the Player of the Tournament during the U19 World Cup at home this year, scalping 21 wickets at an average of 9.71.

IPL 2024: Gujarat Titans Announce Mohammed Shami Replacement

🜈 ujarat Titans on Wednesday announced pacer Sand-Jeep Warrier as a replacement for Mohammed Shami ahead of the Indian Premier League season starting from Friday.

The BCCI earlier in March confirmed that star India pacer Mohammed Shami will miss the upcoming IPL with GT. In an official statement, BCCI stated that Shami is currently monitored by the BCCI medical team after going through surgery on his Achilles tendon in February.

Qualifier Against Afghanistan

India Eye 3 Points In FIFA WC

Press Trust of India

ABHA: Bolstered by the return of Jeakson Singh and Anwar Ali, the Indian football team will renew its quest for a maiden entry into the third round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers when it faces a weakened Afghanistan here on Thursday.

With mid-field general Jeakson and centre-back Anwar back in the line-up after long injury layoffs, because of which India suffered in recent past, the Blue Tigers will fancy their chances against the lower-ranked opponents in the preliminary second-round joint qualification match. With three points and one win from two matches, India currently occupy the second place in the Group A pecking order. Reigning Asian champions Qatar lead the standings with six points from two wins, while Kuwait are second with one win. Having lost both

their games so far, Afghanistan are placed last.

India's away win against Kuwait has put Igor Stimac's team in a strong position to progress further in the qualification cycle, something the 117-ranked side has never achieved.

Victories in their upcoming outings (away and home) against the 158-ranked Afghanistan will help India acquire nine points and with Qatar expected to win their two matches against next Kuwait, the Blue Tigers have a real chance of jumping to second place in the standings. India defeated Kuwait (1-0) in Kuwait City in their opening match of the qualifiers, before losing to Qatar (0-3) in Bhubaneswar.

The face-off continued in the World Cup Qualifiers, Asian Cup Qualifiers and other continental and invitational tournaments, with India having their nose ahead on most occasions. Nevertheless, the Afghans

have always been a difficult opposition to overcome, fighting till the final whistle. Nobody in this Indian squad can tell about Afghani-

stan better than the evergreen Sunil Chhetri, who is going strong at 39 and will be spearheading the visiting attack alongside Manvir Singh, who found the net in the team's win against Kuwait. Chhetri's record against the neighbours is quite impressive, scoring four goals n eight matches including a spectacular strike from a free ick in Kolkata in 2022. While Chhetri remains his biggest player, Stimac should be no less thrilled with the return of Jeakson and Anwar.

'MS Dhoni Understood **Cricket Is Important But** Not Everything To Him'

tegral but "not everything" for the world off-guard and an eagerness to explore various avenues.

At 42, the two-time World Cup winning captain Dhoni is gearing up to lead Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the upcoming IPL. The charismatic former India skipper had quit international cricket four years back.

umphs and India's march to the world number one position in Tests, Dhoni has led CSK to a joint-record five IPL titles, having taken on the top leadership role from the league's inaugural

Zaheer said.



In T20I batting rankings, Ban-

it couldn't be everything.

"He keeps doing things outside of the sport. For example, his interest in bikes. He's always researching them.'

Speaking about Dhoni, ex-India and CSK all-rounder Suresh Raina said he wants his former teammate to continue playing in IPL for another five years.

"The biggest question is who'll be their next captain? Even if Dhoni stepped away as captain, he'll be in the dugout whether it's as a mental toughness coach or just for his presence. But the question is

Since their first-ever meeting way back in 1949, India and Afghanistan have met regularly and the regional rivalry has not run its course even after the latter left SAFF in 2016.

"In this sense. Dhoni understood a long time ago that he is passionate about cricket and it is an integral part of his life. But

who is he going to nurture?

"This is a pivotal year for CSK. Who does MS have his eyes on? Ruturaj Gaikwad is a good option. This year is a very important year for CSK, more than for MS Dhoni.

