

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Saturday 19 October 2024 | Srinagar | Vol. 27 | Issue: 247 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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New J&K MLAs To Take Oath On Monday

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The newly elected MLAs of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly will be administered oath on Monday by MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul, who was appointed as pro tem speaker by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday.

The LG today appointed Mubarak Gul, six-time MLA, as pro tem speaker of the Assembly for administering oath to newly elected MLAs. The oath-taking ceremony will take place at the Legislative Assembly complex here on Monday at 2: 00 PM.

The pro-tem speaker is appointed as the temporary speaker when a new legislative assembly session begins and till a full-time speaker is elected by the MLAs.

After appointment of the pro tem speaker, who would be administered oath by LG Manoj Sinha , the Legislative Assembly secretariat has asked all newly elected MLAs to attend the oathtaking ceremony.

This would be the first time that MLAs of Jammu & Kashmir would be administered oath of allegiance to the Constitution of India. Before scrapping of Article 370 and reorganisation of J&K, MLAs in the erstwhile state were adminis-tered oath of allegiance to the

Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir. The oath would make MLAs eligible to participate | More on P6

J&K LG Allocates Portfolios

Who Gets What In Omar-led Cabinet?

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Friday allocated portfolios to the newly inducted ministers in Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led cabinet.

An order to allocate the portfolios on the advice of the Chief Minister was issued by the LG here.

According to the order, deputy chief minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary will hold the charge of Public Works (R&B), Industries and Commerce, Mining, Labour and Employment, and Skill Development.

The lone woman minister -- Sakeena Masood (Itoo) has been assigned the charge of important ministries of Health and Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, and Social Welfare.

She was the Social Welfare minister during Abdullah's first tenure as the CM in the erstwhile state.

Javed Ahmed Rana has been allocated the departments of Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs.

Javid Ahmad Dar will be the minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development

& Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election. Satish Sharma has been assigned the charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports and ARI and Trainings.

The order said any other departments/ subjects not allocated to any of the ministers, shall remain with the chief minister. Notably, National | More on P6



KUMAR CHOUDHARY . (DY CM)

- Public Works (R&B) **Industries and Commerce** Mining
- Labour and Employment
- Skill Development



SAKEENA

- Health and **Medical Education**
- School Education **Higher Education**
- Social Welfare
- Agriculture Production
- Panchayati Raj Cooperative Election



JAVED AHMED RANA

JAVID

DAR

AHMAD

 Jal Shakti Forest, Ecology &

Rural Development &

Environment Tribal Affairs



SATISH **SHARMA**

- Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs
- Transport
- Science & Technology Information Technology
- **Youth Services and Sports ARI** and Trainings

Gul Appointed Pro Tem Speaker



ammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha appointed National Conference (NC) MLA Mubarak Gul as the pro tem speaker of the new legislative assembly on Friday, an official order said. Gul, who won the Idgah assembly seat in Srinagar for the sixth time, will administer oath to the newly elected members of the assembly on Monday, according to the order issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

"The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, in pursuance to Section 24 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 appointed Mr Mubarik Gul, | More on P6

Non-local **Man Found Shot Dead**

Agencies

Srinagar: A non-local man was discovered dead in the Waduna area of Zainapora, Shopian district, late Thursday night. The body, reportedly riddled with bullets, was found by local residents. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shopian confirmed the incident, labeling it an act of terrorism.

Authorities have launched a thorough investigation to identify the victim and gather evidence from the crime scene. The body has been transported to a local hospital for medico-legal formalities. In response to the attack, security forces have ramped up their vigilance in the area, with intensified efforts underway to locate the attackers.

In light of the attack, security forces have increased their presence throughout the region, particularly in areas considered vulnerable. Officials are urging calm and assuring citizens that efforts are being made to bring the perpetrators to justice. The tragic event has reignited concerns regarding terrorism and violence in the valley, posing challenges for the newly elected government as it aims to establish stability and progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

'From Online Portal To Prohibition Officers'

SC Frames Measures To Report, Restrict Child Marriage

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday stressed on legal enforcement, judicial measures and technology-driven initiatives to prevent child marriages in the country.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra passed a slew of directions in this regard.

Under the title of "legal enforcement", states and Union Territories appoint officers solely responsible for discharging the functions of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers

(CMPO) at the district level. It said to enable personal accountability and ensure immediate preventive measures are taken against any planned

solemnisation of child marriages. each state and UT will upload quarterly reports from CMPOs

on their official websites. The ministries of Women and Child Development and Home in each state and UT were further directed to conduct quarterly performance reviews of CMPOs and law enforcement agencies to assess among oth-

ers, the effectiveness of child marriage prevention initiatives and response times and outcomes of re-

ported case. Towards dicial measures", magistrates vested with authority under Section 13

of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA), were ordered to take proactive measures, including issuing suo-motu injunctions to pre-

Cabinet Passes Resolution For J&K Statehood

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has passed the resolution for the restoration of statehood, media reports said on Friday.

Official sources said that during its first meeting on Thursday, the J&K Cabinet passed a resolution urging the Central government to restore statehood

"The draft of the resolution has been prepared and the Chief Minister will travel to New Delhi in a couple of days to hand over the draft of the resolution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to restore statehood to I&K,"sources said.

The meeting was presided over by the Chief Minister and was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary ministers Sakeena Masood Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javaid Ahmad Dar and



Satish Sharma.

Congress JKPCC president Tarig Hameed Karra had told reporters that the party would not join the J&K Cabinet unless

statehood was restored. president, Farooq Abdullah has expressed confidence that the Centre would

soon restore Statehood to J&K. "We have talked about statehood before and even today, the Supreme Court has agreed to hear an application seeking restoration of

Statehood within two months. I am sure the Government of India will soon restore in

Abdullah said. When asked whether the National Conference would raise the issue of Article 370 or pass a resolution against it in the Assembly, Abdullah said that they would need to return to

court to present their arguments. During his visit to the city centre Lal Chowk, Abdullah said that there would be no VIP culture | More on P6

olitical parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday described the reported resolution by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led cabinet seeking restoration of statehood only and not Article 370 as an "utter surrender" and a departure from the stand of the ruling National Conference (NC). While there has been no word from either the government or the NC, a Jammubased newspaper 'Daily Excelsior' carried a report that the | More on P6

Farooq Downplays Urgent Need To Restore Art 370

Says Solving People's Problems More Important

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant shift from his earlier stance, National Conference (NC) president Dr. Farooq Abdullah downplayed the immediate need to restore Article 370, emphasizing instead that addressing people's everyday problems is the top priority.

Dr. Abdullah, a three-time Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, made these remarks during a public interaction on Thursday, marking a notable departure from his earlier rhetoric during election campaigns, where he frequently raised the demand for the

Article's reinstatement. Speaking to reporters here, when asked about the status of Article 370, which granted special autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir until its abrogation by the central government on August 5, 2019, Dr. Abdullah said, "The most important task for the current government is to address the problems faced by ordinary citizens." He highlighted pressing issues like unemployment and civic inconveniences, such as poor traffic management, over political priorities. "Scooter riders here don't even wear helmets. It's dangerous," he remarked while



pointing to his cap, stressing public safety concerns.

Responding that he might be nominated to the Rajya Sabha, Abdullah quipped, "Who said I am going?

The day I go, I'll salute you first.' Farooq Abdullah's softened stance, however, comes even as his son Omar Abdullah took the oath as Chief Minister just a day earlier. The NC has consistently maintained that restoring Article 370 remains central to its political agenda. The party now faces mounting pressure from opposition parties to introduce a censure motion against the 2019 abrogation in the

Assembly's inaugural session. When asked if Omar Abdullah's government would bring such a | More on P6

eprivation of health, education, employment and life oppor-**'Utter** tunities wreaked by child marriage was an affront to consti-**Surrender'** tutional principles of equality, liberty and free of expression, the Supreme Court said on Friday. The apex court termed the Says prevalence of "social evil" of child marriage as "sobering" and **Opposition** passed a slew of directions to the Centre, | More on P6

'Deprives Children Of Life Opportunities'



A breathtaking sunset paints the sky above Dal Lake, casting a warm glow on the water and the shikara boat. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

Rape & Murder Of Minor In Handwara

HC Commuts Death Penalty To Life Term For 4 Convicts

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has modified death penalty to life imprisonment without remission for "minimum" 25 years to four persons, convicted for their involvement in the gruesome rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district in 2007.

The trial court, District Pricipal & Session's Judge Kupwara, in 2015 pronounced death penalty to four persons-

Mohammad Sadiq Mir alias Sada of Langate Kupwara, Jehangir Ansari of Nawada Jungoo area of West Bengal, Azhar Ahmad Mir alias Billaof Shatapora Langate and Suresh Kumar Sasi alias Mouchiof Rajasthan, at present Amritsar Punjab-after holding them guilty for the rape and murder

of the minor girl.

"...we are inclined to modify the sentence of death imposed by the trial Court on the appellants (four convicts) for commission of offence punishable under Section 302 RPC and instead sentence the appellants to imprisonment for life without remission for at

least 25 years i.e. they shall not be released reason, any whatsoever, before serving the minimum sentence of twenty-five years,'

division bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice M.A.Chowdhary said. "Rest of the sentences im-

posed by the trial Court shall remain intact and those of imprisonment would run concurrently with imprisonment for life," the court said, adding, "Trial Court shall issue warrant for execution of sentences, in terms of | More on P6

J&K Govt Announces Jammu Master Plan 2032

Agencies

Srinagar: The Union Territory administration has announced a groundbreaking revision of the Jammu Master Plan for 2032 (IMP-2032), marking a significant step toward transforming Jammu into a sustainable and vibrant urban centre.

'This comprehensive framework prioritises heritage conservation while addressing the pressing needs of urban expansion," a government spokesper-

son said in a communique. The revised plan expands the city's planning boundaries dramatically, from 112 sq. km to an impressive 777.84 sq. km, incorporating 351 villages from Jammu and Samba districts. This ambitious expansion will enable "a more extensive and strategic approach to urban development", allowing for better management of the rapid population growth

the region is experiencing.
A central focus of JMP-2032 is sustainable | More on P6

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Saturday | 19-10-2024

Big Finding On Fruit Flies Could be Key to Human Longevity: Study

Press Trust Of India

The gut could be key to understanding longevity, according to a study that found a gut hormone in fruit flies could control lifespan, a result important to humans as both species have many similar genes and hormones.

Researchers at Brown University in the US have found that suppressing the insulin-regulating 'neuropeptide F' hormone in the gut of fruit flies extended longevity.

The findings are important for humans too, especially as new diabetes and obesity drugs developed from gut hormones in the same insect family are becoming widespread, the researchers said.

Understanding ageing mechanisms in flies may thus help explain what's happening in humans as well, they said.

The findings are published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Reducing insulin and



targeting related processes have been found to slow ageing and extend lifespan in animals in previous

In this study, the researchers manipulated gene activity in the intestines of fruit flies such that they produced lower levels of the neuropeptide F hormone, and thereby lower levels of insulin.

The team then compared the hormone production in the gut to what was happening in the fruit flies' brains and connected all the results with the diet that the insects were consuming.

