TOMMROW



KASHMIR OBSERVER

Thursday 04 April 2024 | Srinagar | Vol: 27 | Issue: 81 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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Gangster, Police Officer Killed In **Kathua Shootout**

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A police sub-inspector and a wanted criminal were killed and a special police officer was injured in a gunfight on the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital premises in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, officials said on Wednesday.

Sharma (32), who was posted at the Ramgarh (Samba) police station, suffered head injuries during the encounter that broke out on Tuesday evening outside the main hospital building in Kathua and subsequently, succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital in Pathankot, the officials said, adding that Special Police Officer (SPO) Anil Kumar (40) also sustained



injuries in the incident.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of officials went after gangster Vasudev, a key accused in a murder case registered at the Ramgarh police station, leading to an exchange of fire near the GMC hospital around 10:30 pm on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said.

Vasudev was | More on P6

Every Drop Of Blood Will Be Avenged: LG

t Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said his administration is committed to create a "fear-free" Jammu and Kashmir as he paid tributes to police Sub-Inspector Deepak Sharma who died in an encounter with gangsters in Kathua district. A wanted gangster was also killed and a Special Police Officer (SPO) injured in the gunfight which took place late Tuesday night inside a hospital premises when police tried to arrest them. | More on P6

THE JAMMU POLICE HAS TAKEN ITS FIGHT against narcotics and gangsters to a new level in the recent past.... We will go at it hammer and tongs to finish the menace as attempts are being made to set up a Punjab-type criminal syndicate."

LG Calls For Improved Pilgrim Experience, **Green Initiatives At SMVDSB Meeting**

Asks Officials To Plan New Temples For Reasi District

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday emphasized for evolving a robust pilgrim-feedback mechanism, conventional and innovative means, for fostering continuous improvement in the services being provided by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB).

The LG chaired the 72nd Board Meeting of SMVDSB at Raj Bhawan.

The Board reviewed the progress of its various past decisions, progress of different developmental initiatives and held extensive deliberations on crucial aspects of pilgrim

facilitation, ratified and gave in-principle approvals to as many as 27 agenda items to augment pilgrim services and to ensure smooth functioning of the Board.

Early start of heli-service in the Jammu-Panchhi sector and Medical College of the Board at Kakryal, construction of different buildings in various Sectors aimed at augmenting capacities etc. were the major decisions taken at

The Board observed that direct helicopter service between Jammu Airport and Panchhi Helipad on the Shrine

the meeting.

track will not only bolster emergency response capabilities but also improve pilgrimage experience of devotees.

The LG, who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB, reviewed the progress of ongoing works and emphasized on timely completion of all projects for the ease of pilgrimage. The important projects in this regard were New Vaishnavi Bhawan at the shrine', 'Cottages (near Sports Stadium), Katra', 'Staff Quarters (G+2) at Banganga', 'Covered Holding Area at Adhkuwari', 'Yatri Facilitation Centre at Railway Station, Katra', | More on P6

Wet Spell Likely On April 5: MeT

Agencies

Srinagar: As a weak Western Disturbance (WD) affected Jammu & Kashmir, a few areas in the higher reaches including Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora received fresh snowfall while the rains lashed plains of the valley on Wednesday.

Srinagar also received rains in the later afternoon hours, bringing down the mercury here.

Against Tuesday's 21.4 degree Celsius, the maximum temperature in Srinagar settled at 17.1 degree Celsius on Wednesday, the officials in the Meteorological department (MeT) said.

The maximum temperature also plummeted in other places including Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Qazigund, Kokernag, Kupwara and other areas compared to yesterday. Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad | More on P6

Electricity Woes To Become Major Poll Plank For Parties In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, electricity has emerged as a crucial election issue and is set to become the major poll plank for the parties in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Despite ongoing efforts to bolster the power infrastructure, dissatisfaction simmers among over 20 lakh consumers, signaling widespread discontentment that political parties are poised to exploit in the upcoming elections.



The palpable frustration stems from the sluggish progress in rectifying the ailing electricity infrastructure, with rural areas bearing the brunt of dilapidated transformers,

poles, and wires. While urban regions witness a semblance of progress, rural locales grapple with prolonged power out-ages during peak seasons, ex-acerbating the daily struggles of residents.

Over the past decade, various initiatives under the Prime Minister's Development Program, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, and the Integrated Power Development Scheme have injected substantial funds into power infrastructure enhancements. | More on P6

J&K HC Freezes Draftsman Appointments

Orders Review of Qualification Rules

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday barred the government from carrying out any selection or appointment to the post of Draftsman until it frames rules regarding the same to settle the controversy surrounding it "once

and for all". "The official respondents No

1 & 2 (UT through Public Works R &B Department & Principal Secretary to government Jal

Shakti Department) are directed to constitute a team of experts for examining the minimum qualification prescribed for the post of draftsman in terms of Recruitment Rules of 1997, with respect to its term and field of diploma of the candidates, in its right perspective," a | More on P6

PDP, NC To Contest Against Each Other On 3 LS Seats

NC Left No Door Open For PDP: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The PDP and the National Conference -- the two INDIA bloc partners in Jammu and Kashmir -- will be taking on each other on the three Lok Sabha seats

Mufti-led Mehbooba National PDP accused Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah of leaving them "no option".

Abdullah, however, hit back saying the PDP was going back on the understanding reached between the constituents of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the District Development Council (DDC) elections in 2020. Mufti told reporters here that the NC has left

Dr Faroog

Won't

Contest

LS Polls



her party with no other option other than to contest the election on the three

Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir. "They (NC) have left no option for us other than to field candidates and contest the elections," Mufti said.

The party's parliamentary board would take a final call on the candidates,



While holding talks with the Congress on seat-sharing in J-K, the NC had made it clear that they will be contesting the three valley seats as they had won these in the 2019 Lok

Sabha elections. The NC left two seats in Jammu for the Congress as part of the INDIA bloc's seat-sharing agreement.

ational Conference president and sitting MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah would not contest the Lok

"He (Farooq Abdullah) has taken permission from (party's general secretary) (Ali Mohammad) Sagar and other

party members to not contest the polls this time because of his health," Omar Abdullah said. | More on P6

Sabha polls owing to his health, the party said on Wednesday. The announcement was made by his son

and NC vice president Omar Abdullah at a party function in Rawalpora on the outskirts of the city here.

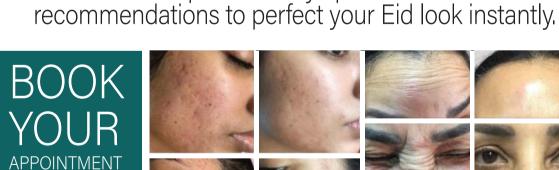
in Jammu and Kashmir was to remain united after the Centre revoked the erstwhile state's special status in August 2019. "Youth are in jails, we annot raise our voices

Mufti said the need of the hour for the political parties

even the family members of employees cannot say anything. There is an atmosphere of oppression here. So, in such an atmosphere, it is imperative for us to stand united," she said.

The former J-K chief minister, however, said the attitude of the NC leadership was disappointing and hurtful.

"When the INDI alliance's meeting took place in Mumbai, I said there that



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DENTAL & DERMA CENTRE





Contesting To Fight For J&K Statehood: Azad



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: DPAP founder Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said he has decided to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls to carry on his fight for the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir and for the protection of land and job rights of its

residents. Azad, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, will contest

the Lok Sabha polls from Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) announced on Tuesday. Azad left the Congress

in 2022, ending his fivedecade-long association with the party, and floated the DPAP. "There are specula-

tions that statehood will be restored in Jammu and Kashmir but on the pattern of Delhi and | More on P6

Triangular Fight In Offing In Udhampur



Union minister Jitendra Singh is seeking to retain the Udhampur seat for the third time while the Congress has pitted Choudhary Lal Singh, who is facing ED heat in a money laundering case. The entry of former min-

ister G M Saroori on the

ticket of his Democratic

Azad Party (DPAP) has

made it a three-cornered

candidates in the fray, the real fight is between the BJP candidate and his Congress rival. Jitendra Singh had re-

tained the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in 2019, 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. | More on P6

NC, Congress **Put Up United Face**

contest.

he National Conference and Congress party put up a united face on Wednesday for Udhampur Parliamentary constituency | More on P6 KINDLY VISIT US AT OUR CLINIC.

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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Thursday | 04-04-2024

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Chief Executive Officer PDA Pahalgam

Email: ceopdapahalgam@gmail.com Fax No: 01936243049

GIST OF FRESH E-BIDDING AUCTION NOTICE

E-bidding auction Notice No. 04/PDA/GeM/e-auction of 2024 Dated 02/04/2024

Pursuant to the decisions taken in the Provincial Level Outsourcing Committee held on 15-02-2024 and 01/04/2024, under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism Kashmir, For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, e-bidding notice through GeM (Government e- Market Place) Portal is hereby issued for out-sourcing of Operation & Management of various assets on license basis of Pahalgam Development Authority. The complete details of the assets to be out sourced, as per bedding event schedule mentioned in the Annexure A to this notice.

Terms and conditions:

1. The bidding document consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, rates terms and conditions etc. can be seen /downloaded from the GeM portal on gem.gov.in

2. The interested participants are required to register themselves in GeM forward e-auction as per process and guidelines provided in the GeM. In case of any queries related to registration and participation in bidding process, bidders may send the same by e-mail to helpdesk-gem@gov.in

3. Only registered and eligible bidders can participate in the e-bidding process and intending participants (bidders) shall finish the below mentioned documents through online mode on GEM Portal. However, the uploaded documents shall be 300 dpi or above and clearly readable. The un readable, ambiguous documents shall not be entertained. The bidders who fulfill the Prequalification/eligibility criteria shall only be eligible to participate in the e-bidding process and e-auction shall be finalized by the Competent Authority. The eligibility criteria / Pre-qualification of the bidders shall be as under:

i. The bidder shall furnish latest GST Clearance for the year 2023-24.

- ii. The bidder shall furnish Income Tax Return (UR) latest filled in 2023-24.
- iii. The bidder shall furnish valid PAN card.

iv. The bidder shall furnish valid A dhar Card.

v. The bidder shall upload bid-declaration certificate as per enclosed proforma B

4. The bidders shall be allowed to participate in e-bidding process through GeM portal only after uploading the required documents mentioned in above pre-qualification criteria and EMD in the shape of CDR/ FDR drawn from any recognized / nationalized Bank, pledged to Accounts Officer Pahalgam Development Authority, as shown against each asset in the Annexure "A"

5. The bidder who intentionally/unintentionally posts a financial bid which is absurdly/anomalously on a higher side and might hamper the bidding process, the same will be rejected and even the bidder can be debarred from further participation during the bidding without any bearing on the ongoing process to ensure smooth conduct of auction.

6. The Bids below the reserve bid amount shall not be entertained at all and the offered rates should be clearly mentioned in Indian Rupees. The offered bid amount shall be inclusive of all Taxes, duties, etc. complete.

Taxes, duties, etc. complete.
 The conditional and ambiguous bids shall not be entertained and shall be rejected out rightly.
 The bids / offers shall remain valid for 60 days from the last date of online submission of bids.

9. All bidders shall be personally responsible for correctness / genuineness of bids / documents submitted through GeM Portal. However, in case at any time it is found that the documents /' information submitted by any bidder are erroneous / incorrect or the information submitted is incorrect the necessary action against the defaulter shall be taken by the Department under rules and admissible penalty shall be imposed against him and shall render him disqualified.

The GeM / Pahalgam development Authority shall not be held responsible for consequential damages such as no internet connection, no power supply, system problems, power interruption etc,

11. The interested parties can inspect the sites (Assets) before participating in the e-bidding process to determine the conditions of the assets and the physical position of the assets shall stand on "As is where is, whatever is there" basis. As such, no addition, alteration rectification in the asset would be entertained by the Department during, after bidding process or dur-

ing the period of contract.

12. The period of out sourcing shall be 03 years, but keeping into consideration the investment to be made by the contractors for up gradation, operation and maintenance of the assets the allotments shall be extendable to further 02 years totaling 05 years only, subject to satisfactory management of the assets and handling of tourists by the allottee as per tourist trade Act and terms and conditions of the contract. The Annual bid for extended period i.e. 4th and 5th year shall be increased by compounded 10% per Annum as per the offered bid amount.

13. The HI successful bidder(s) shall be bound to maintain the payment schedule and shall deposit the offered bid amount as per following schedule to Pahalgam development Authority. In case of failure, the Pahalgam development authority shall be at liberty to make alternative arrangements to run the facility at the risk and cost of the defaulter bidder and his deposited sum / CDRs shall be forfeited.

Year	Total º/oage of of-	Time Line
	fered bid amount	
Starting year 2024-25	40% of the total	Within seven days after declaration
	offered bid	of successful HI bidder.
2nd year 2025-26	40% of the total	In the month of March 2025, before
	offered bid amount	
3rd year 2026-27	20% of the total	In the month of March 2026, before
	offered bid amount	

14. The Pahalgam Development Authority shall not be responsible for any kind of loss to the revenue sustained by the allottee due to hartals, blockade of roads or any natural disaster beyond the control of Pahalgam dev. Authority.

