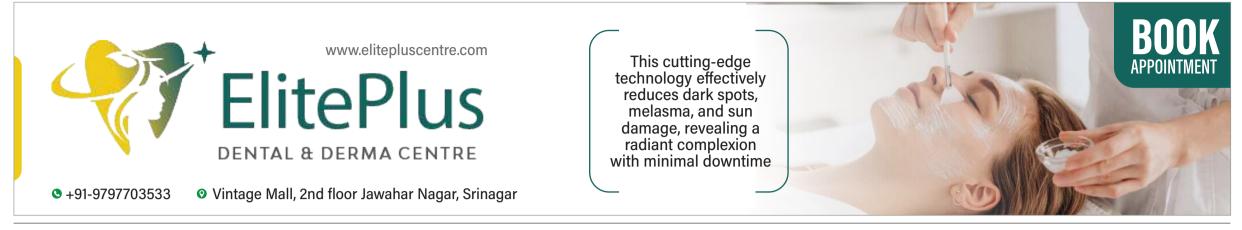
28 year of publication

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®]

Friday 10 January 2025 | Srinagar | Vol: 28 | Issue: 10 | Pages: 12 | Price: ₹3

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



CLIMATE CRISIS Jhelum Water Level At Alarming Low



Agencies

Srinagar: Amidst melting of glaciers, River Jhelum, the lifeline of Kashmir, is witnessing one of its all-time lowest water levels this season, raising alarms about the growing impact of climate change on the region.

According to the details, the Jhelum at Sangam point is currently flowing at a distressing level of -0.75 feet, while at Ram Munshi Bagh, the water level stands at 3.73 feet and at Asham at 1.08 feet.

These measurements indicate a severe drop in water flow, which is unprecedented for this time of the year.

Similarly Lidder Nallah and Rambiara Nallah, are also facing critical lows, with the former flowing at -0.38 meters at Batkote and the latter at -0.47 meters at Wachi.

A top official of the Irrigation and Flood Control department while talking to KNO said, "The River Jhelum is witnessing below zero flow. Main source of Jhelum are | More on P10

No Direct Train Between Kashmir & Delhi



Icy Strides: A fisherman pushes his boat on the frozen Anchar Lake in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

If INDIA Bloc Only For Polls, Wind It Up: Omar 'Hope Centre Will Restore Promised Statehood'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that there was no time limit attached to the INDIA bloc, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed dismay over the lack of clarity regarding its leadership and agenda, saying the alliance should be wound up if it was meant only for the parliamentary elections. Omar said the Aam Aa



Omar also said that perhaps the members of the INDIA bloc will be called for a meeting after the Delhi elections, and a clarity would emerge.

Replying to another query on increasing support for AAP ahead of next month's Delhi elections, Onar said, "I cannot say anything about this at the moment because we have no involvement with Delhi polls. The Aam Aadmi Party Congress, and other political parties on the ground will decide how to compete with the

KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES J&K Govt Constitutes **High-level Panels Observer News Service**

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday constituted two highlevel committees to ensure the successful organization of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025.

Organizing The cum Coordination Committee is led by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, which includes the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister of J&K as Co-Chairpersons, with its key members include the Director General of the Sports Authority of India, Secretary of the Youth Services and Sports Department besides, representatives from the Indian Olympic Association.

The committee will provide overarching policy directions for the Games. Similarly, the Executive | More on P10

-31°C On Zojila **Intense Cold Wave Grips** Kashmir, Ladakh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After two consecutive spells of snowfall, an intense cold wave has tightened its grip on Jammu and Kashmir, plunging temperatures across the region and disrupting daily life Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, recorded a biting

extreme conditions, with Drass recording an unbearable -24.8°C, followed by Kargil (-14.6°C) and Leh (-13.3°C). Zojila has recorded the lowest temperature at -31 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu, while conditions were less severe, cold persisted in hill towns like Padder (-5.1°C) and Bhaderwah (-0.2°C).

The Met office has

Katra Station To Become Boarding Hub

KO Web Desk

trains.

Srinagar: With train services set to begin between Kashmir and New Delhi, it has been confirmed that all trains traveling to Srinagar or returning to New Delhi will halt at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Railway Station in Katra, Jammu, for transshipment.

Railway officials, citing security concerns, have confirmed that Katra station will be the point where passengers will need to change

"Trains either coming from Srinagar or returning to New Delhi will stop at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Railway Station in Katra, Jammu, where passengers will have to board another train to complete their journey," ETV Bharat quoted officials as saying. As per the report, platform number 1 has been designated for Kashmir-bound trains.