The researchers found that suppressing the gut activity of the neuropeptide F hormone extended longevity in the flies, as

modulates (fruit fly) ageing through the integration of nutrient sensing, insulin signalling, and juvenile hormone," the authors wrote. "Based on (our) research,

nile hormone production.

"Gut neuropeptide F

we suspect that overproduction of gut neuropeptide F in flies will have a negative effect on ageing and decrease lifespan," study author Marc Tatar, a professor of biology at Brown Univer-

The researchers explained that humans do not produce either of the neuropeptide F or juvenile hormones. Instead, gut hormones are involved in regulating insulin in humans. Given how diabetes and known to target hormones

obesity drugs, which are involved in controlling insulin, and the findings on the relationship between insulin and ageing in flies, it may be time to consider how the drugs could impact human ageing, the authors said.

ESIC Body Approves Convergence Of ESI, AB-PMJAY

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Employees' State Corporation's Insurance (ESIC) Medical Benefit Council on Friday approved convergence of ESI scheme with Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY to enhance healthcare accessibility to beneficiaries.

crore beneficiaries) that form the bottom 40 per cent of the Indian population.

The council also approved the implementation of the Common Support Mission (CSM) for states. The CSM aims to improve and strengthen ESI's medical service delivery system in sates with focus on the IP (insured



The decision to converge the two schemes was taken at 86th Meeting of Medical Benefit Council held at ESIC headquarters here, a labour ministry statement said. Ashok Kumar Singh, Director General (DG), ESIC chaired the meeting.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is the largest health assurance scheme in the world which aims at providing a health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 12 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 55

persons) centric approach. Besides, the council approved the launch of annual preventive health check-ups & awareness camps for the beneficiaries to focus on early diagnosis of lifestyle disorders; identification of pre-cancerous lesions, and detection of nutritional deficiencies among insured persons / women / transgenders.

The meeting was attended by T L Yaden, Financial Commissioner; Deepika Govil, Medical Commissioner, ESIC and other senior officers of ESIC.

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son namely Mohammad Hamzah Wani who was born on 06-05-2009. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file the same in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Ajaz Nadeem Wani

F/o Mohammad Hamzah Wani R/o Ratnipora

Public Notice

did blocking the activity

brains. These proteins

are known to regulate

physiology.

of related proteins in their

control the production of

The researchers said that

neuropeptide F hormone

in the gut impacted ageing

in flies by integrating these

factors -- nutrient sensing,

insulin processes and juve-

laa

'juvenile' hormones, which

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son namely Athar Rashid who was born on 09-04-2013. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. **Abdul Rashid Dar**

F/o Athar Rashid R/o Lelhar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, KASHMIR

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Application for change in location of the excursion agency under the name and style "M/s Think Green Holidays" located at 1st Floor Sheikh Complex Kelashpora Khanyar, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Whereas, proprietor of the excursion agency under the name and style "M/s Think Green Holidays" has approached this office for change in location of his Excursion Agency from 1st Floor Sheikh Complex Kelashpora Khanyar, Srinagar to New Theed Harwan, Srinagar as per Section 39 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/2011;

Whereas, the said excursion agency is registered with this department under the name and style "M/s Think Green Holidays" in the name of Mr. Kifayat Hussain Kuthoo S/o Mr. Ghulam Ahmad Kuthoo R/o Barji Harwan, Srinagar bearing registration No. Reg/T/2035/544/ DTK/L-11/P-68 dated 20.10.2018 and the same is valid upto 31.03.2022;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted Rent deed (Notarized) dated: 27.09.2024 along with supportive affidavit dated 27.09.2024 duly authenticated by Executive Magistrate, NOC from ICICI Bank Srinagar, photocopy of Registration Certificate and NOC from HDFC Bank;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before the request of the applicant for change in location of his Excursion Agency "M/s Think Green Holidays" from 1st Floor Sheikh Complex Kelashpora Khanyar, Srinagar to New Theed Harwan, Srinagar is considered, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

No: Reg/T/2035/DTK/589 Dated: 17.10.2024

DIPK-6289-24 DT: 18/10/2024

Sd/-Assistant Director Tourism, Registration

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that an NGO is being constituted name and style The Jammu and Kashmir Private Hospitals and Dialysis Centres Association for streamlining and betterment patient care and infrastructure. lf anyone has any objection,he/she is advised to report the same within 7 days to the office of Registrar/Director Industries Kashmir.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE-HOSPITAL

BEMINA, SRINAGAR, J&K - 190017

laa

DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT 0194-2493226, email: mmo@skimsmc.edu.in

Sub: Procurement of Pachymeter Probe for A-scan Biometer System (Make: Quantel Medical, Model: AXIalis) on Proprietary Article basis – Notice for invitation of objections thereof SKIMS Medical College-Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar J&K, intends to procure Pachymeter Probe for A-scan Biometer (Make: Quantel Medical, Model: AXIalis) from M/s Quantel Medical S.A.S. 1. Rue du Bois Joli - CS 40015. 63808 Cournion D'Auvergne. France through their local authorized distributor M/s Leighton Systems Pvt. Ltd. Karan Nagar, Srinagar, on PAC basis as per provisions of Rule 166 of GFR.

In this connection, objections (if any) from companies manufacturing/ marketing such items compatible with the above machine and capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above system, regarding the proprietary nature of the above item, should be communicated on the above mentioned email id within a two weeks' period i.e., by or before 29th of October, 2024 up to 04:00 PM.

After due date, it will be presumed that no manufacturer/ company has any objection/ comments to offer and the claim for the proprietorship of the item, shall be accepted.

No: SKIMS/MCH/MMD/S-493/22-23/3200-06 Sd/-

Dated: 16/10/2024 DIPK-NB-1782-24

Materials Management Officer

DT: 18/10/2024 (SKIMS MCH Bemina)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION PDC BEMINA SRINAGAR

Email: xenmidkmr@gmail.com

GIST of Short term e-NIT. No:- 09 of 2024-25 Dated:- 16 /10/2024

For and on behalf of the Managing Director JKPDC; e-tenders in Two-Cover System (Technical & Financial) from Registered, reputed and resourceful Mechanical / Electrical Contractors / SSI Unit holders with relevant experience in execution of similar job, are invited from the office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Investigation Division PDC Bemina, for below mentioned work

S. No	Particulars	Advert cost (In lacs)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Class of Contract	Time of comple-tion	Bid submis- sion start date	Bid submis- sion end date	Date of Open- ing of technical bids
1	Fabrication Of Mild Steel storage Racks for proper stacking of store items at dif- ferent Stores of MID PDC Bemina Srinagar.	2,46,160/=	200/-	Registered Me- chanical/ Electrical Contractors / SSI Unit holders with relevant experience in execu- tion of similar job.	20 days	19/10/24	28/10/24	30 / 10/24

Position of funds: Budgeted

Instructions for Bidders:

- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-Nit portal website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule. The e-Nit GIST is also published on departmental website www.JKSPDC.nic.in.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule time and date with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and no financial bids will be accepted on physical form.

No: - MID/PDC/Tech/ 928-936 DIPK-NB-1804-24 Date: 16/10/2024 DT: 18/10/2024



e-mail: pherwsd@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT

RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, GANDERBAL/SRINAGAR. H.Q: Cheki-Duderhama Ganderbal.

Phone/Fax: 0194 - 2416292

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Rural Water Supply Division Ganderbal/Sgr hereby informs the general public that due to proposed shut down of Power Canal by JKPDC on 26th & 27th October 2024, the water supply is likely to remain affected on 26th, 27th & 28th October 2024 in the following areas of the District Ganderbal & District Srinagar and accordingly the consumers are advised to store water in advance & make judicious use of stored water. The likely areas to be affected are:

Ganderbal Town, Nagbal, Rangil, Dariend, Malshaibagh, Khalamulla, Nunner, Gutlibagh, Baba Wayil, Wayil, Nadirbagh, Bobsipora, Budurkund, Bandibagh, Arch, Search, Suderbagh, Chowdribagh, Malpora, Hard Muradabagh, Gundrehman, Harran, Gundmumin, Hakimgund, Hatborah, Kustooripora, Sehpora, Shalbugh-A, Tulbagh, Chundina Deh Naowabaf, Gogjigund, Malikpora, Kokgund, Korag, Gadoora, Kujjar, Rakhi Harran, Benehama & Manigam, Tulmulla, Dangerpora, Wahidpora, Theeru & Dagpora Anchar Shuhama, Wanihama, Hadoora, Batpora, Syedpora, Meerak Shah Abad Colony, Zakura, Rakhi Zakura, Gulab-bagh, Takenwari, Palpora, Goripora, Kreshbal & all other adjoining areas.

In case of any emergency, the general public can call on the below-mentioned telephone numbers:

Landline: 0194 - 2416292 Whatsapp No. 9797073882

No: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs./ 5702 - 12 Dated: 16.10.2024 DIPK-6351-24 DT: 18/10/2024

(Er. Samiullah Beigh) **Executive Engineer JS-PHE** RWSD Ganderbal/Sgr

Engineer Executive

MID, PDC Bemina Srinagar



AIRPORTS

RAILWAYS

HIGHWAY STATUS

HIJRI

CALENDAR

15 Rabi-ul-Sani

1446

(Doctor in Biblia)

control

around Pleid star Merope

and tender their resignations

1925 - Italian army takes Somalia

flies back to London from Moscow

Eleftherios Venizelos

and his followers

with Soviet Union

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

PRAYERS

5:17

12:16

4:15

6:57

7:16

FAJR

ZUHR

ASR

ISHA

1466 - The Thirteen Years' War ends with the

1512 - Martin Luther becomes a doctor of theology

1739 - England declares war on Spain [OS=Oct 30]

1812 - Napoleon's forces begin their retreat from

1818 - US Government & Chickasaw Indians sign a

1859 - Wilhelm Tempel discovers diffuse nebula

1912 - Tripoli (Libya) passes from Turkish to Italian

1913 - At a meeting of the Natal Indian Congress

(NIC) in Durban, NIC secretaries, M. C. Anglia and

Dada Osman, severely criticise Mahatma Gandhi

1916 - France extends formal recognition of the

Provisional Government in Crete proclaimed

1926 - Russian Politburo throws out Leon Trotsky

1932 - British government signs trade agreement

1944 - British Prime Minister Winston Churchill

1950 - UN forces entered Pyongyang, capital of

1935 - Mao Zedong's army reaches Shanxi

1915 - Russia and Italy declare war on Bulgaria

Second Peace of Thorn, Germany

Magrib

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

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

BIJBHERA: 01932-228243

PAMPORE: 01933-294132

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)

PATTAN: 01954-293507

Mughal Road - (Open)

Srinagar-Leh-(Open)

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

Mirwaiz Concerned Over Rising Un-Islamic Practices

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant sermon delivered at Jama Masjid Srinagar, Mirwaize-Kashmir Dr. Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq expressed deep concern over the growing prevalence of un-Islamic practices in society, particularly the disturbing rise in black magic and superstitions.

Mirwaiz, according to a statement, pointed out that every other day, reports surface of taweez (amulets) and other objects being found in graveyards—an act reminiscent of the Jahiliyyah (Age of Ignorance) that starkly contradicts Islamic teachings.