15. The allottee will be allowed to charge the parking, entry fee as per the approved rates / tariff schedule duly mentioned against each asset in the Anmexure A and the same shall remain valid during the period of contract. The allottee shall ensure displaying of approved rate list at ticket counters. Any violation to the approved rates shall invite termination of contract and forfeiture of CDR besides taking action as per law

16. For specially disabled persons/ Orphan schools' entry to all parks and parking places to be out sourced will be free on the production of authorization of Pahalgam development Authority.

17. The contractors shall deposit all applicable taxes, Electric fees, water fees, sanitation charges, watch and ward including maintenance and operation charges of the assets at his own in addition to his offered bid amount.

18. The Chief Executive Officer PDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof and in case of any dispute between PDA and the party (s) the decision of Director Tourism Kashmir shall be final and binding upon all.

19. The detailed terms, conditions, Rates, Specifications can be seen/downloaded on gem.gov.in on the schedule of dates mentioned in Annexure A.

Tariq Hussain (JKAS) Chief Executive Officer PDA Pahalgam

No: EE/PDA/ESTS/CEO/PDA/EST/25
DIPK-NB-16/24 Dated: 03-04-2024

Fresh E-bidding Auction Notice No. 04/PDA/GeM/e-auction of 2024 Dated 02/04/2024 Annexure A: Details of assets to be out sourced and e-auction event and schedule

E-BIDDING EVENT SCHEDULE

Events	Date & Time	Remarks
Pre- qualification submission start date	06/04/2024 (10:00 AM)	-
Pre-qualification submission end date	12/04/2024 (01:00 PM)	-
Pre-qualification Evaluation date	15/04/2024 (04:00 PM)	To be evaluated by the committee
EMD submission Start date	16/04/2024 (10:00 AM)	Pledged to Accounts Officer PDA Pahalgam
EMD submission End date	19/04/2024 (04:00 PM)	
Type of bidding	e-bidding forward type (unlimited)	

DETAILS OF ASSETS TO BE OUT SOURCED AND E-BID INCREMENT SCHEDULE

Item No	Name of the Asset	Minimum reserve bid for 03 year (Rs. in lacs)	EMD, CDR Amount	Particulars/ Approved Rates structure	e-bid increment schedule	
				No. 4 - 4	E-auction ID No:	11330
	Recreation			No tentage shall be allowed at site and shall be utilized	Bid extension time:	05 Minutes
	spot and Dua Park on Aru Road in Km 3 rd and 4 th		Rs. 50,000/=	for recreation / picnic spot purpose only. The	Bid Increment Price:	Rs. 5,000/-
01		5.00 lacs		contractor shall make the spot tourist attractive at his own as per instructions of PDA. The entry fee of the	Increment price during extension period:	Rs. 10,000/-
				park shall be as under:	Bidding Start Date:	20/04/2024 (10:00 AM)
	o una 4			Adult: Rs. 20/-	Bidding End Date:	22/04/2024 (12:00 Noon)
				Children below 12 Year: Rs. 10/=		
					E-auction ID No:	4432.4
				The allottee shall install an eco-friendly food point	Bid extension time:	1/ 33 9 05 Minutes
			Rs. 57,000/=	inside the park at his own and the facility shall be		
02	Aru valley	5.70 lacs		established strictly as per decision and instructions of	Bid Increment Price:	Rs. 5,000/-
02	Park	5.70 lacs		PDA. The entry fee of the park is as under: Adult: Rs. 20=	Increment price during extension period:	Rs. 10,000/-
				Children: Rs. 10/-	Bidding Start Date:	20/04/2024 (10:00 AM)
				Children below age of 12 years	Bidding End Date:	22/04/2024 (01:00 AM)
03	Serene Park, parking place near amusement park on Aru Road 13.50 lacs Rs. 1,35,000/= Rs. 1,	E-auction ID No: Bid extension time: Bid Increment Price: Increment price during extension period: Bidding Start Date: Bidding End Date:	//3 4/o 05 Minutes Rs. 5,000/- Rs. 10,000/- 20/04/2024 (10:00 AM) 22/04/2024 (02:00 AM)			
					Bid extension time:	05 Minutes
	Space for 02 shops at Beetab valley	30.00 lacs	Rs. 3,00,000=	The Department shall provide only existing space for 02 shops and the contractor has to arrange the installation of shops at his own as per the instructions,	Bid Increment Price:	Rs. 10.000/-
04					Increment price during extension period:	Rs. 20,000/-
	Doctar valley			guidelines of the Pahalgam Development Authority.	Bidding Start Date:	20/04/2024 (10:00 AM)
					Bidding End Date:	22/04/2024 (03:00 AM)
			Rs. 5,00,000/=		E-auction ID No:	1/343
				The parking fees per day shall be as under: Heavy vehicle: Rs. 100 per day Medium vehicle: Rs. 50 per day Light vehicle: Rs. 20 per day	Bid extension time:	05 Minutes
	Parking place				Bid Increment Price:	Rs. 10,000/-
05	near Petrol pump				Increment price during extension period:	Rs. 20,000/-
					Bidding Start Date:	20/04/2024 (10:00 AM)
					Didding Start Date.	1 20/04/2024 (10:00 AIVI)

Tariq Hussain (JKAS) Chief Executive Officer PDA Pahalgam

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Umer Akbar S/o Mohammad Akbar Bhat R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil pattan regarding obtaining RBA Certificate

Public Notice

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. In this matter report of patwari halqa wanigam bala records that the applicant is a permanent resident of said village and is residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 72000/-. Family details of the applicant are give beow.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
1-	Mohd Akbar Bhat	Ali Mohd Bhat	45	Labour
	Mehbooba Begum	W/o Mohd Akbar Bhat	40	Housewife
3	Asma Bano	D/o Mohd Akbar	21	Student
	Umer Akber	S/o Mohd Akber	19	
5	Feroz Ah Bhat	S/o Mohd Akber	17	

In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/ she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

Naib Tehsildar

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 Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Ridaan S/O Tahir Bashir Sofi R/O Noorbagh Ussan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 19/05/2020 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 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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 Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Waria Dilaver khan/Dilaver Ah khan R/o Palhallan Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 13/05/2020 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 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

از نیابت گوم احمد بوره
درخواست از جانب محمد بوسف شیخ ولد محمد جعفر شیخ ساکنه مالموه مخصیل پیش بار به وله بمراد حصول
دُّ تقد سر تُفکیٹ ۔
اشتہار بمراد آگا ہی خاص وعام
معاملہ مندرج عنوان الصدر کے نبست رپورٹ بنچایت سکٹری و نبر دارد ہید و چوکیدارعلاقہ و
آشامیڈم سے موصول ہوا ہے کہ محمد شیخ ولد محمد کریم شیخ مورخہ 2010 - 14-04 کو
فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان نے تاحال کوئی ڈیتھ سر تفکیٹ حاصل نہیں کی ہے اب

ا شامیڈم سے موصول ہوا ہے لہ جونہ سمر آن ولد حمد کریا تک مورخد 14-04-14 کو فوت ہوا ہے۔ اور متوفی کے وار ثان نے تا حال کوئی ڈیٹھ سر گفکیٹ حاصل نہیں کی ہےا ب متوفی کے وار ثان نے تا حال کوئی ڈیٹھ سر گفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کے خواہاں ہے۔
اس بارے میں بذر یعیا خبار اشتہار مشتحر کیا جا تا ہے اگر کسی خض کوکوئی اعتر اض نبیت اجراء سر گفکیٹ ہوتو و فتر ھلڈ میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزر نے میعاد کوئی عذریا اعتر اض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(ایک تحصیلدار)

از نیابت تله گام درخواست منجانب عبیدالله کمار و چنیدا حمد کمار پسران غلام حسن کمارسا کنان وازیگام بالا تخصیل پین بغرض حصول RBA سرٹھیکیٹ اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔

معاملہ مندر دعی خوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA مرفئے یہ فتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کا روائی ہے۔اس بارے میں پچھلے پندرہ 15 رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائلہ موضع وانیگام بالامیں پچھلے پندرہ 15 سالوں سے زائد عرصے سے اپنے والد کے ساتھ رہائش پذیر ہے۔اور سائلہ اور سائلہ کے والدنے تا حال دھ ھذا سے ترک سکونت اختیار خبیس کی ۔سائلہ کا کنبہ در جہذیل افراد رشتم ل ہے

پر سی ہے نمبر شار نام معدو ولدیت عمر پیشہ ۱۔ غلام حسن کمار ولد غلام حسن کمار 50 سال گھر بلوکام ۳۔ فریدہ بیگم زوجہ غلام حسن کمار 80 سال گھر بلوکام ۳۔ عبنداحہ کمار 25 زرتعلیم ۵۔ عبیداللہ کمار ولد غلام حسن 19 ۔۔ ۲۔ بی بی جلیمہ زوجہ غلام رسول کمار 75 عمر رسیدہ اس طور پرسائل کا کہنہ 30 فراد پر ششتل ہے سائلہ کے کنبہ کے مہوار آمد نی اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندرد وران وفتر کی اوقات میں اپنااعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیاد اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندرد وران وفتر کی اوقات میں اپنااعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیاد

fko

نائب تخصيلدار.

Kashmiri Pandit Leads 'Street Iftar' In Srinagar's **Down-Town**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a heartwarming display of communal harmony, Kashmiri Pandits organized a Street Iftar in the historic neighborhood of Bohri Kadal in Downtown Srinagar.

Despite the bustling streets and wet weather conditions, the distribution of Iftaar Kits aimed to foster unity and understanding among people of different backgrounds.

The distribution of Iftar Kits was led by Sandeep Mawa, a Kashmiri Pandit and a respected figure in the community. Mawa is the Chairman of the Jammu and Kash-

mir Reconciliation Front. Speaking about the kit distribution, Sandeep expressed his joy at seeing people from all walks of life gathering to share a meal and

exchange warm greetings.

He emphasized the need for such initiatives to continue bridging divides and promoting peace in the region. Moreover, a local, Sahil, shared his thoughts on the event, saying, "This Street Iftar is a beautiful gesture that brings our community closer together. It shows that regardless of our backgrounds, we can come together in the spirit of compassion and broth-

Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr

Traffic Police Announces Route Arrangements For Devotees

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the auspicious occasions of Jumatul-Vida and Shab-e-Qadr approaching, devotees are gearing up to converge at Asaari Sharief Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar.

In anticipation of the large gathering of worshippers, the Traffic Police have meticulously devised elaborate traffic arrangements to ensure the smooth flow of traffic and the convenience of all devotees.

The Traffic Police Srinagar City announced that on April 5, 2024, Friday,

devotees from various districts of the Kashmir Valley will visit the Hazratbal shrine. The Traffic Police have outlined designated routes to guide the pilgrims on their journey of faith.

Devotees travelling from North Kashmir will take the designated route through Shalteng, Parimpora, Qamarwari, Cement Bridge, Noorbagh, Sekidafar, Eidgah, Alimasjid, Sazgaripora, Hawal, Alamgari Bazar, Mill Stop, Molvi Stop, Botshah Mohallah, and culminate at the University Parking on the Saderbal side.

NOTICE I Syed Wajahat Amin Shah here

by confirm that my PNB MetLife Policy under Policy No. 25341553 has wrongly been issued by the name of Syed Wajahat Hussain. Now I want to change the said Policy name from Syed Wajahat Hussain to Syed Wajahat Amin Shah. Regarding this if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned Office Within Seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system						
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-						
S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date		
01	01245003	DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION	01 SET	29-04-24		
02	16244269	SPIN -ON FUEL FILTER,	3615 NOS	02-05-04		
03	07234075	FORGED STEEL WHEEL	637 NOS	03-06-04		
Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. 01/2024-25 Date: - 03.04.2024 990/2024						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NORTHERN RAILWAY Topic Apail 5, **E-TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-39-23-24 Closing Date/Time: 26-04-2024/15:00 Date:- 02/04/2024. Sr.DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-39-23-24 Closing Date/Time 26-04-2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money <u>only through only payment modes available</u> on IREPS portal LIKE net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. NIT HEADER

Contract Type		Works			
Name of Work	Comprehensive / william Maintenance Contract				
Tender Closing Date Time		26/04/2024 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	02/04/202	24 15:26
Advertised Value Rs.		15676871.04	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	12/04/202	24
Earnest Money (Rs.)		228400.00	Period of Completion	36 Month	
	SE	RVING CUSTO	MERS WITH A SI	MILE	981//2024

Public Notice

We the undersigned want to register a travel agency under name and style Heaven Tour and Travel. If anybody has any objection please he/she may contact Directorate of Tourism Kashmir in 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. 1.) Umar Iqbal Sheikh

R/O Saimoh Tral District Pulwama

2.) Yasir Ahmad Dar R/O Pinglish Real District Pulwama rm





Div Com Reviews Eid ul Fitr, Baisakhi, Navratra Arrangements

Visits Dargah Hazratbal, Imambara Zadibal & Jamia Masjid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and officers of various departments to review the arrangements for the celebration of upcoming religious festivals by different communities including Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus.

The Div Com reviewed comprehensive arrangements for the observance of Shab-e-Qadr, Friday following and the celebration of Eid ul Fitr, Baisakhi and Navratra in the valley.

Addressing the meeting, Bidhuri enjoined on all the officers to ensure availability of all requisite services and facilities to the people including electricity, drinking water, sanitation, cleanliness, food items and other essentials.

He also directed for making adequate arrangements of traffic management for smooth movement of vehicles, availability of SRTC vehicles and parking space.

Further, he directed DCs to visit the prominent religious places of all the communities in their respective districts and ensure all the facilities to the devotees.