"Because we'll see who he is going to select as his deputy and probably say, 'You handle this now, I've been looking after the team since 2008. You take care of the yellow, I will wear the jersey and sit in the dressing room'," Raina said.

Bayern Make Final Offer To Davies Amid Real Madrid Interest

Bayern Munich sports director Max Eberl says the club has made its final offer to Canada left-back Alphonso Davies to extend his contract amid reported interest from Real Madrid.

"I can say we made Alphonso a very concrete, appreciative offer," Eberl told the Sport Bild magazine on Wednesday. "At some point in life, you have to say yes or no."

Davies' contract with Bayern expires at the end of next season.

Russia Rages Against Olympic Chiefs, Accuses Them Of 'Neo-Nazism'

Agencies

MOSCOW: Russia launched a furious tirade at the International Olympic Committee on Wednesday, arguing the IOC's restrictions on Russian athletes and its criticism of the Moscow-organised Friendship Games amounted to "neo-Nazism".

The IOC on Tuesday both barred Russian athletes from taking part in the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics on July 26 and criticised the Kremlin for planning to hold its own "Friendship Games" to rival those held in the French capital.

"These decisions demonstrate how far the IOC has moved away from its stated principles and slipped into racism and neo-Nazism," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a briefing.

The IOC suspended Russia from the 2024 Games last year, but gave the green light for its athletes to compete as neutrals as long as they did not actively support the Kremlin's assault on Ukraine.

This neutral status forces Russian athletes to "renounce any



"We are outraged by the un-

conditions imposed by the Inter-

national Olympic Committee on

Russia's fury comes a day after

precedented

discriminatory

association with their homeland, with their citizenship, with their history, culture and people,' Zakharova argued.

"The IOC's decisions are wrong-Russian athletes. ful, unjust and unacceptable," she the IOC issued a strongly-worded said.

statement accusing the Kremlin of "politicising sport" by planning to hold its own Friendship Games. Announced several months ago, the first edition of the Summer Friendship Games is "planned to be held in Moscow and Yekaterinburg" next September, the IOC said, with the first winter edition to take place in 2026 in Sochi, the venue for the highly controversial 2014 Winter

Olympics. The IOC called on the sporting world and governments invited by Moscow "to reject any participation in and support of" the event, but stopped short of sanctioning those who take part.

The Kremlin warned the IOC against such sanctions on Wednesday.

"This is intimidation of the athletes. It completely undermines the credibility of the IOC," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Tensions between Moscow and the Olympic body had already been running high for years over a long-running doping scandal which saw Russians barred from competing under their own flag in the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Rape Victim's Lawyer Furious As Court Bails Dani Alves For 1M Euros

was sentenced on February

22 after being convicted of

raping a young woman at a

Barcelona nightclub in De-

His lawyers swiftly ap-

The victim, who testified

behind a screen to protect

her identity, said Alves had

violently forced her to have

sex in a private bathroom

pealed the conviction.

cember 2022.

Agencies

BARCELONA: Former Brazil international footballer Dani Alves is to be released from jail pending an appeal against his rape conviction in exchange for posting bail of one million euros (\$1.08 million), a Barcelona court said Wednesday.

The ruling came a day after his lawyer requested the 40-year-old's release on grounds he had already served a quarter of his four-and-a-half-year sentence in pre-trial detention following his arrest in January 2023.

In its ruling, the court granted him "provision-al release" in exchange for "the bail payment of 1,000,000 euros" also requiring he hand over his Spanish and Brazilian passports, remain in Spain and present himself to court "on a weekly basis". Public prosecutors had opposed his request, arguing he posed a high-flight risk.

One of the world's most of the nightclub despite decorated footballers who begging him to release her, played for Barcelona and causing her "anguish and Paris Saint-Germain, Alves terror", prosecutors said.

Alves' lawyers had argued the victim had been "glued" to the player while dancing at the nightclub, saying there was "sexual tension" between them.

But in its 61-page decision, the court said that did not mean "that she consented to anything that might have subsequently happened".