Mirwaiz also highlighted a disturbing trend where even birds and other animals are being used to profess superstition and black magic, further emphasizing the deviation from Islamic principles. He urged the Muslim community to adhere strictly to the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who condemned

such harmful practices. Mirwaiz reminded the congregation that faith in Allah and following the prophetic tradition are the foundations of a righteous life, and cautioned against those who exploit others through these means.

During his Friday sermon, Mirwaiz also called on the people of Kashmir to generously support families devastated by recent fires in Kishtwar and Gurez. Over 100 homes, including the Jamia Masjid, were destroyed in Kishtwar, while a market and homes were lost in Gurez.

He stressed the moral and religious responsibility to assist these vulnerable communities, especially with the harsh weather conditions approaching. He urged people to come forward and provide material and financial support. Mirwaiz also praised the ongoing relief efforts by Dar-ul-Khair Mirwaiz Manzil and other organizations, encouraging continued public support-(KNO)

GMC Srinagar Hosts Maiden National Critical-Care Update Conference

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Medicine Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar, under the guidance of Professor Dr Hina Bashir, HoD Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Medicine GMC Srinagar organized the first annual national critical care update conference and workshop under the aegis of Indian Association of Anesthesiologist's and the All India Difficult Airways Association.

faculty Renowned from AIIMS New Delhi, PGI Chandigarh, AMU Aligarh presented the latest techniques and cutting edge updates in critical care sciences

Endorsed by the All India Difficult Airway (AIDAA), Association the conference brought together leading experts, practitioners, and students from across the nation. Renowned experts in airway management and critical care delivkeynote speeches facilitated workshops, fostering a rich exchange of ideas.



Friday following Urs Dastgir Sahab Observed With Fervor

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fervor of devotion gripped Srinagar as the 'Friday following' Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA) was celebrated with zeal and zest, with thousands of devotees thronging the shrine in the city's Khanyar area.

To observe the Urs, all roads led to the shrine, with long queues of people moving toward the shrine with devotion. As the faithful gathered, the air was devotional with the sounds of Quranic verses and collective prayers.

The holy relic was displayed at the shrine with emotional scenes witnessed. People were seen crying while raising their hands towards the Almighty and asking for blessings.

At the crowded Chowk of Khanyar were men, women, and children, all crying and asking for blessings from the Almighty while their eyes were moist amid hues and cries. Standing in the crowd was an elderly man raising his hands for forgiveness, with tears rolling down his cheeks.

The devotees said he had been visiting Khanyar since childhood. "I first

Gandhi Memorial College **Organizes Camp To Serve Devotees**

rinagar: The NSS wing in collaboration with Red Ribbon Club, Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar organized a camp on the eve of the Urs of Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani at Khanyar.

The camp was aimed at promoting social service and connecting with the Sufi heritage of Kashmir

As a part of the camp, the college distributed tradition-

came here along with my father and

now I bring my children here with

me. This place gives me peace," said

comes here every year with a heart

full of prayers and leaves with peace.

Raja Begum, a devotee, said she

I first came here along with my father and now I bring my children here with me. This place gives me peace

Mukhtar Ahmad, from Budgam.

and harmony in society.

Authorities had made arrange-

"I am emotional today and feel an eternal peace," she said.

al Kashmiri Kehwa to the attendees, with about 1000 cups of tea and Bakirkhanis being distributed. This gesture not only provided refreshments to the participants but also highlighted the rich culture and traditions of Kashmir.

The main focus of the camp was to instill a spirit of social service among the youth and to promote unity

ments to ensure smooth management of the Urs by ensuring security and facilities for the comfort of the devo-



Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B)

Dated: 16/10/2024

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Tangmarg.

Fresh NIT No: 42/R&B of 2024-25 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways sand other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Macadamization of Bonpora Link road at Treran.		800/-	49020/-	15 days	C&T (Addl.)	C/B	R&B Deptt.
2 Macadamization of balance portion of Baderkoot Gogaldara road		17.64	800/-	35280/-	15 days	C&T (Addl.)	C/B	R&B Deptt.
Macadamization of Road from Jamia 3 Masjid (Bus Stand) to Mohalla Peth- pora at Hardboora.		20.00	800/-	40000/-	15 days	C&T (Addl.)	C/B	R&B Deptt.
4	Up-gradation of balance part of Mirchipora Kilwara road incl. inner link Katipora Chanpora.	24.71	800/-	49420/-	15 days	C&T (Addl.)	C/B	R&B Deptt.
5	Up-gradation of NTR (Kunzer Police Station) upto Check Bani via Hard- bani.	20.00	800/-	40000/-	15 days	C&T (Addl.)	C/B	R&B Deptt.
6	Macdamization of link road from main road H/O Peer Hafizullah up to H/O Gh. Hassan Bhat (Ikhrajpora to Rather Mohalla road at Ougmona).	5.87	300/-	11740/-	10 days	District Capex 2024-25	D/C	DDC Bara- mulla

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-10-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	16-10-2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	16-10-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	22-10-2024 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23-10-2024 10:00 AM

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority)(The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority)as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.
- 5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority)

Technical Officer

The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids 41. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office NIT No. 01 and 02 of 2024-25.

DIPK-6360-24

DT: 18/10/2024

Dr Farooq Offers Friday Prayers At Hazratbal He fervently

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Dr. Farooq Abdullah offered Friday congregational prayers at Asar-e-Sharif Dargah Hazratbal, alongside thousands of other devotees.

He fervently prayed for lasting peace and prosperity in the region.

In the meantime, numerous individual and group delegations visited the party president at his residence to extend their congratulations on the party's success in



the recent elections.

Among the visitors was a delegation led by party Minority Wing leader Sardar JS Azad and other distinguished members, who highlighted the multitude of

issues faced by the Sikh community in Kashmir.

prayed for

the region.

lasting peace

and prosperity in

Dr. Faroog assured the delegation that the government would attend to these pressing issues.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&D) DIVISION DORU

E.mail:-Xenrnbdoru@gmail.com

FINAL NOTICE

Sabeel Ahmad Magray, S/o: Nazir Ahmad Magray,

R/o: Mandipora Doru Construction of Overhead Bridge Crossing at Model Hospital Dooru at MC Dooru Verinag. Allotment No. 435-40 Dated 24-04-2023. Reference:-

The above subjected work stands allotted to you vide Executive Engineer Qazigund Allotment No. referred above. Wherein the work was supposed to be completed within 180 days, but after lapse of considerable time period of 560 days you have not completed the project as reported by the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer. Despite the repeated instructions through verbally and notices by his office for resumption of work but you did not paid any heed to these notices and left the work unattended since long time which has been viewed very seriously by higher authorities as well as MC authorities. As such you are finally directed through the medium of this notice to get your resources mobilized and resume the work within two days without any further delay failing which the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost and action as per conditions of NIT/Allotment be initiated against you. Treat it as final notice, no further remainder shall be given to you in this regard.

DIPK-6377-24 DT: 18/10/2024

Subject:-

(Er. Faroog Ahmad Khan) **Executive Engineer** PWD (R&B) Division Dooru

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/3693-3704

Dated: 16-10-2024

No: 2510-13

Dated: 18-10-2024

66 A key expectation from the people is the Centre's commitment to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. This longoverdue step is crucial in giving the region back its political autonomy and in providing the people a stronger sense of representation



A New Chapter for Jammu and Kashmir

Dr. Shahid Amin

he Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant political development. For the people of this diverse region, the installation of a stable government is not just a matter of governance but a beacon of hope for progress, development, and inclusivity. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are eager for leadership that brings sustainable development to the region. It is essential that this new government addresses the issues while ensuring that every community, irrespective of their background, reaps the benefits of progress.

One of the most pressing issues that has plagued Jammu and Kashmir is unemployment. For decades, the region's youth have struggled with limited job opportunities, leading to frustration and unrest. The new government carries the hope of introducing policies that will not only create jobs but also provide equal opportunities for all. Additionally, the elimination of favouritism and nepotism from the recruitment process is a key expectation from this administration. A transparent, merit-based system is essential for restoring the faith of the youth in their government.

Infrastructure, healthcare, and education are critical pillars of development that need urgent attention in Jammu

and Kashmir. The people hope that under the new government, the UT will witness a revival in these sectors. Developing better roads, communication networks, schools, and hospitals will uplift the quality of life and serve as a stepping stone to overall economic growth. A focus on education will empower the youth, while improving healthcare will ensure that the populace can lead healthier, more productive lives.

At the core of this new government is the hope for justice in every sphere of governance. This includes justice in terms of law, fairness in development projects, and accountability in the government's functioning. It is imperative that the leadership ensures no section of society feels marginalized or left behind. There is a strong desire for policies that promote diversity by creating inclusive and equitable opportunities for all segments of society.

Additionally, people hope that development will not come at the cost of the region's natural beauty and environment. The preservation of Jammu and Kashmir's unique cultural heritage and the protection of its breathtaking landscapes are vital. The government must focus on boosting the economy while maintaining the region's natural charm.

Promoting the preservation of old cultural sites and fostering the state's rich heritage is essential for maintaining its unique identity. The balance between progress and environmental conservation will ensure the region thrives without losing its essence.

The hope is also that the government will treat all Jammu and Kashmir citizens equally, without bias towards those who have voted for other parties, and that the alliance will work harmoniously, prioritizing the interests of the Union Territory. True leadership lies in being accessible and providing confidence to citizens that their issues are understood and addressed. A government that stands with its people, especially during times of crisis, can earn their trust and long-term loyalty.

There is a resounding hope that this new government will be honest and corruption-free. Corruption has been a long-standing problem, eroding public trust and hindering progress. The administration must make a concerted effort to root out corrupt practices and establish a system where integrity prevails at all levels of governance.

A key expectation from the people is the Centre's commitment to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. This long-overdue step is crucial in giving the region back its political autonomy and in providing the people a stronger sense of representation. The central government holds the responsibility to guide, support, and ensure that Jammu and Kashmir's developmental journey is inclusive and beneficial for its diverse population.

Finally, there is hope that this government will foster a positive political culture by avoiding unnecessary criticism of the opposition. Constructive politics, focused on development and welfare rather than mudslinging, will ensure that democracy functions as it should. While hope sets the foundation, it is now time for the new government—along with the support of the central government—to turn this hope into reality.

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

The author is pursuing Advanced Business Consultancy Programme by AIMA and is former Associate Professor in ITM University Gwalior and an IIMA (FDP) Alumnus and can be reached at dr.shahidamin15@gmail.com

Is AI Dangerous?

Al doesn't threaten humanity. Its owners do.

Joseph Jones

n April a lawsuit revealed that Google Chrome's private browsing mode, known as "Incognito," was not actually as private as we might think. Google was still collecting data, which it has now agreed to destroy, and its "private" browsing does not actually stop websites or your Internet service provider, such as Comcast or AT&T, from tracking your activities.

In fact, that information harvesting is the whole business model of our digital and smart-device-enabled world. All of our habits and behaviors are monitored, reduced to "data" for machine learning AI, and the findings are used to manipulate us for other people's gains.

It doesn't have to be this way. AI could be used more ethically for everyone's benefit. We shouldn't fear AI as a technology. We should instead worry about who owns AI and how its owners wield AI to invade privacy and erode democracy.