"When a train arrives at this platform, all passengers will have to deboard and exit the station. They will then need to re-scan their luggage at the departure lounge before boarding the train stationed at platform number 1 for their onward journey. More on P10

Party (AAP), Congress, and other political parties on the ground will decide how to effectively compete with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "After the Assembly elec-

tions in Delhi, they should call all the alliance members for a meeting. If this alliance was only for the parliamentary elections, it should be wound up, and we will work separately. But if it is meant for Assembly elections as well, we will have to sit together and work collectively," Omar told reporters here.

The National Conference

Sets '100-Day, **One-Year' Benchmark For** Departments

leader was replying to a question about an RJD leader's statement that the INDIA bloc BJP strongly. was meant only for Lok Sabha

"As far as I remember, no people of Delhi decide.'

Claiming that there is no

time limit was set for this. The issue is that no meeting of the INDIA bloc is being convened," he said.

clarity regarding the main leadership, the party, or the agenda for future strategy (in the INDIA bloc), he said, Whether this alliance will continue is also unclear.'

elections.

Stating that AAP succeeded twice in Delhi previously, Omar said, "This time, we will have to wait and see what the

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is convening an orientation programme here on Thursday for the newlyelected legislators.

"Many of us have been members of this House before, but that was when Jammu and | More on P10

hief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday held a comprehensive review of the functioning of all government departments in a high-level meeting held here at Civil Secretariat. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Cabinet Ministers Javid Ahmad Rana, Sakeena Itoo, and Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister | More on P10

Kashmir Startup 'Curve Electric' Makes It to Shark Tank

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Two young founders of the startup Curve Electric captivated millions on Shark Tank India Season 4, bringing a slice of Kashmiri ingenuity to the national stage.

The startup, led by entrepreneurs Sheikh Yameen & Zubair Bhat, presented their innovative e-bike sharing solution, winning admiration from the judges and showcasing the transfor-mative potential of sustainable urban mobility.

According to the founders of this startup, Curve Electric blends modern technology with a deep commitment to environmental sustainability.

"We have already completed 55,000 rides, 720,000 kms & have saved 145 metric tonnes of carbon emissions. Our pitch not only highlighted the strides we



have made with partnerships, but also our ambitious plans for collaboration with major institutions & hotel chains," said Sheikh Yameen, co-founder of Curve electric.

The young Kashmiri entrepreneurs Zubair and Yameen pitched their sustainable ebike service Curve Electric to

the panel of 'sharks', which included Anupam Mittal, Vineeta Singh, Aman Gupta, Peyush Bansal and newcomer Kunal Bahl leaving all the 'sharks' impressed by the entrepreneur's tenacity and drive.

They said that they currently operate in Kashmir, but want to expand | More on P10



Reviews Implementation Of 3 New Criminal Laws In J&K **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday reviewed the implementation of three new criminal laws in the Union Territory and stressed the need for increase in conviction rates, particularly in cases related to anti-national activities and terrorism.



The Lieutenant Governor called for ensuring transparency in police actions and adhering to timelines set for the speedy investigation of cases in Jammu and Kashmir. He also stressed to make dedicated efforts to strengthen the criminal justice system.

Sinha chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha | More on P10

low of -4.4°C intensifying the winter chill. Residents are facing frozen water pipelines, slippery roads, and increased heating demands as temperatures across the Valley dropped significantly.

The coldest spots in Kashmir Larnoo (Anantnag) were -11.6°C, Pahalgam -10.4°C, Gulmarg -9.6°C, Shopian -9.9°C, Anantnag and Kulgam -8.4°C. Ladakh experienced the most

cast mainly dry weather over the next two days, with the possibility of light rain/snow at isolated places on Saturday.

It also said the minimum temperature is likely to drop further in the Valley, and forecast an isolated cold wave over the few days ahead.

Authorities have advised residents and tourists to take precautions as | More on P10

Srinagar-Ladakh **Highway Closed**

he traffic on the strategic Srinagar-Kargil Highway connecting Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh will remain suspended due to icy conditions given inclement weather and to carry out maintenance work from January 11, officials said. Interestingly | More on P10

NC Govt Will Not Fight With **Centre: Dr Farooq**

Srinagar: The National Conference government headed by Omar Abdullah would not "fight" the Centre but work with it to resolve the problems faced by Jammu and Kashmir, party president Farooq Abdullah asserted here on Thursday.

"We don't want to fight New Delhi. We want to work together with Delhi to resolve the state's problems. We don't want to engage in battles. Those who want to fight can do so," the former chief minister told reporters here.