Earlier, Div Com Kashmir conducted an extensive visit of Dargah Hazrathal Shrine, Imambara Zadibal and Jamia Masjid

Nowhatta to take the stock of arrangements for the celebration of Eid ul Fitr and observance of Shab-I-Qadr and Friday following for the convenience of devotees.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi ud din; Director Health services Kashmir; SSP Traffic, Srinagar: Joint Commissioner SMC: CE, KPDCL; CE Srinagar Smart City Limited and other senior ofpartment for establishment of a health camp at the shrine with a dedicated medical team besides exhorted on SMC for conducting sanitation drives in the vicinity as well as in the premises of Harzatbal Shrine.

While visiting Imambara Zadibal, Div Com took the stock of arrangements and listened to the demands of locals there. On the occasion, Div Com directed shift-

Div Com directed concerned officers to make comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted electricity and water supply besides opening of newly constructed washrooms for public utility in view of religious festivals

ficers of line departments of Waqf Board, PHE and other concerned departments.

During his visit to Dargah, Div Com directed concerned officers to make comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted electricity and water supply besides opening of newly constructed washrooms for public utility in view of religious festivals.

He also directed the operation of water fountains in the premises of Shrine and grass cutting for the enhancing the landscape of parks. He instructed the Health De-

of delayed Birth

ing of street light poles to the periphery of premises for increasing the space, besides he also directed the concerned departments for addressing the issue of water supply.

He gave directions to the concerned officers for making elaborate arrangements regarding observance of religious occasions.

At Jamia Masjid, he interacted with the members of the community and listened to their issues. On the occasion he instructed all line departments to ensure all the services to the devotees and maintain liaison with the members of the local community.

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

CAPD: 18001807011

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

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 OAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 4:50 **ZUHR** 12:34 ASR 5:05 Magrib 6:56 ISHA 8:19

This Day In History

- 1944 Allied Bucharest bombings targeting railroads kills 5,000
- 1945 Hungary liberated from Nazi occupation (National Day)
- 1947 Convention on International Civil Aviation goes into effect
- 1947 Largest group of sunspots on record 1947 - UN's International Civil Aviation
- Organization forms 1949 - Israel & Jordan sign armistice agreement 1949 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- treaty signed in Washington DC 1960 - Senegal declares independence from France
- 1968 Apollo 6 launched atop Saturn V; unmanned
- 1968 US civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee

From KO Archives

Liquor cinema, major tourist attraction

'We Have To Change With Times': Faroog

Observer News Service

rinagar- A 3-day conference on domestic tourism held in SKICC which is being attended by over a hundred delegates from outside the state didn't augur well for hundreds of local delegates as they were put to abject humiliation by chief minister Farooq Abdullah. The stunned 300 locals related with tourism, travel and trade, who had been invited as "honorable guests" were reduced to plebeians, sordid and unworthy creatures who had no choice but to swallow the insult before the "foreign guests".

It so happened that Abdullah started his inaugural speech in a usual dramatic style of his own. Calling Kashmir "A paradise lost which is gradually coming back after that hell towards better days", he wanted how should the tourist trade pick up "in the changing situation" and turned towards media who according to him "blow things out". But fortunate for them he reserved his quota of grievances for them and, the instead took on the "petty local guests" to spill his venom. He advised them to change attitudes if they wanted

tourists to come. "Some of our people are not cordial" he pointed out and then selectively "abused" everyone, from a pony walla to taxi driver, Shikarawala, a tourist guide, travel agent, house boat owner and a hotelier

Pony wala he said starts his rate from Rs. 100 and ultimately comes down to Rs 25 for a ride. A house boat owner has all the praise for his house boat only and a trayel agent whisks a tourist away with all the false claims of providing him the best. "He ridiculed local shopkeepers also for their behaviour towards the tourists. "We never realized that our attitudes have destroyed our tourism", he told the gathering.

Farooq called upon tourism related people to infuse confidence among the tourists that they were safe in "our hands". "No advertising will carry the day but the word of mouth", he emphasised. Expecting to get incentives, the local delegates had to get an admonishing from the Chief Minister for "misuse of electricity and failure to reimburse the dues". "He asked them to pay the tariff as the state was under heavy debt and owes Rs.600 crores to NHPC on power charges. He said his government could no more buy fifty paisa, the current rates in Kashmir. "Government is not here to dish out things", he grumbled. He asked Shikarawalas, hoteliers and house boat owners to declare the coming tourist season as the "season of re-Chief Minister laid special stress on opening of wine

shops and cinemas to attract tourists and revive the tourism. He said that it was also necessary to meet the financial burden as "wine and cinema form the sources of revenue" Justifying this he said "India is a secular state. I have my religion, you have your own. I may not drink but I cannot ask others not to do the same. He said Kashmir can't remain a "liquor-free" state and at the same time attract tourists. They should have wine, they want Abdullah added.

On the financial plausibility of the wine, Farooq drew from latest change of policies by Haryana and Andhra Governments who he said had to withdraw ban on liquor under monitory compulsions. He also recalled his father Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's stand when he had object-

ed to ban on liquor in the state on the same logic "We have to change with times", Abdullah asserted adding, "wine shops and cinemas have to open for better revenue and comfort of tourists".

(Kashmir Observer, 04 April, 1998)

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

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 Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Haziq Ashraf S/o Mohd Ashraf Wani R/o yadipora palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 17/11/2021 occurred at SDH

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

Public Notice

I have lost the number plate of Auto bearing Regd No: JK22B -5099 while travelling from Shopian to Hirpora . Now I have appplied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Rashid Kumar S/o Habibullah Kumar R/o Heff Shirmal Shopian

Public Notice

I have changed my name from old name Mahbooba Sideeq to new Name Mehbooba Ayub in future I will be known as Mehbooba Ayub. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mehbooba Ayub W/o Mohammad Avub Mattoo R/o Shah Naqashband Colony Lane No 3

The Jammu and Kashmir **State Board Of School Education**

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/

Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file

pertaining to Birth of Zuha Mushtaq D/o Mushtaq Ahmad war

R/o Nowpora Kalan Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla

with verified date of event (birth) as 19/08/2020 occurred at

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

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Assistant Secretary

Certificates, KD.

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-Roll No: 342206

Class 10th Year & Session 2005 Annual Regular Registration: 04NKM316431 Name: Aabid Bashir Mir Father's Name: Bashir Ahmad Mir Mother's Name: Mehmooda Begum

Date of Birth:- 17-10-1988 Residenc:- Nishat Mohalla Bandipora

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 3010137 be treated as "CANCELLED") No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22 Dated 09-11-2022

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Thursday | 04-04-2024

NC, PDP Alliance **Unravels**

'ational Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah suggested on Tuesday that the People's Democratic Party (PDP) may not field candidates against his party in the Kashmir Valley. He referenced a recent rally of the INDIA bloc in Delhi, where Mufti shared the stage with NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, reaffirming PDP's commitment to the alliance. Abdullah urged the media to avoid fostering discord between the two parties. Abdullah emphasized that both the NC and PDP are integral components of the INDIA alliance. Criticizing the emergence of new alliances in Kashmir, Abdullah alleged that these parties are operating at the behest of the BJP and are poised to contest polls as its proxies in Jammu and Kashmir.

That said, the NC's decision to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections independently, reflects the fragility of alliances in the region. The INDIA bloc alliance, comprising the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and Congress, along with the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), are struggling to stick together.

The NC going solo in the elections is likely to exacerbate existing tensions within the coalitions - both INDIA Alliance and the PAGD. The PDP has expressed some discontent over the NC's decision. With each party eyeing its electoral interests, the possibility of fragmentation looms large, which could inadvertently play into the hands of opposing factions.

The INDIA bloc and the PAGD, both formed with intentions of advancing regional interests and restoring Jammu and Kashmir's special status, stand at a crossroads. The divergence in interests and ambitions among constituent members threatens to undermine the broader objectives of these alliances.

It is imperative for the leadership of both alliances to prioritize dialogue and consensus-building to overcome internal rifts and forge a united front. While individual party ambitions are important, they must not supersede the collective interests of the region. The stakes are too high for petty differences to derail the larger mission of securing a better future for Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, the specter of electoral defeat looms large if the INDIA alliance members in J&K choose to go their separate ways. For, this will once again split the mandate. At the larger national level too, the INDIA Alliance is not in good shape. Though the recent rally in New Delhi has put some wind beneath its sails, the alliance is far from stepping up to the plate. The fact remains that there is still no one in the opposition to match the overarching persona of the prime minister Narendra Modi. The fragmentation in the alliance's ranks in J&K, in a sense, symbolizes its plight at the national level. And it is time that J&K shows the way.



Back to Basics

Did you know?

PO (Initial Public Offering): An IPO is the process by which a private company becomes public by offering its stocks to the public for the first time. A company that goes through an IPO will subsequently have its shares traded on the open market.

Primary Market: This is where new securities are issued and sold for the first time. IPOs occur in this market. Investors buy directly from the issuing company

Secondary Market: After the securities are sold in the primary market, they trade on the secondary market, which is essentially the stock market where investors buy and sell from each other.

Why Shares Are Listed on a Stock Exchange:

- To give a company access to capital from a wider base of
- To provide liquidity, allowing investors to buy and sell shares
 - To give the company an opportunity to enhance its profile and credibility.

Shares in Islamic Countries:

Yes, shares are listed in Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the UAE. These countries have their own stock exchanges, such as the Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul), Bursa Malaysia, Indonesia Stock Exchange, and Dubai Financial Market.

Shariah-Compliant Shares in India:

- Shariah-compliant shares are those that comply with Islamic law. This generally means the companies do not deal in areas such as alcohol, gambling, pork-related products, interest-based financial services, etc.
- The number of Shariah-compliant shares in India can vary, and there are indices such as the S&P BSE Shariah index that track the performance of Shariah-compliant stocks.
- The exact number of Shariah-compliant shares in India would require current market analysis since the list can evolve with changing business practices and market dynamics.

Muslim Investment in Stock Market:

- Muslim investors are encouraged to invest in the stock market if the shares are Shariah-compliant, meaning these stocks comply with Islamic finance principles.
- They need to avoid companies that generate income from forbidden (haram) sources in Islam.
- Shariah-compliant investing involves a halal investment strategy, and many Islamic countries have frameworks and Shariah boards to evaluate which stocks meet these criteria. Investing in the stock market can help in wealth growth, saving

adhering to religious guidelines. Muslims should consider these criteria and consult with financial advisors familiar with Islamic finance to navigate the investment landscape according to their ethical, religious, and economic requirements.

The writer is entrepreneur partner, M I Securities, Sharekhan

for retirement, or achieving certain financial objectives while

Water Pollution

Doodh Ganga's Water Unfit for Consumption

Areas in Srinagar Uptown and Budgam get water unsuitable for drinking, as per a study. Administrative nonchalance continues

Even as huge funds have been provided to J&K under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the same are utilized only to procure water pipes as muddy water, dirty water mixed with fecal waste continues to be supplied to people in areas of Srinagar uptown



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

ne J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) recently submitted a detailed water analysis report of Doodh Ganga before the National Green Tribunal-NGT. The report has been prepared by scientists of the J&K Pollution Control Committee by analyzing water samples collected from Doodh Ganga last year at various sites. The lab reports, which are in possession of this author who is also the petitioner in this case, clearly reveal that water quality in Doodh Ganga is very dangerous and isn't even fit for bathing let alone drinking.

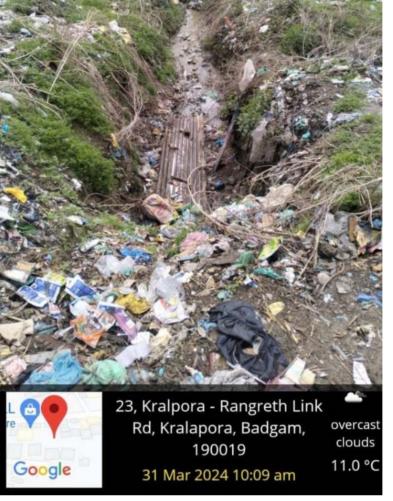
Ironically, the said water is supplied to more than 6 lakh people of Srinagar uptown areas.

The experts say that rise in gastrointestinal diseases and liver ailments is attributed to intake of unhygienic water supplied by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) also called department of Jal Shakti. Between February to July 2023 several tests have been done on water samples collected from Doodh Ganga at Nowhar, Sogam, Chadoora, Barzulla and Tengpora and the results are very scary.

In compliance to the NGTs order dated 30-05-2023 the then Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department took some initiatives but that only controlled the illegal riverbed mining in Doodh Ganga to some extent but failed to control water pollution. Despite the meeting convened by Principal Secretary HUDD J&K Govt on 15-06-2023 and 17-07-2023 wherein he directed all the stakeholders to take remedial measures vis-a-vis sewage, managing solid waste, legacy waste along with banks of Doodh Ganga and Mamath Kul, not much work was done by the respective Govt institutions.

Sanitation Drive on Doodh Ganga

The Municipal Committee Chadoora, Srinagar Municipal Corporation and District Administration Budgam undertook sanitation drives on the banks of Doodh Ganga between May 27th to June 1st week on different dates. The legacy waste was cleared near Kralpora bridge by SMC sanitation workers on the orders of the then Commissioner SMC Athar Amir Khan, but no followup work was taken up later on. One can see heaps of waste dumped



Open drain going into Doodh Ganga at Kralpora Srinagar just 100 meters away from Doodh Ganga Water Supply Plant. Photos by GPS.

there again and liquid waste continues to enter Doodh Ganga at Kralpora even near the area where-from water is pumped up to the filtration plant. This is quite dangerous.