No surprise, tech companies, state entities, corporations and other private interests increasingly invade our privacy and spy on us. Insurance companies monitor their clients' sleep apnea machines to deny coverage for improper use. Children's tovs spv on playtime and collect data about our kids. Period tracker apps share with Facebook and other third parties (including state authorities in abortionrestricted states) when a woman last had sex, their contraceptive practices, menstrual details and even their moods. Home security cameras surveil customers and are susceptible to hackers. Medical apps share personal information with lawyers. Data brokers, companies that track people across platforms and technology, amplify these trespasses by selling bundled user profiles to anyone willing to pay.

This explicit spying is obvious and feels wrong at a visceral level. What's even more sinister, however, is how the resulting data are used—not only sold to advertisers or any private interest that seeks to influence our behavior, but deployed for AI training in order to improve machine learning. Potentially this could be a good thing. Humanity could learn more about itself, discovering our shortcomings and how we might address them. That could assist individuals in getting help and meeting their needs.

Instead, machine learning is used to predict and prescribe, that is, estimate who we are and the things that would most likely influence us and change our behavior. One such behavior is how to



This explicit spying is obvious and feels wrong at a visceral level. What's even more sinister, however, is how the resulting data are used—not only sold to advertisers or any private interest that seeks to influence our behavior, but deployed for AI training in order to improve machine learning.

get us to "engage" more with technology and generate more data. AI is being used to try and know us better than we know ourselves, get us addicted to technology, and impact us without our awareness, consent or best interest in mind. In other words, AI is not helping humanity address our shortcomings, it's exploiting our vulnerabilities so private interests can guide how we think, act and feel.

A Facebook whistleblower made this all clear several years ago. To meet its revenue goals, the platform used AI to keep people on the platform longer. This meant finding the perfect amount of anger-inducing and provocative content, so that bullying, conspiracies, hate speech, disinformation and other harmful communications flourished. Experimenting on users without their knowledge, the company designed addictive features into the tech-

nology, despite knowing that this harmed teenage girls. A United Nations report labeled Facebook a "useful instrument" for spreading hate in an attempted genocide in Myanmar, and the company admitted the platform's role in amplifying violence. Corporations and other interests can thus use AI to learn our psychological weaknesses, invite us to the most insecure version of ourselves and push our buttons to achieve their own desired ends.

So when we use our phones, computers, home security systems, health devices, smart watches, cars, toys, home assistants, apps, gadgets and what have you, they are also using us. As we search, we are searched. As we narrate our lives on social media, our stories and scrolling are captured. Despite feeling free and in control, we are subtly being guided (or "nudged" in benevolent tech speak)

towards constrained ideas and outcomes. Based on previous behaviors, we are offered a flattering and hyperindividualized world that amplifies and confirms our biases, using our own interests and personalities against us to keep us coming back for more. Employing AI in this manner might be good for business, but it's disastrous for the empathy and informed deliberations required for democracy.

Even as tech companies ask us to accept cookies or belatedly seek our consent, these efforts are not done in good faith. They give us an illusion of privacy even as "improving" the companies' services relies on machines learning more about us than we know ourselves and finding patterns to our behavior that no one knew they were looking for. Even the developers of AI don't know how exactly it works, and therefore can't meaningfully tell us what we're consenting to.

Under the current business model, the advances of AI and robot technology will enrichen the few while making life more difficult for the many. Sure, you could argue that people will benefit from the potential advances (and tech industry-enthralled economists undoubtedly will so argue) in health, design and whatever efficiencies AI might bring. But this is less meaningful when people have been robbed of their dignity, blamed for not keeping up and continuously spied on and manipulated for someone else's gain.

We shouldn't be afraid of AI taking over humanity; we should fear the fact that our humanity hasn't kept up with our technology. Instead of enabling a world where we work less and live more, billionaires have designed a system to reward the few at the expense of the many. While AI has and will continue to do great things, it's also been used to make people more anxious, precarious and selfcentered, as well as less free. Until we truly learn to care about one another and consider the good of all, technology will continue to ensnare and not emancipate us. There's no such thing as artificial ethics, and human principles must guide our technology, not the other way around. This starts by asking about who owns AI and how it might be employed in everyone's best interest. The future belongs to us all.

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 Scientific American

Bhand Pather and Fading Laughter of Kashmir

However, with the passage of time, this traditional art form is slowly fading away. The younger generation, drawn to modern forms of entertainment, is no longer interested in preserving this cultural heritage

Rayees Wathori

s I close my eyes and imagine a Kashmir without Bhand Pather, I feel a shiver down my spine. The idea of a valley without the bright colors, happy laughter, and amazing performances of this traditional folk theater is too sad to think about. Bhand Pather, a centuriesold art form, has been an integral part of Kashmiri culture, bringing joy and solace to the people of the valley. It is a unique blend of dance, music, and satire, which has been a source of entertainment and social critique for generations of Kashmir. The performances, often held in village squares and festivals, would bring the community together, providing a platform for social critique. The Bhands, with their colorful costumes and exaggerated gestures, would weave a narrative that was both humorous and poignant, leaving the audience in stitches and tears.

I had the privilege of meeting many people across Kashmir, including Kashmiri Pandits, who still yearn for these performances. One of the Kashmiri Pandit who lived in Kashmir many decades back shared his personal experience with me and said:

"I used to go to witness the Bhand Pather in our neighboring village, where these Bhands would often perform and give us messages and entertainment. We may have everything now, but those gatherings, those times, and those actors are nowhere to be found. We've moved from small streets to big buildings, but modern life can't fill the gap.

Another person reminisced, "I used to witness those perfor-

this cultural heritage.

the valley, performing in every nook and corner, are now a rare sight. The few remaining troupes struggle to make ends meet, their performances limited to occasional festivals and events. This decline is not just a loss of a cultural tradition; it is also a loss of identity for the people of Kashmir. This art form, which has been an integral part of Kashmiri culture for centuries. is a reflection of the valley's rich

history and heritage.

mances, but now they seem like a distant dream and illusion."

However, with the passage of time, this traditional art form is slowly fading away. The younger generation, drawn to modern forms of entertainment, is no longer interested in preserving

The Bhands, who once roamed

Without Bhand Pather, the

valley will lose a part of its soul, its laughter, and its tears. We will lose a history that has been passed down through generations, a history that has shaped the very fabric of our society.

It is imperative that immediate action be taken to preserve this invaluable cultural heritage. I am sure the newly formed government, along with concerned departments, will come together to support the remaining troupes and provide a platform for the younger generation to learn and perform this traditional art form. Government must also document and archive the existing performances, scripts, and music to ensure that this cultural legacy is preserved for future genera-

As a Folk Theatre artist and activist, the thought of a Kashmir without Bhand Pather is unfills my heart with sadness and my mind with concern. However, it is not too late to act. We can still preserve this cultural heritage and ensure that the smile of Kashmir is not lost forever. Let us come together to support this traditional art form and keep the laughter and tears of the valley alive.

imaginable. It is a thought that

To ensure the survival of Bhand Pather, we need to adapt to the changing times. We need to create new scripts, new directions, and new ways of storytelling that appeal to the younger generation. We need to organize workshops on script-writing, provide resources to the artists, and create a platform for them to showcase their talents. There are many contemporary issues we witness on our social, political and environmental front which

we can talk about through theatre. We need to encourage innovation and experimentation, while still preserving the traditional essence of Bhand Pather.

Tail Piece Let's preserve this great heritage which is our traditional art form that keeps keeps Kashmir's laughter alive. Bhand Pather bestows us with a kind of entertainment that is full of information and solution oriented performance as well. Let's ensure its stories, emotions, and memories stay vibrant for generations to

The author is a Theatre Artist from Kashmir. He works with Anant National University Ahmedabad . India's first Design X University as Artist in

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How to Manage Religious OCD and Reclaim Your Faith

SUMAYAH YASEEN

ost people are familiar with the term 'OCD' **▼ ⊥**(Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder), and use the word to describe individuals who are tidy or organised. However, few are aware of the detrimental impact it can have on well-being, especially when intersecting with religious practices, as it did with mine. OCD is a common mental illness which affects people from all walks of life around the world. It affects 1 to 4% of people in the UK alone. Those who receive a diagnosis usually suffer debilitating symptoms ranging from intrusive thoughts to compulsive rituals, health anxiety and repetitive actions.

How does OCD affect religious acts?

I was diagnosed with OCD at the age of twelve and suffered daily with intrusive thoughts. As I began performing salah regularly, it became almost impossible to maintain the minimum requirements for Islamic obligations. My struggle with fasting started soon after I was diagnosed, although I didn't know that my mental health was the main factor. Fasting worsened my anxiety which in turn triggered my OCD and increased my compulsive rituals. I would furiously scrub my hands with soap, sobbing until they were red

The symptoms weren't limited to cleaning impulsively; I would sit for hours ruminating on pointless things and exaggerating scenarios in my head. My anger, anxiety and OCD became uncontrollable, and by the time Maghrib arrived. I could not sit with my family and eat. I felt it was better to stay alone in my room where my symptoms would only affect

me until I calmed down. Praying was similarly challenging as the rituals drained my energy. I was so weakened by hunger

and compulsive behaviours that I just couldn't pray. Moreover, the khushu (focus) I once had during salah had vanished, reducing the awaited conversations with my Lord to mere obligations. Many of us strive to complete our five daily prayers on time every day, however, it can become difficult when dealing with worldly commitments. It is even harder to manage praying while suffering from symptoms of OCD. Although OCD becomes a diagnosed mental disorder when it becomes overwhelming, you can still experience intrusive thoughts and impulsivity without the label. How often do we question a

missed rakah, or let our subconscious wander? These distractions can make one doubt the validity of their prayer and induce a need to start the prayer from the beginning.

Wudhu is a necessary act that precedes salah; however, it becomes an exhausting task when paired with illness. Intrusive thoughts hinder the completion of wudhu, allowing people to doubt their actions, leading them to believe their ablution has been broken or wasn't performed correctly.

My intrusive thoughts appeared in the form of an alter ego, a harsh voice in the back of my head feeding me the worst negative affirmations. It told me I wasn't going to Jannah and that Allah & didn't love me anymore. Sometimes I was able to quieten it for a while and hear my own voice assure me that I was worthy, at other times it became an engorged darkness which suffocated me and told me that there was no hope and that

My mind would convince me I wasn't 'clean' enough to stand before Allah . I firmly believed that my prayer wouldn't count if I had missed a spot, and the years I spent being scolded for not being able to perform wudhu correctly by my Islamic school teachers didn't help

there never would be.

either. I also thought that I would be severely punished if I chose to ignore the 'missed' areas.

Having Contamination OCD can come with sensory issues, such as feeling like the skin on one arm doesn't 'match' the other. For example, I would wash my right arm, then my left, only to feel the right one wasn't as clean, leading me to wash my right arm again. This became a cycle, causing me to miss my prayers, or stop making wudhu and praying salah altogether. This brought further distress, anxiety, and an unshakeable feeling of guilt and resentment. I started resenting mandatory acts, only to feel guilty for doing so.

As my disorder spun out of control, it became harder to retain the energy to fast and perform other duties in Ramadan. I felt the blessed month was not so blessed for me, and my guilt and resentment were exacerbated by a lack of understanding from other Muslims. As these thoughts, which can also be called waswas, worsened - my iman felt weakened, heightening negative feelings and convincing me I was a bad Muslim.