His remarks came in the backdrop of party Lok Sabha MP Aga Ruhullah's comments during a TV interview that Omar Abdullah should not distance himself from the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and should not be seen by the people as a "Delhi's representative".

Addressing concerns about



the unity within the INDIA bloc, Farooq said the alliance is not just about contesting elections, but it is about strengthening India and eliminating hatred.

"The alliance is permanent -- it is for every day and every moment," he said.

He was replying to media questions on a range of issues including fissures in the INDIA bloc with the AAP and Congress fighting | More on P10



To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Shabina Shafi Malik to (new name) Shabina Shafi in future I will be known as Shabina Shafi. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained. mikb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohd Rafig F/o Mohammad Hibban Wani R/o Rangpora, Ellahi Bagh, Srinagar had lost my Son's D.O.B (25.12.2021) somewhere. Now I want to apply for its Duplicate. Regarding this, if anybody is having any objection He/She may file the same to the Concerned Authority within a week time after that no objection will be submitted.

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Murtiza Umar D/o Umar Majeed Wani R/o Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with vertified date of event (birth) as 28-07-2023 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE SADUROSA Fee Structure for the year 2025

S No	Class	Monthly Fee
01	5th	500
02	4TH	460
03	3rd	410
04 05 06	2nd	380
05	lst	350
06	U.K.G	330
07	L.K.G	310
08	Nursery	300

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing no: V8699463 somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained. Ghulam Mohi-u-din Malla S/o Mohammad Qasim Malla

R/o Hagarpora Bodhibuk Teh Singpora

Office of the

Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal

Council Pattan/Block Development Officer

Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining

to Birth of Aasim Khurshed Gogray S/o

Khurshed Ahmad Gugray R/o Hygam Tehsil

Khoie Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with

vertified date of event (birth) as 26-06-2020

In this connection, if anybody having any

objection to the issuance of said registration

may contact this office within seven (07) days

after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

occurred at SDH Pattan

fko

Subject: Issuance of Registration

orders in respect of delayed Birth

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan

Sub . Application of Ruksana Shafi, Hina Shafi, Saba Shaf D/o Mohd Shafi Dhobi R/o Khambyar Tehsil Pattan for obtaining **OBC** certificate

Regarding the subject cited above applicant's OBC certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that the applicant' s are residing in village Khambyar with her father and belongs to Dhobi caste, monthly income of applicant is 6000 . Family members of applicant's are as under 1 Mohd Shafi Dhobi s/o Mohd Sulthan Dhobi 48y Labour 2 Sarwa Begum w/o Mohd Shafi Dhobi 47y H/work 3 Ruksana Shafi d/o Mohd Shafi Dhobi 24y student

4 Hina Shafi d/o Mohd Shafi Dhobi 20y student 5 Saba Shafi d/o Mohd Shafi Dhobi 16y student

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04days after that no objection shall be entertained SD

Naib Tehsildar Palhallan

16.

17.

3.

4.

DATED: 08/01/2025

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of all general public that there are spelling

I Niyaz Ahmad Rather S/o Bashir Ahmad Rather R/o Kakazgari Mohalla Nowshera, Srinagar 190002 have Lost my Rc Bearing Car No:- JK01AH 1318 & Chasis No:- MA3EUA61S00C69614 of Vehicle Maruti Suzuki India Limited while Travelling Frome Soura to Nowhsera. Now I want to apply for its Duplicate. Regarding this, if anybody is having any objection may file the same to the RTO office Srinagar within a weeks time after that no objection will be entertained

mistakes of my son and my daughter in mother's name & father's name in the school records in which the details are given as Mohmmad Hidayat Kanth S/O Tufail Ahmad Kanth daughter name Amina Kanth D/O Tufail Ahmad Kanth, Mother name Ruwaida Jhan R/O New Colony, Lal Bazar Alimative and the second secon Jhan as per Records. Now, I want to correct the details on all documents related to school matters of my son and daughter as per records. If anybody having any objection, he/she may submit the compliant in the office of the Green Valley Educational Institute, Ellahi Bagh, Buchpora Srinagar within seven days from the date of publishing of this notice. Any representation /objection received after due date shall not be entertained F/O Mohammad Hidavat Kanth & Amina Kanth.