MC Chadoora took up sanitation work in Chadoora town and other areas as well but the areas which are outside the municipal limits continue to be filled with trash and open drains enter Doodh Ganga from Branwar to Kralpora at least 50 to 60 places. For the last 9 months no regular sanitation drives to clear solid waste or legacy waste around the banks of Doodh Ganga banks is being taken up. Only in Chadoora town and SMC municipality jurisdiction the regular sanitation work is done, rest of the areas are choked with trash especially in the rural areas falling under blocks of Surasyar, Chadoora and BK Pora in district Budgam. Huge amount of solid waste has accumulated on the banks of Doodh Ganga at Borwah, Sogam, Hanjugund, Wathoora. Stadium Colony, Chinar Colony Wathoora, Kralpora, Mouchwa and other places. It is an irony that the liquid waste continues to enter Doodh Ganga at multiple locations from Brenwar Budgam to Tengpora Srinagar especially at Branwar, Surasyar, Nowhar, Dadompora, Borwah, Zuhama, Sogam, Chadoora town, Hanjigund, Wathoora, Kralpora, Mouchwa.

Unfortunately, the same contaminated water as explained above is lifted at Doodh Ganga water supply scheme Kralpora and supplied to more than 6 lakhs population of Srinagar District and some parts of Budgam as well.

PCC water analysis report

The Pollution Control Committee has submitted the water quality profile of Doodh Ganga before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) The water sampling of Doodh Ganga was done between January to July 2023 at multiple locations which clearly reveals that the water quality at Chadoora Town and at Tengpora Bridge Srinagar is not fit for bathing leave aside drinking this water? The same water is lifted at Kralpora Doodh Ganga Water Supply Scheme which is located 6 km Chadoora downstream and then supplied to 6 lakh population of Srinagar and Budgam after chlorination.

How can chlorination make this dirty water fit for consumption? The PCC's water analysis report says that water at Chadoora town and its downstream contains ammoniacal nitrogen, high concentrated sulphates plus calcium and magnesium.

The water quality report submitted by J&K Pollution Control Committee to NGT clearly indicates that primary water quality

> The lab reports, which are in possession of this author who is also the petitioner in this case, clearly reveal that water quality in Doodh Ganga is very dangerous and isn't even fit for bathing let alone for drinking

in Doodh Ganga is bad as per the criteria for bathing water which is published in the Gazette of India on September 25th vear 2000. As per the said criteria, the recommended fecal coliform count in bathing water is 500 colony-forming units (CFU) per milliliter, with a maximum permissible limit of 2500 CFU/ml. These limits are established to accommodate variations in environmental conditions, such as seasonal changes and fluctuations in flow conditions. However, for drinking purposes, the acceptable fecal coliform count is zero, as specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in IS 10500:2012 (PM/ 10500/ 1 October 2020).

It is worthwhile to mention that the fecal coliform counts at all sampling sites exceed the acceptable limits. Specifically the water quality at Chadoora exceeds the desirable limit for bathing water by nearly three times, indicating a significant level of contamination. Additionally, at Tengpora and Old Barzulla sites, the contamination levels are exceptionally high, being nearly 20000 CFU/ml.

Grave Health Implications

The health implications of such contamination are very serious and the officials at the helm of affairs should be taken to task. Even as huge funds have been provided to J&K under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the same are utilized only to procure water pipes as muddy water, dirty water mixed with fecal waste continues to be supplied to people in areas of Srinagar uptown like Hyderpora, Pirbagh, Humhama, Sanat Nagar, Rawalpora, Rangreth, Gogoland, Chanapora, Nowgam, Bagh-e-Mehtab and other places.

Water with fecal coliform levels as high as 20,000 CFU/ml poses a severe risk of waterborne diseases and infections to anyone who comes into contact with it. Consumption of contaminated water can lead to gastrointestinal illnesses, and potentially severe conditions in vulnerable populations. Although other parameters like DO, BOD, TDS may fall within the permissible BIS levels, the extremely high fecal coliform count alone deems the water unsuitable for consumption/bathing at all locations'.

Rs 35 Cr penalty on Govt

During several hearings and through written affidavits as well the Housing and Urban Development Department -HUDD J&K time National Green Tribunal-NGT that the sewage treatment plants-STPs would be setup on the banks of Doodh Ganga at different areas but that hasn't been done till date from 2022? The NGT imposed Rs 3 crore interim penalty on SMC, Directorate of ULB Kashmir and Mining Department in 2022. Then last year Rs 32 crore penalty was again imposed which is to be utilized for Doodh Ganga STPs but till date the STPs have not been set up anywhere.

Drainage of polluted water by SMC

In addition, more than half a dozen water pumping stations have been set up by Srinagar Municipal Corporation at Chanapora, Natipora, Pamposh Colony, Barzullah, Bulbul Bagh, Tengpora which flush out untreated sewage and other toxic liquid waste into Doodh Ganga. This matter has been brought into the notice of the NGT and Srinagar Municipal Corporation was penalized as well but till date these pump stations are constantly operating and causing environmental disaster which openly violates the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act 1974. It is worth mentioning that these pump stations were funded by World Bank for flood mitigation in Srinagar City and were supposed to drain out storm water but these were connected with sewer lines that openly violates the Water Act 1974.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Chairman and Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

Israeli Provocations & Iran's Options

Abbas Al Lawati

Nadeen Ebrahim, CNN

Seven Iranian officials including two elite military commanders were killed in an airstrike on an Iranian embassy complex in Damascus on Monday that was widely believed to be Israel's doing

be Israel's doing.

Experts say the attack is the biggest of its kind on Iranian targets since then-US President Donald Trump ordered the assassination of Qassem Soleimani, a top Iranian commander, in Baghdad in 2020. Iran may now be compelled to respond despite its unwillingness to enter war with Israel and the United States.

Israel has been attacking Iranian and Iranian-allied interests in Syria for years as part of its "campaign between wars" strategy to deter and destroy emerging threats to its security. And it has increased such attacks since October 7, when Iran-backed Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people and kidnapping 250, prompting a devastating Israeli war in Gaza.

But Monday's attack was a major escalation, experts say, as it targeted an embassy compound and killed a top commander in Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards (IRGC). Iran considers it an attack on its sovereignty territory as per international law.

Israel hasn't claimed responsibility for the attack but has argued that the target was a "military building of Quds forces" — a unit of the IRGC responsible for foreign operations. "This is no consulate, and this is no embassy," Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told CNN.

Retaliation in the form of a direct Iranian attack on Israel is unlikely as it would invite a reciprocal attack on Iranian soil, and could drag the United States into a regional war.

Here are Iran's options:

Target US interests

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held the US responsible for the attack.

The Swiss chargé d'affaires in Tehran, who represents US interests in the country, was summoned by Iran's foreign ministry early Tuesday and "an important message was relayed to the American administration as the Zionist regime's supporter," Amir-Abdollahian said on X. "The Unit-

ed States should be answerable."

"It appears that the Iranians are holding the US responsible for what Israel has done just as much as the US holds Iran responsible for what the Iraqi militias do," Trita Parsi, executive vice president at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft in Washington, DC, told CNN's Paula Newton.

Iran has already been engaged in a low-level proxy conflict with the US through allied militias in Syria, Iraq. But that conflict has de-escalated since the killing of three US servicemembers in Jordan in January. The US retaliated by carrying out dozens of strikes on at least seven locations across Iraq and Syria.

Parsi said that Iran's rhetoric since the embassy attack indicates that this "truce" with the US may be over. "That would mean that the Israeli attack on Iran has put a target on the backs of American troops in the Middle East," he said.

US forces in the region operate in close proximity to Iran-allied militias, but an attack on the US in retaliation to Israeli action would leave Israel unpunished and potentially bring Tehran and Washington into a direct confrontation, which analysts say neither has an appetite for.

The last time Iran conducted a direct attack on US interests was in 2020 when the Islamic Republic fired a barrage of ballistic missiles at a US base in Iraq in response to Soleimani's killing days earlier. The strike was the widest scale attack on a base housing US troops in decades.

Washington has, however, tried to distance itself from Monday's Israeli attack. A US National Security Council spokesperson told CNN on Tuesday that the Biden administration was not involved and had no advance knowledge of Monday's strike, and that the US has "communicated this directly to Iran."

Mobilize proxies against Israel

Iran's most capable proxy in fighting Israel is Lebanon's Hezbollah. The militia is said to have some 150,000 rockets and precision guided munitions in close proximity to Israel and has proven its ability to strike deep into Israeli territory.

But Israel has been preparing for war with Hezbollah for months, having evacuated more than 40 communities in its north. The two sides have been engag-



ing in skirmishes that have been confined to a few kilometers on each side of the border, although Israel last month struck as deep as 100 kilometers into Lebanon.

Hezbollah said Monday's strike will be met with "punishment and revenge," but experts have cast doubt on its appetite to enter a devastating war with Israel.

Iran could also mobilize other allied militias in the region, but their ability to cause harm to Israel is limited because of how far they are. Yemen's Houthis have already been disrupting Israeli and global trade through the Red Sea, and have made some failed attempts to launch missiles towards Israel. Iraqi militias, which are closer in proximity than the Houthis, have also made attempts, mostly futile, at hitting Israel.

Sanam Vakil, director of the Middle East and North Africa program at the Chatham House think tank in London, said Iran is likely to use its proxy forces along with diplomatic efforts to isolate Israel, but it isn't likely to escalate significantly.

"The Axis of Resistance can be activated," she said, referring to the network of pro-Iran militias in the region. They aren't likely to retaliate with massive attacks, but rather with a "cascade of responses," she told CNN.



Seven Iranian officials including two elite military commanders were killed in an airstrike on an Iranian embassy complex in Damascus on Monday that was widely believed to be Israel's doing.

Attack Israeli interests abroad

After past attacks on Iran, Israel has often anticipated Iranian retaliation on its interests in foreign countries, and beefed up security at its embassies.

Israel has in the past accused Iran of attempting to target its diplomatic missions abroad in retaliation to alleged Israeli killings of Iranian scientists and officials as well as attacks on its nuclear facilities. Iran has denied those charges.

In 1992, a bomb at the Israeli embassy in Argentina killed 29 people. Israel blamed it on Hezbollah and Iran. In 2012, Israeli diplomats were targeted in India, Georgia and Thailand, which Israel and others blamed on Iran, which it denied.

Jalal Rashidi Kochi, an Iranian member of parliament, suggested on X that Iran should retaliate by striking the Israeli embassy in Azerbaijan.

Vakil said that it is unlikely Iran would attack Israeli diplomatic missions abroad, adding that Tehran "likely doesn't want to lose whatever favor" it has garnered from this attack.

"Since October 7 there has

"Since October 7 there has been a lot of criticism that Iran has lost its deterrence capability," she said, adding that Tehran will try to show that it maintains that capability without provoking a larger war.

Take no direct military action Israel is believed to have in-

creased its targeting of Iranian officials since October 7. The reaction from Tehran has so far

been largely confined to fiery rhetoric, with few of its threats materializing into action.

Analysts say the Islamic Republic may be compelled to act this time given the escalatory nature of Monday's attack, but caution that Tehran may be falling into a trap. A wider war with Israel that involves Iran could draw in Western nations on Israel's side at a time when Israel is becoming increasingly isolated on the world stage due to its conduct in Gaza.

"Now the ball is in Iran's court," Vali Nasr, a Middle East academic and former adviser to the State Department, wrote on X. "Israel is provoking Iran into reaction. Likely Iran bides its time and not let the story on Israel change from Gaza to Syria and Iran."

Vakil of Chatham House said Iran is unlikely to respond with a direct military attack. Instead, it will likely "build on this momentum of international condemnation for the war in Gaza," stoke up international fears of a broader, regional war and isolate Israel further.

Knowing that the wider region, Israel and the US all want to avoid a larger war, Tehran will try to use these dynamics to buy itself some time and favor, she told CNN.

"I think Iran is going to play multiple cards simultaneously," she said, including cyberattacks, low-level military confrontations via proxies and diplomatic

Iran has already asked for an urgent UN Security Council meeting to "categorically denounce the violation of international regulations," according to the IRNA news agency.

The lack of direct military action however "creates the major risk for Iran that Israel will have the time and space to dismantle the Axis of Resistance fronts one by one (possibly with the direct support and even participation of the next US administration) once major operations in Gaza are complete," Farzan Sabet, a senior research associate at the Global Governance Centre in Switzerland, wrote on X. Such a change could seriously impact Iran's capabilities in the region.

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

Firdous Bahar

Tho would dare to comeup with a word of myriad positive significations, and to sway the kind of audience to whom even the prophets fail to move? Yes, it's the sheer negative idiosyncrasy that is looming large onto the art and foil of present literary canon known to the outside world as Kashmir; Cashmere– the refin'd, posh, and delicate one in every aspect, so does in the dimension of beaux arts as well. But from the past few years, the flux of wannabe-scribblers conclusion has contorted the linear-shape of its literary dome.