When it comes to mental health help from religious professionals, it's sad to say that there isn't much. Scholars are qualified to provide religious and spiritual advice, however, when it comes to religious, spiritual and mental health advice combined, they're suddenly at a loss. This is a recurring dilemma within the Muslim community, a problem which doesn't have a concrete solution, although this is improving gradually.

What is Waswas?

Waswas is an Arabic word meaning "whispers." Essentially, these are intrusive thoughts from the devil whispering into your subconscious. Waswas is referenced in the hadith as negative thoughts from Shaytan, and not from one-

There are two types of waswas, the first one comes from the nafs (the self) and the other from the Shaytan. It is the second type which becomes overwhelming and obsessive, leading to extreme disruption in life and interfering with duties. Waswas plays on an individual's fears, exaggerating them, making you believe they have occurred, or will, occur.

It took a long time for me to distinguish my own voice between the 'bad' one, and there are still days, even months, where I'm unable to tell the difference. What worked for me, was learning to sit with my thoughts, and come back to them once things seemed a little clearer. When an intrusive or obsessive thought enters my mind, I let it be, I wait, and I continue. This action, along with prescribed medication from my doctor, made my disorder manageable. When I started medication things started to get better, and slowly I began working on my spiritual relationship with Allah @ again.

The Qur'an and Hadith on OCD Although the Qur'an itself does not explicitly mention OCD, there are many verses which touch on the struggles associated with it. Waswas is clearly written in Surah

Allah [®] says,

'Say, (O Prophet) "I seek refuge in the Lord of humankind, the Master of humankind, the God of humankind, from the evil of the lurking whisperer—who whispers into the hearts of humankindfrom among jinn and humankind." (Surah An-Nas 114:1-6)

Allah also talks about the evil eye in Surah Al-Falaq, warning us that black magic and envy exist and that we need to protect ourselves against them.

He says, 'Say, (O Prophet) "I seek refuge in the Lord of the daybreak. from the evil of whatever He has created, and from the evil of the night when it grows dark,

and from the evil of those 'witches casting spells by' blowing onto knots, and from the evil of an envier when they envy." (Surah Al-Falag 113:1-5)

The Prophet Muhammad # has mentioned waswas, stating that Shavtan uses intrusive thoughts to break down a believer—it is a sign of strong faith if you experience these. It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah RA said: "Some of the Companions of the Messenger of Allah acame to the Prophet and said to him, 'We find in ourselves thoughts that are too terrible to speak of.' He said, 'Are you really suffering from that?' They said, 'Yes.' He said, 'That's a clear sign of faith." (Muslim)

Furthermore, the Prophet # has also expressed to us that if we suffer from intrusive thoughts without verbalising them, then we will not be held accountable and Allah @ will forgive us. He said, "Allah forgives my followers those (evil deeds) their souls may whisper or suggest to them as long as they do not act (on it) or speak." (Bukhari)

The beautiful structure of Islam assures us that our suffering will bring rewards beyond comprehen-

Lack of Support from Scholars and Community

A wider problem within our community is the limited understanding Islamic scholars have of mental health itself. Unfortunately, when it comes to individuals struggling with depression or even schizophrenia, many professionals are unaware of the mind's ability to display a variety of emotions and coping mechanisms. You may hear talks of people in the community being 'possessed' or having 'Jinn' living inside their bodies. This may be true in some cases, most of these are undiagnosed disorders and illnesses. It is often easier to believe in the paranormal than fathom the complexities of

Denial plays a significant part in preventing treatment as the older generation refuses to acknowledge the issue. There is also a stigma attached to mental health as it is often an obscure concept for the Muslim community - and as a re-

sult – considered taboo. Generally, it is quite difficult to find scholarly advice for mental illnesses. However, I was lucky to have found a scholar, a local Imam whom my family knew, who made things easier for me - as I struggled with reassurance and needed it before I made a decision. The scholar helped in assessing my situation and providing a solution which goes to show that there are good scholars out there, it is only a matter of finding one with good character and a deep sense of empathy instead of

judgement. It is a good idea to search for scholars in your local area. This way, you can request recommendations and consider which Imams' ideologies align with your concerns. Counselling and Psychology training are necessary for integrating both Islamic teachings and science to move communities forward. It is important to search for a trustworthy scholar who can offer support and is willing to understand your experiences.

Furthermore, when individuals confess to depression or intrusive thoughts - scholars often advise them to pray more, do more dhikr and make more du'a. The lack of psychological knowledge only causes increased suffering, doubt and isolation. The interpretation of Qur'anic texts and hadith often links mental health struggles to the weakness of faith, suggesting that low iman equals decreased acts of worship. However, this is not necessarily the case. We know that our Prophet # struggled with feelings of emptiness and despair and in response, Allah & sent Surah Ad-Duha to console him # and remind him # of His # love

Allah says, 'Your Lord has not taken leave of you, (O Muhammad), nor has He detested (you).' (Surah Ad-Duhaa 93:3)

Allah * reminds Muhammad # that he is not alone, neither are his emotions invalidated. We can take comfort in knowing Allah & understands us better than anyone else, and His & love for us is greater than any other.

Accessing Help

It is important to look for the right support when struggling with mental illness and experiencing overwhelming symptoms. First and foremost, making an appointment with your GP and accessing medical help is vital to ensure you are getting the right treatment. Additionally, a qualified professional, from a reliable Muslim counselling service, who understands your cultural and religious background, can help to talk through your emotions. Services such as Aafiyah Healing and Muslim Women's Network Helpline are easily accessible and available. In times of crisis, always call a helpline; Samaritans are readily on hand for calls and can guide you through difficult situations. Sometimes, discussing your problems with a third party can help considerably. Therapy is a construct which encourages conversations between individuals and therapists, resulting in a connection which relaxes the mind and allows the patient to discuss issues and reach short-term and long-term objectives.

Above all else, always remember that Allah is the best of Planners, and your reward for bearing your suffering will surpass any pain you went through in this temporary world.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Azadi Leadership Holds Awareness Session On Newsroom Harassment At MERC

Srinagar: The Azadi Leadership Program, in collaboration with the Media Education Research Center, organized a comprehensive awareness session on sexual harassment in newsrooms. The session aimed to educate students on the challenges faced in newsroom environments and the legal mechanisms available for addressing harassment. It also highlighted the importance of creating safe and inclusive spaces for journalists.

Students from the first and third semesters, along with scholars from the department, actively participated in the session. They were given practical insights into newsroom dynamics, empowering them with the knowledge to raise concerns about workplace misconduct. The session was organized by Azadi leaders Ilhak Ahmad Tantray and Iqra Qayoom Khan, who invited media and legal experts to share their professional experiences and discuss the legal framework around sexual harassment.

Prof. Sabeha Mufti, Head of the Department, stressed the significance of such initiatives, stating that these opportunities allow students to gain hands-on experience. She encouraged students to embrace these learning moments, as they can build confidence and contribute to long-term success in the media industry. "The experience was eye-opening, especially since it's the first time a student-led session like this has been organized," remarked one of the participating students. Scholars and students voiced their appreciation for the session, advocating for more frequent awareness programs to strengthen their understanding of professional ethics and conduct.

In recognition of their contributions, the Head of the Department, along with two senior faculty members, presented tokens of appreciation to the invited experts. The session concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering awareness and action against harassment in media spaces.(KNS).

Harris, Trump seek Arab American votes in Michigan in effort to shore up battleground states

Grand Rapids: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump both sought support from Arab American voters on Friday as they campaigned in Michigan, trying to lock down support in a battleground state that could decide the presidential race next month.

Trump was expected to visit a new campaign office in Hamtramck, one of the nation's only Muslim-majority cities, and he will be joined there by Mayor Amer Ghalib, a Democrat who has endorsed him. Meanwhile, three city council members in the same town have endorsed Harris.

Michigan is one of three "blue wall" states that, along with Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, will help decide the election, and the diverse voting blocs are key to winning the state.

"It's an election for president. It's not supposed to be a cake walk for anyone. There are very important issues at play," Harris said.

David Plouffe, a top campaign adviser for Harris, said on Friday on CNN that he believed all of the swing states were still in play, but the key was zeroing in on voting blocs.

'We're going to treat every cohort like they're a swing voter," he said. "We're going to fight for every vote."

Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, is trying to capitalize on frustration with Harris over the US backing of Israel's offensive in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon, following the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas on Israel.

His allies have held meetings for months with community leaders in

Michigan, which has a sizable population of Arab Americans, particularly in and around Detroit.

Harris, in comments following the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, one of the architects of the October 7 attack, said Friday that his death provided an opportunity to stop the bloodshed in Gaza.

"My message remains, first of all, we have got to end this war," she said Friday. "And I think what has happened now, with the killing of Sinwar, creates an opportunity for us to end this war and bring the hostages home."

But the Democrat has been greeted by demonstrators protesting US support of Israel in the conflict. During a closed-door meeting Thursday with students at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she was confronted by one, based on a video posted by a pro-Palestinian student group on social media.

According to the video, as Harris was telling students she was invested in them, a protester interrupted her saying, "And in genocide, right? Billions of dollars in genocide?'

The demonstrator was eventually escorted out by university police, as he continued recording.

At her first event of the day, hundreds of supporters gathered in Riverside Park in Grand Rapids, on a carpet of fallen orange leaves under cloudless skies. A phalanx of Democratic governors — Maura Healy of Massachusetts, Wes Moore of Maryland, Tony Evers of Wisconsin, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and Kathy Hochul of New York — took

the stage before Harris.

Whitmer tore into Trump, calling him "a petty man who tells dangerous lies, and he's always looking for someone else to blame.

Harris will travel next to Lansing, where she will speak at a United Auto Workers union hall and promote the White House's record of supporting domestic car manufacturing. Her final event of the day is a rally in Oakland County, northwest of Detroit.

Trump, who hasn't commented publicly about Sinwar's death, has his own event in Oakland County on Friday afternoon before holding a rally in Detroit in the evening.

His Detroit event will be his first there since insulting the city last week. While warning what will happen if Harris is elected, he said that "our whole country will end up being like Detroit".

The city spent years hemorrhaging residents and businesses, plunging into deep financial problems, before rebounding in recent years.

One challenge for Harris in Michigan has been union support. Although organised labour is traditionally a Democratic bloc, she's failed to win some key endorsements.

Whitmer, a co-chair of Harris' campaign, said in an interview Thursday that the expectation was always that "it was going to be a close election".

"People are like, Oh it's so close." And I'm like, Have you not been listening for decades?" Whitmer said. "Michigan is a divided state. And that's why we don't write off the reddest of areas on a political map. We

J&K Bank Shines At ASSOCHAM Annual **Summit & Awards**



Srinagar: J&K Bank has emerged as 'Runner Up' for the prestigious 'Best Overall Performance' Award in the country at ASSOCHAM's 19th Annual Summit & Awards - Banking and Financial Sector Lending Companies. The theme of the summit, 'Role of the Financial Sector in Making Viksit Bharat @2047', focused on how the banking industry can support India's economic aspirations over the next two decades.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Mumbai) Irfan Anjum received the award, under 'Small Banks' category, at the hands of Former Deputy Governor (RBI) R Gandhi. Held in Mumbai last night, the high-profile event marked by the presence of eminent personalities saw the Bank earning accolades for its sustained contributions to the financial sector.