Mobile No. 9419005420

Government of Jammu & Kashmir **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Single Cover System E-NIT No: 119/EEA/RNB of 2024-25/8502-12

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Friday | 10-01-2025

CENTRAL POWER RESARCH INSTITUTE (A Government of India Soceity)

P.B. No. 8066, Bangalore - 560 080

Advt.No.CPRI/R&D/EOI/2024 **CPRI/01/2025**

Research Institute (CPRI)-an Central Power Autonomous Society under the Ministry of Power, Government of India-invites "Expression of Interest" from entrepreneurs, start-ups and industries for licensing CPRI patented technologies at a no cost basis. For details and application format, please refer website (www.cpri.in/en/content/patents)

CBC 34104/12/0013/2425

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR **OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN, BIJBEHARA**

Re-Advertisement Notice No:- 12 of 2025 DATED:-09-01-2025.

Subject: -Re-advertisement for Recruitment of Sahiyikas (AWHs) in Anganwadi Centre of Poshan Project Bijbehara

Reference:-1. Government Order No: 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022. 2. Government Order No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated:-28.04.2023. 3. SMD/Poshan/ICDS/Recruitment/2024/380902-912 Dated: 06-12-2024.

Application on prescribed proforma (Annexure "A") are hereby invited from the female candidates of the panch wards / M.Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/ Municipal wards for the engagement of Sahayikas (AWHs) for the Anganwadi Centre of Poshan Project, Bijbehera.. The application along with required enclosures shall be submitted in the Office of Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Bijbehera, by or before 24 th January, 2025 upto 4:00 PM.against proper receipt.

Detail of vacant post of Sahiyikas (AWHs) along with name and location of Anganwadi Centre.

S.No.	Name of Anganwa	di Centre	Ward	No	Name of Po	ost	No	. of post.
1.	Paddaypora "A" Pe			ward No: 04	Sahiyikas (1
2	Waghama - D		Panch	n ward No: 06	Sahiyikas (1
			(1 N	NEXURE 'A ')				
		-	•	•				
		FC	ormatio	of Application				
1. 2. 3.	Name of the Distr Name of POSHAN Name of Anganw	l Project: adi Centre:	Bij	behara	_	the	e ap	graph of plicant
4.	Post Applied for_ Name of the Cano					du	ly a	ttested
5.	Name of the Cano	lidate (In Bl	ock Let	ters)				zetted
6.	Father's Name (Ir	Block Lette	rs)				Officer	
7.	Marital Status ;M	arried/Un Ma	arried_				•	
8.	Husband's Name							
9.	Residence							
10.	Ward No: Address for corres							
11. 12.	Address for corres	pondence:				-		
12. 13.	Contact No:					-		
15. 14.	Date of Birth Age as on 01.01.20	12/						
14.	Academic Oualific							
15.	Academic Qualing	.ation						
S.No	Examination passed	Board/Univ	ersity	Year of passing	Marks obtained	Total Ma	rks	Percentage
<u> </u>								
<u> </u>								

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Valley Springs 365" Situated at Meena Bazar, Dal Lake-190001, Srinagar.

Whereas I, Villayat Ali Akhoon S/O Ghulam Rasool Akhoon R/O Vegetable Market, Tinda Mohalla, Dal Lake, Srinagar intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of ""M/S Valley Springs 365" Situated at Meena Bazar, Dal Lake-190001, Srinagar under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card \ Experience Certificate (Minimum 5years). Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained. inf

NOTICE Tufail Ahmad Kanth 9622833280

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing no: Y1076259 From Aripanthan to Beerwah. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained. Aamir Khursheed S/o Khursheed Ahmad Bhat bmg R/o Aripanthan Budgam

Office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool and Associates

In the case of Ghulam Rasool kuchey S/o: late mohd Subhan kuchey R/o: Tantraypora Palhallan pattan Baramulla (Caveator)

V/s Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order. Sd/advocate fko

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

S No	Name of Work	(incl. GST)		Money	Time of comple- tion (days)		AAA No & Dated	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Execution of Activi- ties/works under NGTs Action O.A No: 606/2018 for solid waste management facility at MC Khrew.		1100/-	2% of Adv cost	45 work- ing days	Action Plan O.A	MC/KH/ADM/ Works/119 of 2024 Dated: 16.12.2024.	Aay, BEE.

Position of AAA: Accorded-Position of funds: -Available MC-Khrew Project Authority:

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08/01/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08/01/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	08/01/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	23/01/2025upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	24/01/2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of Execu-
		tive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

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

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

The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in 2.1 the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee(bid security) should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity. 3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Ad-

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

All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ including GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

DIPK-10607/24 dated: 09-01-2025

Sd/-

Sd/-Technical Officer Draftsman

Sd/-**Executive Engineer R&B** Division Awantipora Do the candidate belong to retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO) Document Attached.