Dabblers writing in English, or some in their vernacular don't give a damn to look into the standard writing parameters, meters like editing, proof-reading, rechecking for typos and other such blunders to put straight before making the work of art public. Besides, the rush of self-publishing has totally camouflaged the entire scene, several of these impatient neophytes [so I would like to refer them here] are in the run trying to garner themselves a place in literary circles sans having the fiber to bake themselves in an oven of écriture that demands scarification of time and energy. That is to say, after quick-fame and prestige these novices do not give a whim to the protocols which needs to be followed in t'is sublime pursuit, neither do they hark to the bell of their conscience which keeps donging by reminding them what they are doing, is it really worthwhile to do so? Or, should they need to sell some more time, energy, and velocity at workshops; colleges, and universities to hone their writing-caliber in tune with t'is business' ethical codes and morals, so as to carve for themselves a niche in world literature

This syndrome is in vogue in general these days, save in some exceptional cases that are ma-

Facebook Literature And The Death Of Literary Sensibility genuinely to build t'is neat and in utmost unison with But, just remember, of t'is menace aesthetics of writing properly and Yet, another bug where the property and the

neuvering genuinely to build t'is vale some iota of reputation in the world academia today. Anyway, anyone who yearns to pursue writing as a career should nurture an ever burning flame within, a flame to read voraciously, burn his/'er mid-night oil to study queries different profusely, to develop a habit of empirical-research even in the field of social sciences and humanities, and above all, should listen to his/er inner voice which separates evil from good, further, shouldn't stop unless and until, one gets puff'd up with a true-lore, knack and craft of a good writer, hmm, there is a lot of discrepancy b'twixt to read and to study. For example, when one reads one gets merely the cognizance of cover info of a book, that is just the repetition of writer's lines, but when one commences to study, one delves into the unknown realms of writer's being, and that is where one starts to enjoy and to learn about different things, which lies beyond the compass of one's mental range. Yes, imagination starts to bounce in leaps and bounds, the mind initiates to touch the peripheries of extreme horizons.

Howbeit, a person who is going to write anything, or about something, should be a nitpick, should pay attention to details, a term 'caviler' would be appropriate rather, and above all, the person who is head over heels into writing [has to be indispensably so 'bout it, anyhow] should be his/'er own critic, ere someone else might fetch out his/'er asterisks into public eye. A good writer is always

neat and in utmost unison with his thought-process, and always does away from the hypocrisy, plagiarism, and abstruser-musings of any sort. The bugs which oft confound the readership in a subtle woolgathering which to a certain extent dwindles the power of curiosity of a reader to know what's actually there to know in a book. Presumably, a prospective penner should avoid the aid of baroque intricacy of idioms and phrases, clichéd terminology, age old jargons, and far-fetch'd similes and metaphors. Hitherto, I think, I have put too many imperatives and conditions for an amateur to acquire and to be the consummate master of escrita, [Portuguese word for Writing] thereof. Nevertheless, these stipulated prescriptions are yet to dominate the mise en scène of the current writing system which is gaining currency in Kashmir day in and day out, like the solfatara of ignorance in ancient Arabia ere the eminent splurging of the Clement One, over the one and sundry alike. Well, the different version of

the same ailment making itself visible before us is the production of Facebook-literature which at present is so immense and large that one finds it hard to promulgate even a single syllable valid in substance and structure onto the forefront of a literary platform before the mass proliferation of the junk literary corpus– sprouting in plethora on social media handles like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Goodreads, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube, just to name a few, and via the stunt of self-publishing.

we collectively shall be accountable for it and it will earn us a blemish spot up and down in the annals of history. Because, the current œuvre d'art is at large, stretching in furlongs from the domain of standard writing parameters, but seriously needs an overhaul by an alchemy of objet d'art of past architectonic pillars of linguists and litterateurs. Rather, an intervention from superior reformers is in regard to surfactant the genres; poetry, essays, short stories, sermons, discourses, narratives, translation works, fiction, non-fiction et cetera, to stop t'is culture of faux pas in literature from becoming a cult, else it would seriously get the second language acquirers or, rather aspirers of Saxon's tongue, into the rutting ground of castigation and humiliation in a long run, more especially in the langue and parole. Hence, shooting up contaminated literature for' flexing', without proper investigation and editing, publishing without penetrating scrutiny shall bore us negative outcomes in near future. We should cleanse t'is foul propriety from emerging writing of Kashmir, writing in secondlanguage or in the vernacular asap, also, we should learn to cordon off our sentences, words, letters, very closely ere making them public.

However, the production of junk-yard literature like effervescent micelles of soap and detergent, should be dissuaded at every way possible, unless and until, the subject doesn't meet all the angles of writing. So, that it follows all the

aesthetics of writing properly and should indispensably carry on its dos and do nots to further its optimum positive growth. Thus, the process might help to straighten the clenching of social sentences and poetic-passages with lexemes of ostentatiously major but evidently minor significations from becoming a craze. Hence, qué será será. I'm just a slave of my Lord, the master of my naïve narrative.

In addition to t'is, we desperately need to unfurl radical thoughts

ly need to unfurl radical thoughts in our writing, also, we should cling fast to our traditional values, anchor to our age-old prerogativethe resistance culture but unto time with discipline, and guard ourselves from an extravagant flattery of pseudo-nationalism. But opposite to that, we have dilettante[s] who seek 'bubblereputation' overnight, for a dozen Facebook-likes and comments [which to me is a mere buffoonery, indeed], are ready to festoon those rooks with garlands and myrtles. who strip them naked in a broad daylight.

A good writer needs appreciation and that we necessarily should do in order to recognise his/'er efforts behind his/'er workmanship, but we should not do unnecessarily so. Because, that would stunt the growth of imagination of our writers from becoming genuine tale-tellers of the nation. And our nation would become pregnant with a fabricated mass, a heap of junk- litterateurs, whose work will neither have any merit, afterwards, nor any value of

Yet, another bug which keeps bugging in the writing system of current aspiring writers today is that the language they employ in their writing is often grammatically contaminated. It's great to write in another language which one has mastered via learning, listening, reading, and writing itself, and yet it's not so easy to master it in a day or two. For every portion one needs to spare a great amount of his/er time to exercise on every single aspect to excel smoothly. Sometimes, it demands from us rugged labor in order to be the godfather of a single aspect of any subject.

Habits of a good writer and an eloquent speaker which I have conjectured so far; a person has to have an eclectica- a heterogeneous reading taste, with that he\she has to be a good listener to pioneer dexterously in these artistic forms. One has to have a nerve and a potential to bear with the prognostic advice of anyone, anyhow. A great speaker, it has been assumed, was a profound listener once. T'is thought often reminds me of a piece of advice of Polonius to his son Laertes in William Shakespeare's acclaimed play "Hamlet" before bidding him farewell to France: "Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice. Take every man's censure, but reserve thy judgment". Rather, it is quite easier to enunciate than to put all t'is counselling into practice. But one who does it, rocks it.

Yet, with an advancement of Al tools- ChatGPT, Caktus, Al Art, Chess, Go, and other such tools

other gigantic hindrance which needs to be addressed. Because, the generation of art and literature by Artificial Intelligence is in abundance these days. The machine generated output is in absolute vie with humans to surpass them in creativity and make them [us] mere bones and flesh, without a power to reason, a faculty to imagine and a capacity to create. These tools, if guaranteed full space might reduce men into nothingness, would be a major onslaught on human-intelligencia. Every human being sent on t'is planet does have a purpose to live. But that purpose one realises when one uses the faculty, Almighty has endowed us with; the senses, without which we are no different from animals. It is through t'is faculty called senses we become aware of ourselves, we set our goals, and realise our true potential that what are we capable of, and it has been proclaimed that one who has recognized oneself has rightly identified his creator. But, with the advancement of Artificial Intelligence, human imagination starts to shrink greatly. In a race to become savvy, technological-apparatuses have enlarged our miseries, encircled us like a crocodile does its prey in enchant-full tears. By and large, humans became imbecile, both physically and mentally. Here, we aren't ready to accept yet, because, we know if we're to challenge anything, we need to come out from the cocoon of our sloth and infirmity, that doesn't allow us to speak up against t'is turtle which races from times immemorial with steady steps to prevail onto us over and drape us once and for all. Nonetheless, now is the time we should yoke ourselves in togetherness, and fight with t'is beast of hypocrisy and let the natural order of the world prevail against t'is gag-order put by machines to hamper the progress of human-intelligencia.

which rendered writers, scholars, researchers, painters docile, is an-

Rigging 1987 J&K Assembly Polls

Sajad Lone Demands FIR Against Dr Farooq, Cong Leaders

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: People's Conference chief Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday said a case against National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and others for their role in the alleged rigging of the 1987 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls will be the biggest confidence-building measure towards Kashmiris.

"As far as 1987 is concerned,

I strongly believe that even today, the biggest CBM (confidence-building measure) towards Kashmiris will be an FIR in which Farooq sahib, Congress leaders and bureaucrats are named for rigging the election," Lone told reporters in north Kashmir's Kupwara

The separatist-turned-mainstream politician is contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha polls from the Baramulla constituency.

Lone said there has been no accountability for the election rigging in 1987, which he claimed was the trigger for the outbreak of violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

"One lakh people have died, thousands have been jailed. An army of orphans, an army of widows and there is no accountability? Were they not humans? Don't their lives matter?" he asked.

Lone said his father, Abdul Gani Lone, was a political person who gave up on electoral politics after the 1987 polls

"My father participated in elections till 1987 but not after that. That is why we do not use his photos in our campaign. We respect his stand," he said.

CS reviews performance of Cooperatives in J&K

Jammu: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday had a detailed review of performance of several Cooperatives including banks, societies, Super Bazars and other institutions working under the Department here in the UT.

Secretary Cooperatives, Registrar, Cooperatives, Additional Registrar, Cooperatives Kashmir/Jammu, Deputy Registrars and other officers of the department participated in the meeting while Srinagar based officers participated in person and virtually.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary enquired about the performance of Cooperative Banks,

Cooperative Super Bazars, Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) and other educational and training institutions working under the department.

The Chief Secretary asked about the improvement made in the working of the banks after previous capital infusion. He called for having a detailed examination of the exercise and coming up with concrete measures as envisaged under the plan. He also took note of the absence of CBS in certain bank branches of the

Regarding working of the PACS, the Chief Secretary suggested to explore the possibility of securing credit under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) of the Agriculture Production Department for long term sustainability of these societies. He called for carrying out a study to make these societies sustainable in long run as the PACS are the real strength of the Cooperative movement.

Dulloo also asked for running business of the Super Bazars on modern lines as there is high potential of making them profitable assets. He made out that in association with SHGs of JKRLM the diversity of products and GI tagged items can increase the sales of such Bazars.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Gangster, Police

killed in the encounter while one of his associates was injured, she added. Vasudev was the leader of the notorious Shunoo group, sources

A wreath-laying ceremony for SI Sharma, who hailed from Sangoor village in Udhampur district, was held at the District Police Lines in Samba. It was led by the DGP, Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Anand Jain and Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba Vinay Sharma.

The DGP pledged to go "hammer and tongs" against criminals, saying attempts are being made to set up a "Punjab-type" criminal syndicate in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Jammu police has taken its fight against narcotics and gangsters to a new level in the recent past.... We will go at it hammer and tongs to finish the menace as attempts are being made to set up a Punjab-type criminal syndicate," Swain told reporters in Samba.

He said Sharma's sacrifice will not go in vain and the force will intensify its drive against narcotics and gangsters.

"A strategy is being chalked out and we will get to its roots. They (criminals) are getting involved in land deals, narcotics and bovine smuggling to encash on the growing economic activities in the region where development has been taken to a different level with the setting up of industries, an AllMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) and educational institutions," the DGP said.

Describing Sharma's killing as unfortunate, the police chief said an operation was planned on getting specific information about the movements of Vasudev, who was on the police radar since a murder case was lodged around three months ago.

"We are not in a position to divulge further details of the incident as it will hamper our investigation. Our effort was to arrest the accused," he said, adding, "Police do not open fire on seeing a criminal and the surprise remains with the opponent. It was he who attacked first because we are bound by the laws of the land and they take advantage of it."

The DGP said criminals earlier avoided direct confrontations with security personnel. "The incident shows that they have become more daring and dangerous with weapons. Our meaningful and purposeful action against them will be stronger than earlier," he added.

Earlier in the day, as Sharma's body was brought to the District Police Lines in Samba, the DGP laid a wreath on the coffin.

The wreath-laying ceremony was attended by Sharma's parents and wife. The body was later taken to Sharma's home town for the last rites.

Every Drop

"I salute the valour and indomitable courage of SI Deepak Sharma, who made supreme sacrifice while valiantly fighting and neutralising a most wanted gangster in Kathua. His supreme sacrifice will remain etched in our hearts. Deepest condolences to the family of martyr Deepak Sharma," Sinha said in a press statement.

He said the nation stands in solidarity with his family and J-K Police, whose dedication, resilience and courage in battling a variety of challenges and adversaries continue to inspire

"Every drop of blood of our martyr will be avenged and we are committed to create a

fear-free J-K," he said. PTI **Electricity Woes**

Despite these investments totaling billions of rupees, a permanent solution to the persistent power cuts has remained elusive, leaving citizens disillusioned and agitated.

The recent rollout of the Revised Distribution Area Scheme (RDSS) aims to redress the existing infrastructural deficits, with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1600 crore earmarked to complete pending works in both urban and rural areas. While progress in urban centers nears completion, rural regions lag behind, with only 60 percent of the slated works accomplished thus far.