Commenting upon the development, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash expressed his gratitude

for the recognition and said, "We are deeply honoured to receive this recognition from ASSOCHAM. I thank the organizers for this award, which truly belongs to every member of the J&K Bank family. Their unwavering commitment and dedication to excellence are unmatched and this acknowledgement is a reflection of their tireless efforts."

"Going forward, we remain focused on strengthening our role in driving financial inclusion and supporting the country's vision for a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Our journey is fuelled by innovation and customer-centricity, and this recognition motivates us to aim even higher," he added.

The award highlights Bank's growing presence and solid performance in the banking industry, thereby cementing its reputation as an important player in the country's financial sector.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

New J&K MLAs

in proceedings of the House.

The five-year term of J&K Assembly will begin from October 21, the day when first sitting of the House will be held.

As per section 17 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the Legislative Assembly shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting.

Before the 2019 constitutional changes, the term of J&K Legislative Assembly was for six years instead of five years. (KNO)

Who Gets What

Conference leader Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, the first elected government in the Union territory since 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Abdullah, who takes over as chief minister for a second term and is the third generation of the Abdullah family to occupy the office – after his grandfather Sheikh Abdullah and father Farooq Abdullah.

However Omar said there are three vacan cies for ministers and "they will gradually be

Gul Appointed

Hon'ble Member Legislative Assembly as Speaker Pro tem before whom all the Members of the J&K Legislative Assembly shall make and subscribe the oath/affirmation in terms of Section 24 of aforesaid (Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation) Act," the order stated.

The oath/affirmation will be administered by the Pro tem Speaker in the I&K Legislative Assembly, Srinagar on October 21, 2024 at 2

"All the Hon'ble Members of the J&K Legislative Assembly are accordingly requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly for making and subscribing the oath/affirmation on the scheduled date and time," it said.

SC Frames

solemnisation of child marriages.

"Magistrates are encouraged to particularly focus on 'auspicious days' known for mass weddings, when the occurrence of child marriages is notably high," the bench said.

The Centre and state governments were directed to work in tandem to assess the feasibility of establishing special fast-track courts exclusively to handle cases under the PCMA.

States and UTs were directed to develop an annual action plan to prevent child marriages, incorporating key performance indicators that reflect local cultural and social contexts within communities.

"All states and Union Territories are directed to integrate comprehensive sexuality education into school curricula in line with the framework prescribed by the World Health Organisation and leading thoughts in the field of CSE (comprehensive sexuality education),' the bench said.

It said police officers, particularly those in the Special Juvenile Police Units, must undergo training focused on the legal aspects of the PCMA, child rights, and sensitivity towards cases involving minors.

"The Ministry of Women and Child Development is directed to consider the viability of implementing comprehensive educational incentive programs specifically targeted at girls at risk of child marriage," the apex court said.

The bench directed the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to formulate a standard operating procedure towards legalsupport services, and long-term rehabilitation plans concerning child marriage victims for lawyers and law-enforcement officers.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the NALSA, was directed to create a designated portal for online reporting of child marriages.

"Each sate and UT shall make all endeavours to disseminate information against child marriage across all print, digital and social media with a focus on regions where child marriages are likely to occur in high numbers," the bench

It directed the relevant ministries of the Union government to recommend the allocation of a dedicated yearly budget for each state specifically aimed at preventing child marriage and supporting affected individuals.

The bench directed that copy of its judgment be sent to the secretaries of all concerned ministries, states, UTs and others for compliance.

The apex court's verdict came on a plea seeking stronger enforcement mechanisms to curb child marriages.

'Deprives Children

states, district administrations, panchay-Writing the judgement for the bench, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said the right to life and liberty in Article 21 of the Constitution was violated by child marriage.

"All children married as minors are denied their right to choice and autonomy, right to education, right to sexuality and the right to development of the child. Girls who are married as children are denied their right to health," it

The verdict referred to a slew of fundamental rights of minors being violated by such marriages and said the children who are thrown into forced marriages were deprived of their right to development.

Three-quarters-of-a-century after the commencement of the Constitution, child marriage remains a present and continuous threat to our society, social progress and individual liberty. the judgment highlighted.

Referring to the right of free choice and autonomy, it said the issue of forced marriage was intricately linked to child marriage, as both practices deny individuals, particularly minors, the fundamental right to make autonomous

decisions about their lives. "This lack of agency is heightened in the context of child marriage, where children are subjected to societal and familial pressures that undermine their ability to give informed consent," the CII said.

In the view of the top court, international law had evolved a rights-based framework to address various issues and child marriage was an evil against which the international community had reflected its commitment through

the recognition of rights. In addition, various international instruments were stated to have emphasised the necessity for parties entering into marriage to provide free and full consent.

When it came to addressing the constitutional guarantees against child marriage, the bench underscored right to free choice and autonomy, education and development of the child with all their offshoots were "firmly recognised" in the top court's jurisprudence and many legislations in India.

"Child marriage deprives children of their agency, autonomy and right to fully develop and enjoy their childhood. The right to free choice and autonomy in marriage encompasses three fundamental rights -- right to free and informed consent; right against gender based violence and right to sexual autonomy,' it said.

Girl children who are married off early were not only denied their childhood but were also forced into social isolation owing to detachment from the natal family, friends and other support systems, it underlined.

Cabinet Passes

on the roads, asserting that people would be relieved from the annoying sound of sirens. "There will be no more sirens that irritate the ears of the public. Everyone is equal here, whether locals or politicians; there are no VIPs," he said.

'Utter Surrender'

cabinet had passed a resolution urging the Centre to restore JK's statehood.

The report also said the chief minister will travel to Delhi to handover the draft of the resolution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Efforts to reach out to the chief minister, his cabinet colleagues or the ruling party leaders for a comment on the report did not fructify.

Various political parties, including the People's Democratic Party (PDP), People's Conference (PC) and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), denounced the move, reminding the NC of its poll promise to "strive to restore (Articles) 370-35A and statehood as prior to August 5, 2019", and saving it was a departure from the pre election stand.

In its manifesto, the NC had promised that in the interim period, "we will endeavour to redraw the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, and the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019".

The manifesto promised that the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, in its first list of business after elections, will pass a resolution against the Centre's decision to strip the region of its statehood and special status. Iltija Mufti, PDP leader and daughter of party

president Mehbooba Mufti, asked whether it bodes well for JK when the first cabinet meet is shrouded in secrecy about a resolution on restoring statehood but there is not a squeak about restoring JK's special status. "Isn't this fait accompli, whitewashing & le-

gitimising Delhi's illegal brutal disempowerment & disrobing of India's only Muslim majority state? Not a scale back but utter surrender," she said in a post on X.

PDP youth wing president Waheed Para said Abdullah's first resolution on statehood is nothing less than ratification of the August 5,

"No resolution on Article 370 and scaling down the demand to mere statehood is a huge setback, especially after seeking votes on the promise of restoring Article 370," Para, who has won the assembly election from Pulwama, said in a post on X.

Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid said the reports of the resolution passed by the JK government seeking restoration of statehood only and not Article 370 were "very painful" and a "departure" from the principled stand of the

"There are reports that a resolution has been passed to seek restoration of statehood. It is his right to pass anything. But, we want to remind Abdullah that you contested the election on Articles 370 and 35A and statehood.

"So these reports that only a resolution on statehood has been passed is very painful. It means a departure from the principled stand of his party," Rashid said at a press conference

He said the resolution on statehood only makes it clear that Abdullah, who is also the NC vice president, is "playing into the hands of the BIP" He said PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit

Shah have promised the restoration of statehood a number of times. "So why is Omar seeking the same thing? Why is he seeking what the BJP is already ready to give?

"It means he is not ready to talk about (Articles) 370 and 35A. It is just an eyewash and he is deviating from the agenda on which he contested the elections," Rashid, who heads the AIP, said. People's Conference chief Sajad Lone won-

dered why the resolution on statehood reportedly passed by the cabinet was "shrouded in mystery and secrecy that only one newspaper publishes it" "I hope the CS (chief secretary) of Jammu

and Kashmir has notified as it is the protocol," Lone said on X. Lone, who is an MLA-elect from Handwara, however, said the resolution should have been

passed in the assembly rather than the cabinet. "I very humbly state that the will of the people of J&K is reflected in the Assembly and not in the cabinet. The cabinet is a majoritarian institution of governance," he said, adding that it does not reflect all shades and opinions ac-

cording to the will of the people of JK. Lone said to the best of his knowledge, the Assembly is the proper institution all across the country for addressing major issues like that of statehood or Article 370, he said.

When the NC government passed a lution on autonomy, they passed it in the Assembly and not through a cabinet resolution. What has changed now?

"Fail to understand why this resolution should not have been reserved for the Assembly. Why are we so keen to trivialise everything," he questioned.

The separatist-turned-mainstream politician said he would have loved to see which way the BJP and other parties vote on statehood and on Article 370 resolution when it is presented in the Assembly.

Reminding the NC of its pre-poll commitment, Lone said, "We are not demanding or expecting anything extraordinary. Do what you promised the people of J&K in your manifesto."

Faroog Downplays

motion, Dr. Abdullah neither confirmed nor denied it, instead reiterating the need to focus on people's everyday hardships.

Dr. Abdullah also praised the government's decision to end VIP privileges, such as creating green corridors to facilitate quick movement for high-profile individuals. "Now our ears won't be disturbed by unnecessary sirens. Whether it's a common man or a VIP, everyone is equal," he said.

On the issue of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Abdullah expressed optimism, noting, "This has been discussed before, and the Supreme Court has also assured hearngs. It will be restored soon."(KNO)

HC Commuts

this judgment."

Besides awarding death penalty for commission of offense under RPC section (now repealed) of 302/34, the convicts were sentenced to simple imprisonment of one month for offence under Section 341/34 RPC and rigorous imprisonment of seven years and ten years for offences punishable under Section 363/34 RPC and 376(G)/34 RPC respectively.

According to prosecution, a hapless minor girl was gang raped and killed in orchards near Batapora Wuder on 20 July 2007. The rape was committed upon her when she was on her wav from school to her home, the prosecution said. Subsequently, police arrested these four persons and filed chargesheet which culminated into their conviction and awarding of the death penalty in 2015.

"Public opinion is difficult to fit in 'rarest of the rare' doctrine. Peoples' perception of crime is neither an objective circumstance relating to crime nor to the criminal," the division bench said, adding, "Perception of public is extraneous to conviction as also sentencing according to the Mandate of Bachan Singh (SC verdict)." Public opinion, the court said, may also run

counter to rule of law and constitutionalism. "There is also a danger of capital sentencing becoming a spectacle in the media. And if a media trial is a possibility, sentencing by media cannot be ruled out," the court said.

The Division Bench said that it was suffice to say that it does not dispute that the crime of rape and murder is always gruesome and abhorrent. However, having regard to the guidelines issued by the Supreme court from time to time and explained in the case of Bachan Singh and Machi Singh, the case does not fall in the definition of 'rarest of the rare case'.

"...we have not found anything on record to show previous conviction of any of the appellants in the police record. The witnesses have orally referred to registration of some cases for commission of minor offences but the prosecution has not placed on record any documentary evidence to substantiate the aforesaid aspect," the court said, adding, "...nothing has been brought to our notice by the prosecution from which it could be inferred that convicts are menace to the society. Merely saying so at the time of arguments, is not good believe that there are no chances of appellants' reformation."

J&K Govt

infrastructure development. "The plan aims to revamp essential services such as transportation, water supply, and waste management," the spokesperson added, introducing significant upgrades like widening existing roads, constructing new bridges, and creating a mixed transportation network. These initiatives will improve mobility and reduce congestion, making daily commutes easier for residents.

Environmental preservation is another key element of the plan. With Jammu's unique geographical features, the administration emphasizes the importance of "conserving natural drainage channels and forests while also implementing measures to protect sensitive ecological areas from unregulated urban sprawl."

To tackle the growing demand for housing, JMP-2032 proposes new residential areas, including low-cost housing solutions for the urban poor. "This approach aims to create structured urban housing development, addressing the challenges posed by past unregulated expansions and slum proliferation," the spokesperson highlighted.

Heritage conservation remains a priority, particularly for the old city of Jammu, designated as a "Special Zone" within the plan. "Efforts will focus on regenerating this cultural hub while promoting mixed-use development, ensuring that the city's historical and cultural legacy is preserved for future generations," the government said.

The plan also envisions enhancing Jammu's connectivity through transit-oriented development, which integrates land use with transportation planning. Proposed upgrades include "expanding the Jammu Tawi railway station, improving air travel facilities with a new terminal at Jammu Airport, and introducing an electric bus system along with a ropeway project to

facilitate public transportation. The ambitious nature of JMP-2032, especially in terms of infrastructure and housing, underscores the need for significant funding and effective governance. "Public participation and transparency will be vital in aligning the proposed initiatives with the needs of Jammu's rapidly growing population," the spokesperson concluded.

With these comprehensive strategies, the Jammu Master Plan 2032 sets a transformative vision for the future of Jammu, promising "a balanced approach to urban development that honors the region's heritage while fostering sustainable growth"—(KNO)

Will Work To Sort All **Issues As Liabilities Created Across Deptts: Sakina Itoo**

Srinagar: Sakina Itoo, who was recently elected from the Damhal-Hanji pora seat of south Kashmir's Kulgam district and inducted into cabinet, visited her native constituency where she was given a rousing welcome.

Talking to reporters in Damhal-Hanji pora, Sakina, who has been allotted the portfolio of health, education and social welfare, said steps will be taken to upgrade health infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

She said that changes have been made in the rules of honorarium of anganwadi workers and helpers and she will sit with the officials of the department to solve all these issues

The MLA said liabilities in large numbers have been created across departments and the NC-led government will work day and night to solve all issues.

"I am available for the people of J&K 24×7 to listen to their genuine grievances and ensure their immediate redressal," Itoo said—(KNO)

NGOs Come To Rescue Of Mul Warwan Fire-Affected Families

Agencies

Srinagar: While 70 houses have been raised to ground by a devastating fire at Mul Warwan area of Kishtwar, the people of Chenab valley have come to their rescue by raising funds, providing clothes, blankets and other items required to start afresh.

Several non-government organizations (NGOs) have been moving from pillar to post to raise funds and accept everything required to rebuild the

houses of affected families.

These NGOs including Furgan Welfare Trust (FWT) of Ghat Doda and Alkosar Charitable trust of Thathri Doda are in the field to gather more and more funds including blankets, mattresses and tin sheets besides money to help the af-

fected families. These trusts have been providing relief to needy people on a regular basis and whenever needed they help them whatever they can. kno

Kashmir's 'Chhota Punjab' Yearns For Technological Advancement

Zain Ul Aabedin

Srinagar: As dawn breaks over Bugam, a steady stream of trucks laden with fresh vegetables begins to emerge from the village, their cargo bays overflowing with a colorful bounty. The soft morning light bathes the produce lining the village roads in a warm glow—a familiar routine for the village. At any time of day, men, women, and even children can be seen working tirelessly in the fields.

Bugam, a village in tehsil Chadoora of district Budgam contributes enormous vegetable production in the district. The large production of vegetables and its supply to different parts of the country by the farmers of this village has ushered people to call it 'Chhota Punjab'.

According to the department of agriculture and farmers welfare, Chadoora, Bugam has 202.25 hectares of land. Farmers cultivate inorganic vegetables on 122.25 Hectors, while 80 hectares are dedicated to organic farming. The 2.04 hectares are used for oil seeds, 4.19 hectares for fodder, and 140.03 hectares for vegetables. Orchards cover 56 hectares, though farmers also grow vegetables on a portion of that land.

"Two years ago, Chhota Punjab produced 4,687 quintals of



vegetables, generating a total revenue of over Rs 12.20 crore," said Tahir Hussain, the Agricultural Extension Officer.

Bugam was primarily focused on paddy fields and seed cultivation until about 40 years ago, local farmers said. "The practice of cultivating vegetables like Green Collards, spinach, Cauliflower, Turnip, Radish, potato, Cabbage and carrot was introduced in Bugam by the farmers of Srinagar, around 20 to 25 years ago. Since then villagers have been transporting their produce to local mandis using local carts," a farmer said.

Around 492 families in the

village are engaged in farming, with agriculture playing a pivotal role in the lives of over 3742 residents. Interestingly, some officials, who have risen to higher positions, come from these same farming families and have continued to stay connected to their agricultural roots.

With farming passing down as a heritage to occupation, the farmers work enthusiastically in their fields. But the voices of these farmers wail for technological advancement for their amelioration.

"I have 20 Kanals of land and annually I earn 1.5 Lakhs to 2 Lakhs from each Kanal,"

said Gowher Bashir, a young local farmer, who has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Gowhar believes that the introduction of modern technology, such as drone fertilization and spraying, could significantly boost his productivity and income.

"If the government will provide us with modern technology, we will be able to earn more than 2 lakhs from one Kanal of land. I request the government to organise a drone boot camp led by experts in our locality to educate and raise awareness about the drone fertilising and spraying. This drone technology will enhance our daily work and we will be able to produce more crops," he added.

Another local farmer also expressed concern over the lack of awareness programs. "The government has the role to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity through their awareness programs. I have seen only one or two such awareness programs in my life," he said.

"Most of the elders of this village are engaged with farming, and many are uneducated. The government should focus on educating us through awareness camps, not our children in schools. After all, they cannot produce vegetables inside the classroom.

Experts Call For Prioritising Mental Health & Recovery

Agencies

Srinagar: Trauma has a profound impact on an individual's emotional and physical well-being and often leads to conditions such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression if not addressed properly, experts warn.

Mental health professionals said that while trauma and its effects can be overwhelming, individuals can heal and regain a sense of control with appropriate support and intervention.

Mansoor Ahmad, a psychiatrist at DHSK, explained that trauma is a psychological response to deeply distressing or disturbing events that overwhelm an individual's ability to cope. "The effects of trauma can vary widely depending on the nature of the incident, often leading to feelings of shock, disbelief, anger, fear and sadness, as well as mood swings irritability, and emotional numbness," he said. "Trauma can result in behavioural changes, physical symptoms and cognitive effects, with PTSD being triggered by experiencing or witnessing a terrifying event." kno

Bullet-Riddled Body Found In Shopian

Agencies

Srinagar: A bullet-riddled body of a laborer hailing from Bihar was found at Waduna area of Zainapora in South Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, officials said.

An official said that some passersby spotted the body at Waduna Melhoora area and informed the police accordingly.

He said that a police team reached the spot immediately and shifted the body to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities. The body was later identified as Ashok Chauhan of Bihar, who was working as a laborer in the area.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the matter and started tion—(KNO)

Sopore Auqaf Initiates Program To Foster Spiritual Growth Among Youth

Date:

Srinagar: In a unique way to foster discipline, spiritual growth and moral responsibility among the younger generation, the Augaf Committee in Sopore has rolled out a first-of-its-kind "Youth Motivation and Reform Program" to engage children aged 10 to 15 years in spiritual and personal development.

The 60-day initiative by Central Augaf Nigeen Bagh Krankshivan Colony, aims to foster discipline, religious commitment and moral values, setting a precedent for youth-oriented programs in the region.

The programme encourages participants to offer all five daily prayers at the mosque, with a particular focus on Fair and I Isha congregational prayers. form, laying the foundation for a ty," said a resident—(KNO)

Upon successful completion of the programme, participants will receive a new bicycle as a reward—a unique incentive aimed at encouraging attendance and

stronger and more ethical society," he said.

Local residents and parents have warmly welcomed the programme. They have appreciated the creative approach to youth

The future of our youth lies in our hands. It is our duty to guide them toward a path of faith, discipline, and reform, laying the foundation for a stronger and more ethical society

Speaking with KNO, Mehraj ud Din Patni, the Augaf head, said the moral and spiritual education of youth is their collective responsibility. "The future of our youth lies in our hands. It is our duty to guide them toward a path of faith, discipline, and reengagement. Several youngsters

have registered for the event. "The first-of-its-kind effort will inspire a cultural shift in Sopore and beyond, with the creation of a generation of youth committed to faith, responsibility and service to the communi-

Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT ASYM DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM

Official Mail ID:- medsupdhb@gmail.com

OUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from registered/ authorized petrol pumps of the valley for supply of HSD for the central heating system during the winter session 2024-2025. The quotation should be reach to this office by are before 25/10/2024 up to 02:00pm on all working days in the office of undersigned. The quotation will be opened on the same day at 03:00pm in the office chamber of Medical Superintendent ASYM District hospital Budgam.

No:- DHB/2024/1535-40 Dated:- 17/10/24

Medical Superintendent **ASYM** District Hospital

DIPK-6340-24 DT: 18/10/2024 Budgam

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NIT No: M&HDB/TS/2024-25/44/1602-07

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works

17-10-2024

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repairs / Replacement to transmission side of snow Cat 10 pertaining to Mechanical and Hospital Sub- Division-II at Snow control Room Badgam.	0.72	200.00	1440/-	10 days	M&HED/K/ Acctt /210 of 2024-25 Dt: - 03-10-2024	-,

Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt, website www.iktenders.gov.in from 17-10-2024 (06:15PM) Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 17-10-2024 (06:30 PM) to 29-10-2024 (06:55

Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 31-10-2024 (13:00Hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engi neer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Tender Fee Baramulla, Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. | Branch: T.P Baramulla. | IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL | Account No.: 0213010200000051. Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, EMD of successful bidder shall be released 02. EMD on receipt of 5% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-success ful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020. 03. Terms & Conditions | Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A", "B"& "C" duly accepted by the bidder. 04. Tax Clearance Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number. Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns. 05. GST Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. 06. Undertaking

Note:-Successful Bidder (L1) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department

Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOQ which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only. The complete bidding process shall be online

The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla after evaluation

Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains. The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.

Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

10 The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.

The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof. 11. The successful bidder has to carry out the repair jobs based on allotment order issued by the Department at the rates allotted under this contract from the 12.