The power generation scenario in Jammu and Kashmir presents a paradoxical juxtaposition, with a total of 29 power plants generating 3550 MW of electricity. However, despite ample production capacity, inadequate infrastructure and transmission inefficiencies result in millions of units of electricity being squandered annually, exacerbating the prevailing crisis.

In rural areas, where power cuts are a recurrent phenomenon, the situation is dire, with loose wires and outdated infrastructure exacerbating the issue. Villagers endure prolonged outages, disrupting essential services like water supply and impeding daily activities. The installation of smart meters, while a step towards modernization, has failed to alleviate

the persistent woes faced by rural residents.

As the political landscape heats up in anticipation of the forthcoming elections, political parties are poised to capitalize on the electorate's disillusionment with successive governments' failure to address the longstanding power crisis. From the AAP to the BSP, voices of dissent resonate, with promises of advocacy for a permanent solution to the power woes that have plagued the region for over two decades.

With promises of imminent completion of infrastructure upgrades under the RDSS, political leaders seek to assuage public ire and garner electoral support. However, amidst the cacophony of campaign rhetoric, the electorate remains wary, skeptical of mere promises without tangible results—(KNO)

J&K HC Freezes

division bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi said while referring to sayings by Lord Denning that the Rule needs to be interpreted with its legal language and understanding of the intention of the Rule making authority.

"The committee to be constituted by respondent no. 1 & 2 are also directed to examine and clarify the intent of the Rule making authority in inclusion of three-year diploma holders for the 10% quota prescribed for the post of Junior Engineers Grade II as per Recruitment Rules of 1997."

The court also directed the Committee to submit its recommendations after obtaining consensus of the experts to the Government within a period of one month from the date of passing of this order. "The Government is directed to take a final decision in terms of Rule 13 of the Recruitment Rules of 1997 (Jammu and Kashmir Engineering Subordinate Service, Recruitment Rules,

1997), to settle the controversy once and for all, within a period of one month thereafter," the court said, adding, "However, it is made clear that till the final decision of the Government, in compliance to the observations made above is taken, no selection/appointment to the post of Draftsman shall be carried out by the respondents (authorities)."

The court passed the directions while "not interfering" with a judgment and order passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal on 30 June 2022, dismissing the plea against the selections made by the JKSSB following an advertisement notification (bearing No. 05 of 2020 dated 24th October, 2020), for filling up 34 posts of Draftsman (Civil), PWD (R&B) UT Cadre.

"Since it's an admitted fact that respondents have been appointed and are discharging their duties from last two years, against the post of Draftsman on the basis of minimum qualification interpreted by respondents as Two years draftsman certificate / two years diploma in draftsman from Government recognised Institute and two petitioners in the instant petition have also been selected on the basis of same minimum qualification," the court said, adding, "therefore, it will not be proper to quash the selection / appointment of the candidates for no fault on their part. To this extent we are not interfering with the impugned order."

In terms of the eligibility criterion, the candidate had to possess 2 years Draftsman Training Course Certificate and Diploma in Civil Engineering from Govt. recognized Institute. The advertisement was followed by a corrigendum dated 11 January 2021 whereby the eligibility criterion was modified and the word "Civil" appearing in the earlier eligibility criteria was removed.

"In the instant petition the question before us is the intent of Rule making authority and interpretation of the Rules which prescribes the qualification for the post of Draftsman as mentioned in the Jammu and Kashmir Engineering Subordinate Service Recruitment Rules, 1997," the court said.

It has been held that only a certificate and diploma of two years in draftsmanship are acceptable and no other diploma in any other discipline can be accepted for the post.

"The Tribunal has also relied upon the letters dated 22-03-2012 and 04-06-2012, which had categorically clarified that diploma in Civil Engineering, is not the prescribed qualification for the post of draftsman as per the Recruitment Rules issued vide SRO 180 of 1997 dated 26-05-1997."

LG Calls For

'New Yagyashala at Bhawan' etc.

The Board appreciated the facade lighting project initiated for enhancing the aesthetics/ambience at Bhawan, Adhkuwari and Darshani Deodi through a captivating visual spectacle and spiritual enlightenment.

Various new projects were also approved by the Board, which include 'Construction of Exit Track at Bhawan', 'Remodelling of Manokamna Area at Bhawan' and 'Covered Waiting Area at Darshani Deodi, Banganga'.

The Board appreciated the recent steps taken by the CEO towards development of different temples in and around Katra under its social support initiatives. The LG asked the CEO to broaden the ambit of this activity by including construction of new temples in district Reasi. He asked the CEO to come up with a comprehensive plan for consideration.

The Board appreciated the Greening initiatives reported by the CEO towards improving bio-diversity and ecological balance of the area. An elaborate 'Annual Green Plan' for the year 2024-25 was also approved by the Board. The Board desired that for environmental vibrancy of Trikuta Hills, the option of aerial survey and seed dispersal through helicopters must also be initiated.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Board - Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj; Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Baleshwar Rai; Dr Ashok Bhan; Dr Neelam Sareen; K K Sharma; Suresh Kumar Sharma and Raghu K. Mehta. Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG and Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

Earlier, Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on the present status of varied activities of the Shrine Board and the action taken for implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board.

Wet Spell

however, stated that the weather conditions will improve and there is a forecast of generally dry weather on April 04.

Furthermore, he stated that partly cloudy with light rain and snow is expected at isolated places on April 5.

He added that according to the forecast,

the weather would remain generally dry from April 6-April 10. The Meteorological department has also is-

The Meteorological department has also issued an advisory for the farmers, asking them to resume farm operation except on April 03 and April 05. (KNO)

PDP, NC To Contest

(NC president) Farooq Abdullah is our senior leader, he will take a decision (on seat-sharing) and will do justice. I had hoped he would keep the party interests aside," she said.

But the NC took the decision to contest all the three seats in Kashmir unilaterally, she added.

Mufti said if the NC had approached her and consulted the PDP before announcing the decision, her party could have decided not to field candidates in the larger interests of Kashmir.

"But, the way Omar (Abdullah) announced the decision without taking us into confidence, and by saying that the PDP has no workers or support so they will not get a single seat, it hurt my workers and broke their hearts," she added.

She was referring to Omar Abdullah's March 8 press conference in which he announced that the NC would contest from all three seats in the valley and will not leave any for its INDIA bloc partner the PDP.

Abdullah, on his part, said he had not "made any remarks about her party and, therefore, I have nothing to say on this". The PDP was going back on the understanding reached for the DDC polls where the parties having won the seats would field their candidates, he said.

"What can I say about this? It is their own will. How can I stop them? We announced candidates for the three seats of Kashmir based on their own formula," the former chief minister of J-K said.

When the DDC elections took place, the NC had asked the PDP that seat-sharing should be done on the basis of the results of the 2019 parliamentary elections but the latter did not accept that, Omar Abdullah said.

"They told us that the candidates will be decided on the basis of the 2014 assembly polls. The decision was made that whoever had won the assembly seat will contest from that seat. So, in this parliamentary poll, the same formula was applied. Wherefrom we had won, we decided to field candidates," he added.

Abdullah said since there was no scope for seat sharing with the PDP in the parliamentary polls, "we would keep a scope for the assembly elections".

"But, now if Mehbooba Mufti has decided to contest on all seats, then perhaps she does not want an alliance for the assembly polls as well. In that case, I cannot say anything. We had kept the doors open, but if they are closing those doors, it is not our fault," he added.

On DPAP founder Ghulam Nabi Azad entering the fray for Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat, Abdullah said he was surprised.

"I am quite surprised that Azad has chosen to fight from Anantnag-Rajouri-Poonch. I would have thought that if he is keen to enter Parliament, he should have fought from his bastion, his strength in Chenab valley. I would have thought he would have fought the Udhampur seat.

"The fact that he is not fighting from Udhampur and that he is fighting from Anantnag-Rajouri-Poonch, clearly there is (something) more than meets the eye," he said.

Omar Abdullah said he cannot say anything about the reason and under what pressure did Azad come to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Anantnag.

He said the NC has fielded the best and strongest candidate in Mian Altaf Ahmad.

"Whoever is contesting against him, we hope Altaf will win with a thumping majority," he added.

Dr Faroog Won't

He said it is now the party's responsibility to field the best candidate from the constituency. He hoped that the voters would help the NC candidate succeed so that he/she becomes a voice of the people of Srinagar in Delhi.

In the 2002 Legislative Assembly elections, Omar Abdullah was chosen to lead the NC, while the 86-year-old Farooq Abdullah shifted base to the Centre.

Farooq Abdullah was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2002 from Jammu and Kashmir and then re-elected in 2009. He resigned from the Rajya Sabha in May 2009 and won a seat in the Lok Sabha from Srinagar.

Abdullah joined the United Progressive Alliance government as a Cabinet Minister of New and Renewable Energy.

Abdullah contested the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat again in the 2014 elections but was defeated by the Peoples Democratic Party candidate Tariq Hameed Karra. However, Karra resigned from Lok Sabha in

2017 leading to a by-election for the Srinagar parliamentary seat which Abdullah won defeating the PDP candidate Nazir Ahmed Khan. He won the polls again in 2019. Omar Abdullah said the upcoming

Omar Abdullah said the upcoming Parliamentary election was very different from the past polls.

"For the last 30 years, the elections have been affected in one way or the other due to which the people did not participate in the polls -- be it because of the gun or boycott calls. Our politics in Srinagar had been limited. Few areas used to come out to vote and our politics used to run on that.

"This time, the atmosphere will be different. We will not see any boycott calls, and the impact of guns will be far less. This time, the people of Srinagar have to decide whether they want to participate in politics here or not. They have to decide whether they want to raise their voice or not, whether they want to choose their representative or not," the NC vice president said. PTI

Contesting To

Puducherry where the LG has to approve every decision made by the chief minister and his

"This is not acceptable to Ghulam Nabi Azad. Perhaps, it will not be acceptable to any Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Gujjar or Pahari of Jammu and Kashmir," Azad told reporters here.

Azad said that while he had several reasons for contesting the Lok Sabha elections, safeguarding the jobs and land of the people of Jammu and Kashmir was his top priority.

"For that to happen, we need full statehood as the Assembly can then pass laws which will reserve the jobs only for the people of the state while the outsiders cannot buy land here," he

Azad said he will use his experience and influence of 40 years as a parliamentarian to get full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have fought for the people of the country in the Rajya Sabha whether it was the Congress government or the BJP government. I feel there is a need for another battle in the Lok Sabha," Azad said.

The DPAP leader said after the abrogation of Article 370, he fought for one month.

"The result was that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah agreed to restore the statehood. I think this fight has not been taken to the logical conclusion," he added.

Responding to National Conference leader Omar Abdullah expressing surprise at Azad's choice of constituency to contest the polls, the veteran politician said, "This is my state. It would be wrong for anyone to say that you are an outsider... We are all Indians."

"I contested my first election from Maharashtra, second and third elections also from Maharashtra... Omar was probably in school at that time.

"Here (J&K) we are talking about adjoining districts. I am not coming in anybody's way. I have a political vision, I have a political cause to fight for. If anyone has difficulty due to that, what can I do?" he said.

On accusations that he can join hands with any party, including the BJP, Azad said, "Those who want to become slaves (of people) who look for refuge. I am the Ghulam of Nabi (Prophet) and do not need to go with anyone."

Triangular Fight

In 2014, Jitendra Singh had defeated former Union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad from the Lok Sabha seat by a margin of 60,976 votes. He was inducted in the Modi government as the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

Lal Singh, who rejoined Congress on March 20, had won the Udhampur seat twice on the party ticket in 2004 and 2009, besides being a three-time former MLA. He switched from the Congress to the BJP in 2014 and was also a minister in the previous PDP-BJP government in Jammu and Kashmir that collapsed in June 2018 after the national party pulled out of the

Several months before the government's fall, Lal Singh resigned from the BJP and floated his own outfit following an uproar over his participation in a rally in support of the accused in a rape-and-murder case of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua in January 2018.

However, he defended his participation in the rally, stating he was there to "defuse the

On November 7 last year, Lal Singh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case against an educational trust run by his wife. However, he was released on bail three weeks later

Saroori, vice chairman of Ghulam Nabi Azadled DPAP, is a former J-K minister who had won Inderwal assembly constituency in Kishtwar thrice between 2002 and 2014. He was the vice president of the Congress before leaving the party to side with Azad who floated his party in September 2022 after ending five-decade long association with the national party.

Polling will be held in the seat in Jammu and Kashmir in the first phase on April 19, officials said.

A total of 2,637 polling stations will be set up for the voters across the constituency which is spread over five districts of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua, the officials

The seat has 16,23,195 registered voters -- 8,45,283 men, 7,77,899 women and 13 transgender persons.

While there are over 23,637 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), the seat has 25,632 voters above the age of 80 years.

NC, Congress

when a meeting of leaders of both the parties was held at Batote in Ramban district.

The meeting was chaired by NC president Farooq Abdullah whereas Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani, alliance candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha seat Choudhary Lal Singh and others addressed the

The meeting unanimously decided to put up a united face at every to ensure the alliance candidate wins this seat. From NC side most of the party leaders from Chenab valley including former ministers Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy and Sajad Kichloo, senior leaders Mehbooba Iqbal, Sajad Shaheen and others attended the meet whereas from Congress party former MLC Naresh Gupta, general secretary Sheikh Riaz Ahmed and others participated. NC provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta, Ajay Sadhotra, Aijaz Jan and others were also present.

A senior Congress leader said that Farooq Abdullah asked the alliance leaders to work hard and ensure the Congress party candidate wins from this seat. "This is the last chance to throw this government out otherwise they will be bringing a law which will take back our rights. We have no other option but to get united," Farooq Abdullah told the meeting.

The NC president made it clear that Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has fielded Ghulam Muhammad Saroori to cut Muslim votes so that it can benefit the BJP. "This is the time to reach out to the people at the grassroot level and tell people about the actual motive of DPAP. Everybody has to campaign at booth level, block level and district level," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Congress candidate Choudhary Lal Singh said that everybody has to work hard to ensure victory. "If they (BJP) think that they will be able to get Hindu votes form Kathua and Udhampur districts, they are daydreaming. People of these two districts will show them doors and it is upto us to reach out to the people with our agenda." Singh added

agenda," Singh added.

Vikar Rasool also echoed the same and pledged to work hard to show the BJP

BEYOND THE ALARM CLOCK

Young Drummers Rise Up To Preserve Ramazan Tradition in Kashmir

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The pre-dawn hush of old city's Safa Kadal was broken not by the jarring blare of an alarm clock, but by the rhythmic thump of a drum. It wasn't just any drumbeat; it was the unmistakable call of the Sahar Khan, a tradition that has existed in the Muslim world for centuries.considered as old as Ramadan itself. But this year, peering out from their windows, bleary-eyed children weren't expecting to see the weathered face of a seasoned drummer. Instead, a young man, Mohammad Shakoor, with a well-worn drum strapped to his shoulder shouted Waqtey Sahar (it's time to wake up).

"Iget restless if I miss to wake folks up," 27-year-old Shakoor said. "Even though it can occasionally be unsettling to observe stray dogs barking in the dark on deserted streets, but as soon as someone turns on the lights of his house and wakes up, the scene becomes serene," he added with a smile on his face.

With each beat, Shakoor wasn't just calling for Sehri; he was keeping a tradition alive.

Once, before the age of smartphones, Sahar Khan's midnight call was the vital signal that Suhoor, the pre-dawn meal, was about to begin. However with time and innovation, the number of drum-beaters in Kashmir has decreased. Yet, in several parts of the valley, a new generation of Ramazan drummers is rising. These youngsters forsake their comfort and sleep in order to wake the faithful up for Sehri. What was once seen as the domain of the elders has now become a shared endeavor, as these drummers have taken up the mantle of their forebears with pride.

Originally from Kalaroos, a border town in the Kupwara district of north Kashmir, Shakoor works as a daily wager for other months of the year. "I have worked as a drummer for the past six years. Even if it means a few less hours of sleep, it's worth it," he added.

Shakoor also believes that while the pre-dawn call had once been a necessity, it has evolved into a cultural touchstone. "People now rely more on alarms or digital reminders for waking up for suhoor, diminishing the need for traditional drumming. However, Sahar Khan is about being part of something bigger, it's about preserving our culture," Shakoor said.

This youthful energy mirrored the story unfolding just a few kilometers away in Nowhatta area of Srinagar. For 18-year-old Arif Ahmad, this tradition has been passed down in his family for generations. A video of Arif drumming went viral on social media and people appreciated his efforts.



Arif gets up in the middle of the night and walks for miles through the winding streets, knocking on doors and calling out to wake residents for Sehri.

"My father has been a Sahar Khan for 27 years and now I have taken up this job,"Arif told Kashmir Observer.

"It pains me to see my brothers fall into the trap of drug addiction. Sadly, it's a widespread issue affecting many young people today. hile the pre-dawn call had once been a necessity, it has

evolved into a cultural

touchstone.'

While I may not be old enough to directly tell them to quit, I hope that the sound of my Ramazan drum serves as a wake-up call, guiding them towards a brighter path," Arif added.

He vowed to keep this practice alive, saying that it feels like carrying a torch, a way to connect with the past. "Waking people up for Sehri fills my soul with happiness."

"Who follows depends entirely on

them, but it is our responsibility as Sahar Khans to wake people up for predawn meals. Ramadan fasting is one of the five essential pillars of Islam, and I feel honored to be able to do my bit as a Ramazan drummer," Shamim, another drummer in his mid-twenties, told Kashmir Observer.

In the Doda district, youngsters have come up with a unique tradition that awakens residents for pre-dawn meals during Ramadan. Instead of the usual drumming, a group of energetic young boys go around reciting soulful Naat-e-shareef, poems praising Prophet Muhammad. Their melodic voices fill the air, creating a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere that gently rouses people for Sehri.

Back in the day, Sahar Khani wasn't just about waking folks up for Sehri. These drummers hustled door-to-door, making a living too. They'd even get Eidi, a special cash gift on Eid, from the families they helped throughout Ramazan. But these young drummers say it's not all about the money.

"I feel quite fortunate when I assist people for Allah's sake," Shakoor told Kashmir Observer, adding, "since we do it to earn the heavenly benefits; we don't make cash demands. People treat us with a great deal of respect and some of them offer us cash."

UDHAMPUR LOK SABHA SEAT

Over 16.23 Lakh Voters To Decide Fate Of 12 Candidates

YOUNG VOTERS

(18-19 YEARS)

84,468

ELDERLY VOTERS

(80+ YEARS)

25.632

POLLING STATIONS

2637

Udhampur Lok Sabha seat includ-

ing 8,45,283 male, 7,77,899 female

and 13 transgender electors. Over

9,22,783 lakh voters of Kathua and

Udhampur district will remain a

critical factor in this polls. Beside

Choudary Lal Singh no other can-

didate in fray from Kathua district

while out of 12 6 candidates in-

cluding former minister G M Sa-

roori are from Chenab Valley. Over

6,99,816 voters from three dis-

tricts of Chenab Valley are able to

In constituency wise calcula-

J&K Bank Partners With Paymart India To

tion, Kathua district's Bani has

Introduce Virtual ATM Facility

change the fate of any candidate.

Agencies

JAMMU: The fate of 12 candidates will be decided by over 16.23 lakh voters of Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in the first phase of General Elections to be held on April 19.

The main contest is between BJP's Dr Jitendra Singh and Congress Party's Choudary Lal Singh. Both BJP and Congress representatives represented the constituency for two terms from 2014-2024 and 2004 to 2014 respectively and are now seeking third terms in this election.

However, others who are in the contest included Amit Kumar of BSP, Balwan Singh of Jammu Kashmir National Panther Party (Bhim), Ghulam Mohammad Saroori of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Manoj Kumar of Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal, Dr Pankaj Sharma, Rajesh Manchanda, Sachin Gupta, Swarn Veer Singh, mohd ali Gujar and Mehraj Din as Independent.

The Udhampur parliamentary constituency is spread over five districts including Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua and 18 assembly constituencies including Udhampur West, Udhampur East, Chenani and Ramnagar (SC) of Udhampur. Bani, Billawar, Basohli, Jasrota, Kathua (SC) and Hiranagar of Kathua. Inderwal, Kishtwar and Padder-Nagseni of Kishtwar. Bhadarwah and Doda of Doda and Doda West of Doda and Ramban & Banihal of Ramban. According to the figures provided by the office of the Returning Officer 4-Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, there are 16,23,195 registered voters in

57,116 registered voters, including REGISTERED VOTERS: 30, 401 male, 26,713 female and 2 16,23,195 transgender electors. Billawar has 94,265 registered voters, including **MALE** 49,365 male, 44,907 female and 2 8,45,283 transgender electors. Basholi has a total 68,886 voters including **FEMALE** 36,159 male, 32725 female and 7,77,899 2 transgender electors. Jasrota has 86,343 voters including 4,179 male and 41,169 female. Kathua **TRANSGENDER** has a maximum of 1,08,834 voters 13 including 57,196 male and 51,638 female. Hiranagar has 87,545 vot-**PERSONS WITH** ers including 45,556 male and **DISABILITIES** 23.637

In Udhampur district, Udhampur West has 1,14,912 voters including 59,412 male and 55.500 female, Udhampur East has 100016 voters including 52,256 male, 47,759 female and 1 transgender, Chenani has 1,08,233 registered voters including 57,255 male and 50,987 female Ramnagar has a total of 96,628 voters including 50,944 male and 45,684 female.

In Kishtwar district, Inderwal constituency has 62,560 registered voters including 32,421 male and 30,192 female. Kishtwar has 73,573 registered voters 37,435 male and 36,102 female while Padder has lowest 39,747 voters including 20,376 male and 19,371 female.

In Doda district, Bhaderwha constituency has total 1,12,686 voters including 63,045 male, 59,636 female and 5 transgender, Doda has total 96,557 registered voters including 49,585 male, 46,970 female and 2 transgender while Doda West has total 85,623 registered voters including 44,651 male and 40,92 female voters.

In Ramban district, Ramban constituency has 96,522 registered voters including 50,273 male and 46,249 while Banihal has total 1,12584 voters including 63533 male and 59,051 females.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has set up 2637 polling stations across the constituency, of which 2,457 are situated in rural areas and 180 in urban areas, ensuring accessibility and convenience for voters from all corners of the constituency.

Of notable mention is the inclu-

sion of 23,637 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) within the electoral roll, encompassing 14,362 males and 9,275 females. The young voters, aged 18-19 years, stands at 45,825 male voters, 38,641 female voters and 2 transgender, totaling 84,468 potential first-time voters. The constituency boasts a considerable elderly population, with 12,020 male voters and 13,612 female voters aged 80 above, totaling 25,632 seasoned voters contributing to the electoral discourse.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Dr. Jitendra Singh won from Udhampur with a total of 7,24,311 votes. Vikramaditya Singh, the nominee of the Indian National Congress, received 3,67,059 votes. The BJP secured a majority of 61 percent in the polls. Similarly, in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Dr. Jitendra Singh had won from Udhampur, securing 4,87,369 votes. He defeated then Congress stalwart Ghulam Nabi Azad of Indian National Congress with a margin of 60,976 votes. Azad got 4,26,393 Votes—(KNO)

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024

DEO Srinagar Chairs Meeting With Representatives Of Various Political Parties

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024 scheduled to be held on May 13, 2024 for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, the District Election Officer (DEO), Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday chaired a meeting with representatives from various Political Parties at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

The meeting was followed by orientation program to sensitize the representatives of various Recognized Registered, Unrecognized Registered Political Parties and other stakeholders about the process of Nomination filling for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India.

At the outset, the DEO said that the orientation program provides a platform to sensitize political parties about the various aspects regarding

the procedures to be followed while filing Nomination forms for contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024. He said interaction with political parties is of imperative nature to uphold integrity, fairness,

the electoral process.

Dr Bilal urged representatives of all the political parties to display utmost integrity and responsibility, thereby setting a positive environment for a free, fair, and peaceful electoral process.

and transparency throughout

The DEO expressed hope that all the political parties shall cooperate and adhere to the guidelines of ECI, thereby

encouraging a conducive environment for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections.

During the meeting, the Assistant Returning Officer, Headquarter, Mohammad Aslam Chaudhary gave a detailed presentation about the filling of the Nomination process and briefed the representatives of the various Political Parties about the procedure of filling of Nomination forms in detail.

He also deliberated upon all the related concepts regarding Nomination filling by the contesting candidates for the Lok Sabha elections for 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency.

AMARNATH YATRA PREPARATIONS

BRO Intensifies Snow Clearance On Baltal-Domail Road

Agencies

GANDERBAL: In Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has launched a vigorous snow clearance campaign along the Baltal Domail Road, which is crucial for pilgrims journeying to the revered Amarnath cave.

This initiative, aimed at facilitating a seamless pilgrimage experience, underscores the organisation's dedication to ensuring safe passage for devotees, a BRO official said. Initiated in 2022 by the ad-

ministration, the road construction project from Baltal to Domail initially fell under the purview of the Roads & Buildings (R&B) department. Subsequently, the responsibility was transitioned to



BRO, recognising their specialised skills in managing such endeavours efficiently.

The official said the recent efforts have concentrated on clearing snow along the Baltal Domail track, with the combined efforts of Beacon and diligent labourers working tirelessly over the past week.

Despite encountering challenges posed by potential avalanches, BRO remains resolute in swiftly completing the snow clearance operation, contingent upon favourable weather conditions, he said—(KNO)

Radisson Group Opens J&K's "Largest Hotel" In Srinagar

KO Web Desk

MUMBAI: Radisson Hotel Group today announced the opening of 212-key Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront Srinagar, under its luxury lifestyle brand Radisson Collection.

"With 212 rooms, the largest in Jammu and Kashmir region, Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront Srinagar, promises an unparalleled experience for our guests," Radisson Hotel Group Managing Director and Area Senior Vice President (ASVP), South Asia, Nikhil Sharma, said in a statement.

With this opening, Radisson Hotel Group has over 165 hotels in operation and under development in India.

Virtual ATM ncing bank-

nounced a strategic collaboration with Paymart India Pvt Ltd to introduce an innovative Virtual ATM (VATM) facility, enhancing banking convenience for its customers across its areas of operations especially in J&K and Ladakh. The tie-up is aimed at introducing card-less cash withdrawal for the Bank's customers through their neighbourhood merchant.