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-44/1602-07 Dated: - 17-10-2024 DIPK-6280-24

DT: 18/10/2024

Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION URI

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

eNIT No.48 of 2024-25/5292-5300/R&B Uri e-tendering

DATED: 17-10-2024 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
1	1 2		4		5	6	7	8
01	Upgradation of Road from Pirbaba Al Post Bhusian	24.17	800/-	48350/-	45 days	23.10.2024	BEE CEE	SSY
02	Upgradation of High School Building KandikillerGarkote B Phase-2nd.	15.40	800/-	30800/-	40 days	23.10.2024	BEE CEE	PRI
03	Construction of Protection wall and drain at HS Darkote Zone Jhulla	4.96	200/-	9920/-	25 days	23.10.2024	DEE	District Capex Sec- ondary Education
04	Upgradation of road from Sultandaki- Kamalkote road to Mangral by way of protection work.		200/-	3900/-	15 days	23.10.2024	DEE	District Sector
Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Paramulla Desition of AAA /TS: Accorded /Sanctioned								

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner BaramullaPosition of AAA/TS: Accorded/Sanction The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and condi-

	uons of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <u>www.jktenders.gov.iir</u> as per schedule of dates given bu							
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17.10.2024						
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17.10.2024 from (10:00AM) to 23.10.2024(02:00PM)						
3	Bid submission Start Date	17.10.2024 from (10:00 AM)						
4	Bid Submission End Date	23.10.2024(02:00PM)						
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23.10.2024 (03:00 PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri						

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of <u>Treasury Challan debited under M.H-0059</u> in favour of <u>Executive Engineer R&B</u> Division Uri (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should bebetween the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri, (tender receiving authority).

At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the AdvertisedCost in the form of CDR/FDR/ pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B DivisionUri (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful (1st lowest) bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only .after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded 3 (a) to Higher Authorities.

The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If: 3. (c)

Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent. Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division

Uri(tender receiving authority). The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

No.:-2024-25/5292-5300 Dated: 17-10-2024 DIPK-6308-24 DT: 18/10/2024

(Er. FavazKumar) Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Uri.

Noman Ali's Heroics Lead Pakistan To Series-Leveling Victory

Agencies

MULTAN: Noman Ali claimed eight wickets as Pakistan's frontline spinners bowled them to a 152-run victory over England in the second Test in Multan on Friday to level the three-match series at 1-1.

Chasing 297 for victory on a turning track at the Multan Cricket Stadium, England were all out for 144 in the fourth day's morning session. Skipper Ben Stokes was the top scorer for England with 37 but their frontline batters struggled against the turning ball.

Left-arm spinner Noman was pick of the Pakistan bowlers claiming 8-46.

Noman and player of the match Sajid Khan, who claimed seven wickets in the first innings, shared all 20 England wickets in a terrific

display of spin bowling. It ended Pakistan's winless run on home soil where they had not won a Test match since February 2021.

"I think the first one's always special, and it's come after some hard times, some rough times, Shan Masood said after his first Test win as Pakistan captain.

"Noman and Sajid coming in for their first games -- it's never easy, and they seemed like two seasoned campaigners coming in and doing their job in the second innings."

"We didn't need a third bowler, so that just speaks volumes for them." Pakistan were already in the ascendancy when England resumed

on 36-2 needing an extraordinary batting effort to get anywhere

near the target. Vice captain Ollie Pope (22) fell in the second over of the day, giving off-spinner Sajid Khan a return catch before left-arm spinner Noman ran amok. Noman dealt the tourists a body blow when he trapped Joe Root Ibw for 18, a decision the batter reviewed but could not get overturned.

Harry Brook (16) fell to Noman in a similar fashion and England slumped to 88-6 when Jamie Smith was sent packing.

Stokes has played some matchdefining knocks in his illustrious career and England badly needed a similar innings from him.

The captain, scoring at a run-aball rate, came dancing down the track against Noman and swung his bat only for it to fly out of his hands to midwicket.

Pakistan wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan had all the time in the world to collect the ball and whip off the bail with Stokes well out of the crease.

"When you get extreme conditions like that, you've got to find a way to negate that spin, which I think we managed to do in some good parts," Stokes said.

"... we would have liked to have gone on, especially myself and a couple of the guys who got starts, we might even be able to get closer, if not win the game.'

The third and final Test begins in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

Divisional Level Yoga Competition Begins In Baramulla

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The UT-level Inter-District Yoga Competition for all age groups officially started at Government Higher Secondary Schoo Baramulla on Friday.

Organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, the prestigious event is being hosted by the DYSS Baramulla.

The inaugural session of the competition featured the participation of boys in the Under-14 category, with teams from 15 districts across Jammu & Kashmir converging in Baramulla to showcase their skills in the ancient practice of yoga.

The event was inaugurated by the Principal of GHSS Baramulla, who extended a warm welcome to the participants and inspired them to embrace the discipline of yoga, highlighting its significance in maintaining physical and mental well-being.

DYSSO Baramulla also welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to YSS for entrusting Baramulla with the responsibility of hosting this major competition.

The first day of the competition witnessed enthusiastic participation and a display of remarkable talent from the young athletes, setting the stage for an exciting series of events in the days to come.

The Yoga competition will continue with participation from all age groups, fostering a spirit of camaraderie, discipline, and healthy competition among the youth.

Kohli, Rohit, Sarfaraz 50s Take India To 231/3 On Day 3

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: A counter-attacking India kept alive the hopes of a miracle turnaround through freeflowing 50s from the troika of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Sarfaraz Khan, reaching 231 for three in their second innings on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand here on Friday.

Kohli (70), who completed 9,000 Test runs during the course of his knock, got out to Glenn Phillips off the last ball of the day, edging him to Tom Blundell, leaving Sarfaraz (70) at the crease at close. The deficit at the end of an overcast day was a less intimidating 125.

Kohli and Sarfaraz added 136 runs for the third wicket after skipper Rohit did the early running with a fluent 52.

This was after New Zealand posted a total of 402 all out to gain a massive lead of 356 runs thanks to Rachin Ravindra (134) and Tim Southee (63), who added precious 134 runs for a flowing eighth wicket stand.

The largest deficit India has overturned to win a Test in their cricketing history is 274 during the iconic Kolkata Test against Australia in 2001.

Such an epic is still some distance away, but hopes will be flickering after the day's effort with the bat.

Amid the more coruscating 50s by Rohit and Sarfaraz, Kohli's effort still stood out for its personal and situational significance. It was his first Test half-century

of 2024, and he could not have timed his 31st in the longest format better—literally and figuratively. Seldom a shot describes the touch of Kohli better than the

cover drive, and the moment he executed one off pacer William O'Rourke, the 35-year-old was in full flow. He took 15 balls to get off the mark. Kohli brought up his 50 with a

single off Matt Henry but at the other end, Sarfaraz resembled a race car on the tarmac. The Mumbai man punished

all bowlers with disdain and left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel was shunted off the park for two successive sixes.

Then there was a daring upper cut for maximum off O'Rourke



and fortune also blessed him as a couple of edges fell inches short of Ajaz at gully and wide of third slip.

Before Kohli and Sarfaraz ran roughshod, another old-young combination of Rohit and Yashasvi Jaiswal (35) gave India a solid start.

Jaiswal went through an early uncertain play-and-miss phase but he overcame that to play some sparkling shots.

Rohit had no such issues. The right-hander flicked and drove New Zealand pacers to reach a 50 off just 59 balls, and also thrilled the crowd with that patented swivel pull on one leg.

But his tenure in the middle ended in unfortunate circumstances. Rohit offered a forward defensive shot to Ajaz, but the ball trickled back onto his stumps after taking a deflection from his bat. A few minutes before that,

Jaiswal's decision to give a charge to Ajaz resulted in him getting stumped by Tom Blundell, after adding 72 for the opening wicket with Rohit.

The recovery was impressive but it could not overshadow what New Zealand accomplished earlier in the day.

Resuming the day at 180 for three, the Kiwis were halted to an extent by Ravindra Jadeja (3/72) and the other Indian bowlers who took some early wickets to reduce them to 233 for seven.

They lost Daryl Mitchell. Glenn Phillips, Blundell and Henry in this period.

Jasprit Bumrah snaffled Blundell while Mohammed Siraj had the number of Mitchell. Phillips and Henry perished to the crafty Jadeja.

The Blackcaps were ahead by 187 runs at that point and it was imperative for them to stretch the lead at least till the 250mark to maintain their edge. Ravindra and Southee exceed

ed the expectations during their partnership to take the lead past the 300-run mark. Ravindra started cautiously

but unfurled his full range once he and the pitch settled down past the first-hour mark. The 24-year-old, who has his family roots in Bengaluru, showed

dian spinners, either staying on the front foot or making a shimmy down to nullify the turn. A cleanly swept four off Ravichandran Ashwin carried him to

the correct method of playing In-

his second Test hundred. Southee, who hammered a couple of his trademark sixes, gave solid company to Ravindra and duly completed his seventh Test fifty immediately after the lunch.

Champions Trophy

PCB Makes India A Unique Proposal

Press Trust of India

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has reached out to the BCCI and proposed an arrangement allowing India to return to either New Delhi or Chandigarh in between matches during the Champions Trophy next year if the team is not willing to stay in Pakistan due to security reasons.

The PCB has "verbally" suggested to the BCCI that the Indian team can set up a camp in either New Delhi or Chandigarh/ Mohali and use chartered flights to travel to Lahore for their matches.

A PCB source though confirmed to PTI on Friday that the the Board had not made any suggestions in writing to their Indian counterparts.

A PCB source though confirmed to PTI on Friday that the the Board had not made any suggestions in writing to their Indian counterparts.

"But yes it is true that these options have been discussed verbally between officials as a way to ensure that India plays its matches in Pakistan," the source said. The Champions Trophy is slated to take place from February 19 to March 9, with matches scheduled in Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Karachi. Due to its proximity to the In-

dian border and logistical ease, the PCB has planned India's

matches in Lahore. India's three group-stage matches in the tournament are slated for February 20 (against Bangladesh), February 23 (against Pakistan), and March 2 (against New Zealand).

The PCB is however adamant that the final must be held in Lahore regardless of whether India plays in Pakistan or not.

The Indian team has long gap between its group matches and Lahore is located close to the Indian border.

The ICC is considering a hybrid model for the tournament, with some matches played outside of Pakistan.

The hybrid model is being considered due to India's unlikely participation in the tournament, as they have not toured Pakistan since 2008.

The ICC is exploring alternative venues, such as Dubai and Sri Lanka, to host the matches.

Jammu Wins Inter Division U-19 Cricket Tournament



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Jammu clinched the Inter Division UT Level Under-19 Cricket Tournament 2024 after defeating Kashmir 2-1 on Friday here at BHSS Ground Bijbehara. Earlier, Jammu Division won two consecutive matches in the three-match tournament.

In the third game played on Friday, Kashmir defeated Jammu by 6 wickets. In the match, Jammu while batting first set the target of 101 runs, in which Ashutosh contributed 24 runs and Adnan made 18. From Kashmir, Soulib Tariq clinched 5 wicket haul which included a hat trick

In reply, Kashmir Division chased down the target easily with 6 wickets in hand, in which Waris Rashid contributed unbeaten 28 and Mohd Umair made 27. For Jammu, Nazir Khanday picked up 2 important wickets.

Later, Solib Tariq was adjudged as man of the match for his 5 wicket haul in the match.

The tournament was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports and hosted by DYSSO Anantnag at BHSS Ground Bijbehara. Soon after the completion of the tournament, the selectors selected 16 members to represent J&K in the upcoming School National Games.





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