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank today an-

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was formalized in a signing ceremony that was chaired by the Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash. CEO Amit Narang signed the MoU on behalf of Paymart India Pvt Ltd while General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat put in his signatures during the event that was also attended by the Bank's General Managers Ashutosh Sareen and Narjay Gupta, DGM Muzaffar Wani and Director Paymart India Pvt. Ltd. Jyoti Narang besides other senior executives of both the organizations.

Expressing delight about the partnership, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "This partnership aims to empower J&K Bank customers with seamless access to cash withdrawal services through the mobile banking application, mpay Delight plus. It marks a significant step forward in J&K Bank's commitment to leverage technology to enhance banking accessibility and convenience for its valuable customers."

"Since Virtual ATMs represent the future of banking, this partnership with Paymart India underscores our commitment to staying ahead of the curve in providing innovative solutions for our customMD & CEO further stated, "As we embrace this technology, we foresee the role of virtual ATMs in enhancing financial inclusion by going beyond cash withdrawals to encompass digital lending. Moreover, reaffirming our dedication to serving communities with convenience and accessibility, we are exploring avenues to extend this facility to our Banking Correspondents."

ers", he added.

Commenting on the collaboration, CEO Amit Narang stated, "With a plan to enter the J&K market, J&K Bank was the best choice we had for a tie-up. Through this partnership, basic cash requirements of people will be catered particularly in rural areas where ATMs are not available and people need to travel long distance to bank branches."

NOTICE

My daughter's name has been changed from Ibrat Feroz to Arba Feroz in Muncipal records. Now I want to correct it in her school records also. Anybody having any objection may contact Principal, JK Public School , Humhama, Budgam within 7 days, after that no objection will be entertained.

Feroz Ahmad Wani F/o: Ibrat Feroz Class : 6th (E)

Electricity Installation transfer

The electricity Consumer ID No.

0209020002817 Installation No: 7/17000839 is to be transferred from Sayeed Khursheed S/o Gh Hassan R/o Irfan Colony Aishmuqam, Anantnag to Peerzada Khurshid Ahmad S/o Mohd Hussain R/o: Latroo Irfan colony Aishmuqam). If Gub Division Aishmuqam). If Gub Division Aishmuqam is the same within 7 days at DIV-Bijebhara, Anantnag after that no objection will be entertained.

Electricity Installation transfer The electricity Consumer ID No.

0202050004096 Installation No: 74354-R1 is to be transferred from Mohhamad Afzal S/o NA R/o Wavoosa Rangreth, Srinagar to Farooq Ahmad Ganie S/o Nazir Ahmad Ganie R /o: Wavoosa Rangreth, Srinagar, (Sub Division Baghat). If anybody has any objection he may file the same within 7 days at DIV-II Rajbagh, Anantnag after that no objection will be entertained.

Is RCB's Title Drought Due To Senior Players' Failure To Negotiate Pressure?

NEW DELHI: If a title triumph has eluded Royal Challengers Bengaluru since the inception of the Indian Premier League (IPL), it is because highly-paid international stars have always buckled under pressure, leaving the juniors to do all the heavylifting, says former India batter Ambati Rayudu.

Rayudu, who has won multiple IPL trophies with both Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings, didn't take any names but probably he was hinting towards team's three premier batters --Virat Kohli, Glenn Maxwell and Faf du Plessis.

RCB have lost two out of their three IPL games this season and while Kohli has scored 203 runs at a strike-rate of 140 plus, he hasn't exactly set the stage on fire during Powerplay.

Du Plessis has managed 65 runs in four games while Max-



well has contributed only 31 runs so far in as many games.

"RCB's bowlers always concede over par runs and their batting unit performs under

par," Rayudu told Star Sports after RCB lost to LSG on Tuesday. are supposed to take the pres-"Who are all batting in pressure situations? The young Indian batters and Dinesh Karthik. The yudu said.

big international names, who sure, where are they? All are back in the dressing room," Ra-

Lomror, who has come in as Impact Sub in a few games and scored at a strike-rate of 230 plus and Karthik, whose cameo was instrumental in their only win of the season so far against Punjab Kings.

Rayudu termed it as a convenient option for senior batters, who are consuming all the Powerplay overs, where scoring runs is easy with field restrictions in

'Sixteen years. This is the same story of RCB, when there is pressure, no big name is ever found standing. All youngsters are playing at the back-end and all the big guns bat at the top of the order and they whip the cream from the cake and that is the reason this team has never won IPL," said the 38-year-old firebrand batter, who played 55 ODIs and T20Is for India between 2013 and 2019.

Sports Activities In Full Bloom Across J&K: DYSS



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports on Wednesday said it has been organising sports events and other activities for students and youth across 20 districts of J&K throughout the year.

DYSS Director Subash C Chhibber lauded the efforts of the department's field staff for taping sports talent in school children and giving it a positive direction.

"Aiming to promote sports culture and a drug free society and a healthy nation, Zonal and District level offices play an important role in engaging students in different games and allied activities,"the Director said.

DYSS has started a variety of sports activities through Zonal Offices. Zone Zaldagar conducted Vollevball/Tug of War and recreational games on Wednesday, engaging ticipation in the season's inaugural a large number of students. The

event was inaugurated by the Principal MPML HSS Nikhat Mir in presence of ZPEO Zaldagar Javed Ahmad Malik and DYSS officials

Meanwhile, Zone Rainawari conducted Chess and Carrom competitions at Boys High School Rainawari in which more than 50 students participated. The event was inaugurated by ZPEO Rainawari Rifat Shafi. She urged the students to be safe from drugs and to adopt games and sports as part of life.

DYSS Office Ganderbal also organized intramural sports activities across the district. Students from different sports zones of the district participated in multiple sports events, showcasing their enthusiasm and passion for sports. Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal, DYSSO Ganderbal, extended a warm welcome to the departmental officials and students, applauding their parsporting events.

IPL 2024: Punjab Kings Batters Face Gujarat Titans Challenge

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Bruised by Mayank Yadav's scorching pace, Punjab Kings' batters will face an altogether different challenge when Gujarat Titans' bowling unit tries to take the pace off deliveries on a slightly tricky Motera track in their IPL match here on Thursday.

The Kings have lost their last two away games and another slip-up against Titans will lead to further loss of momentum which tends to shift very quickly due to lack of turnaround time.

Titans, on the other hand, are brimming with confidence after beating Sunrisers Hyderabad comprehensively by seven wickets in their last game.

In the previous match, Kings were completely undone by Mayank's speed and most of their top-order batters looked ill-equipped to face the fast bowler, who was regularly clocking 150 clicks and more importantly, aiming to bowl into the body of the batters.

However, the scenario will be completely different when veteran Mohit Sharma comes calling at the back-end, presenting a palate of variations.

Mohit uses knuckle balls, slow bouncers and wide yorkers to good effect and this vear's IPL trend has shown that save Mayank, all speedsters, who have been able to take pace off their deliveries, have

It will pose a different kind of challenge for the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow and Jitesh Sharma, all of whom like the ball to come on to the bat.

been more successful.

If Liam Livingstone is unavailable for Thursday's match after sustaining a hamstring niggle in the last game, it will spell doom for Punjab as they would then happen to lose their key enforcer during the

Punjab will also have to deal with the accuracy of the incomparable Rashid Khan and the guile of Noor Ahmed, former's left-arm alter-ego.

The third Afghan in the lineup, Azmatullah Omarzai's allround skills will also be a challenge for the team.

For Titans, the performance against defending champions Chennai Super Kings could be termed an aberration as they have executed their plans prettv well.

The batting is yet to fire in unison but the bowling unit has shown its wares by defending well in opening game and restricting a rampaging SRH to a manageable

Mayank Yadav May Make India's T20 WC Squad: Rabada

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Immensely impressed by Mayank Yadav's raw speed and accuracy, South Africa and Punjab Kings pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada sees the fast bowling sensation as a "potential pick" in India's squad for the T20 World Cup.

The 21-year-old from Delhi has been pushing the speed barrier with every game and on Tuesday night, bowled a 156.7 kmph thunderbolt against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. It was his second straight Man of The Match performance in his debut season, leading Lucknow Super Giants to a convincing



Rabada's team Punjab Kings was at the receiving end of Mayank's barrage of short-pitched deliveries last week when the debutant struck thrice with his rattling pace. One of the best pacers in the game, the South African also spoke about Mayank's remarkable accuracy.

"He has got something that you cannot buy and that is raw pace. That is what exactly he is exploiting and exploiting it ex-tremely well," Rabada told PTI in an interview.

"The lengths that he hits, his plan is clear and now batters are going to be aware of what he can bring to the party but it is pretty obvious he has got immense pace and it seems he can control where he wants to

"When you have got pace and control as well, and he understands his role. So, when you have got clarity, it is no surprise that he is turning out performances like that," said

Short TAKES

Narine Blitzkrieg Lifts KKR To 272/7 Against Delhi

Blistering half centuries from Sunil Narine (85 from 39 balls) and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (54 off 27) at the top and a late flourish from Rinku Singh and Andre Russell took Kolkata Knight Riders to 272/7 in 20 overs against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday.

Russell scored 41 in a brutal-bashing that helped KKR come within touching distance of surpassing Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) score of 277 however Kolkata ended up with the secondhighest total in the IPL ever.

Big Boost For MI As Suryakumar Clears Most Fitness Tests

umbai Indians will soon get the much required batting boost as the world's No. 1 ranked T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav has cleared almost all the fitness tests at National Cricket Academy and is very close to playing his first IPL game of the season. Suryakumar had undergone multiple surgeries -- one for grade 2 ankle tear and another for sports hernia -- and he last played in the T20 series in South Africa.

NZ Name Bracewell As Skipper For Pakistan T20I Series

New Zealand have swung a surprise by naming experienced all-rounder Michael Bracewell as their captain for this month's fivematch T20I series against Pakistan. Bracewell has not played an international match since March last year and as only recently returned to domestic duties following injury concerns that have included a ruptured Achilles and a broken finger, as per ICC.

The likes of Kane Williamson and Mitchell Santner are skipping the tour due to duties in the Indian Premier League.

Clinical Sri Lanka Sweep Test Series Against Bangladesh

Sri Lanka completed a 2-0 series sweep against Bangladesh on Wednesday after winning the second test in Chattogram by 192 runs despite Mehidy Hasan Miraz's gallant resistance. Chasing 511 runs for an improbable victory, Bangladesh were all out for 318 with Mominul Haq (50) and Miraz, who scored 81 not out, scoring half-centuries before the hosts wilted on the final day's morning session.

Sri Lanka won the opening test in Sylhet by

Chennaiyin FC & Norwich City FC Join Forces

hennaiyin FC has entered into a strategic partnership with English Championship side Norwich City FC to foster mutual growth, innovation, and football collaboration.

Both clubs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday here and the deal is expected to bring in a wealth of experience, expertise, and unique footballing philosophies, along with the knowledge exchange, technical expertise, coaching methodologies, and player development strategies. The two clubs are also expected to engage in

riendly games and training

Ronaldo Scores 1st-Half Hat-Trick As Al-Nassr Win 8-0



ristiano Ronaldo hammered a hattrick as Al Nassr thrashed Abha 8-0 in Saudi Pro League match at the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Sports City Stadium on Tuesday. Apart from scoring three goals, the 39-year-old striker also assisted in two. His first goal came in the 11th minute of the match, in form of a free-kick. The other two came in 21st and 42nd minute respectively. This was Ronaldo's 65th career hattrick and a consecutive one for Al Nassr.



ZPEO Kicks Off 2024 Sports

Competitions In Shangus

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Shangus on Wednesday organised sports competitions in the disciplines of Tug of War and Carrom for all age group boys and girls at HSS Uttersoo.

rated by ZPEO Manzoor Ahmad Ganie, who advised students to take part in sports activities and to stay away from drugs.

At the end of the sports competitions, prizes were distributed

The competitions were inaugu-

among winners and runner-ups. A total of 210 students partici-

pated in the events.

Guardiola Backs 'World's Best' Haaland In Keane Row

Agencies

LONDON: Pep Guardiola said Erling Haaland should be respected as the "best striker in the world" after the Manchester City star was subjected to scathing criticism by Roy Keane.

Former Manchester United captain Keane, speaking on Sky Sports, said Haaland's "general play" was "so poor" and "almost like a League Two player".

Haaland came under fire from Keane for his lacklustre performance in City's goalless draw against Premier League title rivals Arsenal on Sunday.

Haaland is the Premier League's leading scorer this term with 18 goals after winning last season's Golden Boot during a remarkable first sea-

son with City. He netted 52 times in all competitions as Guardiola's men lifted the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup. Keane conceded the 23-year-

old Norwegian is in a class of his own in front of goal. But City boss Guardiola was unimpressed by Keane's remarks, insisting any blame for

the scoreless display against Arsenal should be shared by the team.

"I don't agree with him, absolutely not. He's the best striker in the world and he helped us to win what we won last season. Erling is exceptional," Guardiola told reporters on

Tuesday. "The reason we don't create chances is not because of Erling. The standards that Erling has are unbelievable and every-one expects other things.

"There are games where he could be better but I knew during the game against Arsenal that the reason why we were not creating chances was not because of Erling.

"We needed more presence in the box. If we had that Erling would have more space. It happens sometimes. If you want to score goals, bring a lot of players to the opponent keeper, it is as simple as that."

City's failure to beat Arsenal has damaged their bid to win an unprecedented fourth successive English title.

They are three points behind leaders Liverpool ahead of Aston Villa's visit to the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday.