> Signature of candidate Dated:-

Criteria for selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers). A.

1. The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located. 2.

Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2024 shall be eligible.

The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K

Minimum qualification for the Anganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation

5. In case no Matriculate candidate is available in the ward, candidate with qualification not less than VIII standard shall be considered.

Selection Committee comprising of Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Block Development Officer, BDO and Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) concerned in each project /Block shall have the mandate to make selection of the eligible candidates for the position of AWH.

The Committee shall select the most destitute /needy married woman of the ward as Helper from amongst those who fulfill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.

Document Verification

The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document 1) verification along with the original documents as well as self attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form. a).Marks sheet(s) Diploma /Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.

a) Marks sheet (s) /Diploma /Degree of the qualification prescribed formthe post as per advertisement notification.

b) Date of Birth/Matriculation certificate.

c) Domicile Certificate.

d) Unmarried Certificate (where required).

2) Candidate has to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:

i) Aadhaar Card.

ii) Voter ID Card.

The candidate who are supposed to furnish various certificates issued by or before the prescribed 3) cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure , the Committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

ANNEXURE C

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.

Maximum qualification is Graduate for vacancy of Anganwadi Worker and Class X for Anganwadi 2. Helper and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.

The deponent has read the HR Policy No: 22-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi Worker/Anganwadi Helper.

Sd/-

Child Development .Project Officer, Poshan Project, Bijbehera.

No: CDPO/Poshan/BIJ/2024-25/Adv/1713-28 DIPK-10670/24 Dated:-09-01.2025.

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





AIRPORTS

Book Fair Held At Imam Bargah Zadibal



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Free Book Fair was held at Imam bargah Zadibal on Thursday as part of an initiative by the Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association in collaboration with Lifelink International and sponsored by Kashmir Book Depot.

According to organizers, the event aimed to promote education and provide students with free access to books.

The event saw a huge turnout of local students who eagerly participated in the program. Attendees

Nowhatta Blaze: Darul

Devotees Oppose AC Installation At Khangah-E-Moula



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The devotees and locals of nearby areas have strongly opposed the installation of Air Conditioners at the historic Khanqah-e-Moula shrine, expressing concerns that it could pose a serious fire hazard.

Several devotees and local residents from nearby areas said they are willing to endure the cold and do not want air conditioning at the centuries-old wooden shrine. They urged the Jammu and Kash-

mir Waqf Board to instead focus on strengthening fire safety measures at the revered site. "We fear that in-

stalling air conditioners in a wooden structure like Khanqah-e-Moula could increase the risk of fire incident. It is better to improve the firefighting system rather than install these devices," a devotee said. Another devotee and local resident

from the area said they feel it is a high risk to install such devices in the shrine. "The Khanqah-e-Moula is all decorated with wooden work inside and alike outside, and if ACs are installed, there is a risk that any such unwelcoming incidents might happen and cause damage to the historical shrine that we can't tolerate or let

When contacted, officials from Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board said that a meeting will be held with the Khanqah-e-Moula management to discuss the matter in detail. "A complete fire audit of the shrine will be conducted first. After ensuring all safety measures, including a proper fire safety system and rewiring, the heating systems will be considered," the official said.

'The Khanqah-e-Moula, built in the 14th century, holds immense religious and historical significance for everyone alike and for the Waqf Board too. We would not let anything happen to the shrines, and people need not worry," they said—(KNO)

SSCL Rebuts 'Non-Availability Of Smart City Bus Services After 6 PM

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Smart City Ltd. (SSCL) on Thursday refuted the claims made in a news item published in local newspaper on 9th January, 2025, alleging the nonavailability of Smart City bus services after 6 PM in Lal Chowk and Civil

In an official handout issued here, the Srinagar Smart City Ltd. (SSCL) authorities cleared that SSCL bus services are operated as per a robust and well-defined schedule, extending well beyond 6 PM to cater to the commuting needs of the general public, including shopkeepers and businessmen in these area

Observer News Service

Line areas of Srinagar.





This Day In History

236- St Fabian begins his reign as Catholic Pope

- 381- Roman Emperor Theodosius issues edit ordering all churches be surrendered to bishops of the Catholic faith as he saw it
- 532- Constantinople chariot racing green and blue supporters due to be executed escape, prompting Nika revolt
- 1072- Robert Guiscard's Norman force conquers Palermo
- 1356- German Emperor Charles I promulgates the 'Golden Bull', to regulate the election of a new king - the most important constitutional document of the Holy Roman Empire
- 1475 Stephen III of Moldavia defeats the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Vaslui.
- 1514 Complutensian New Testament in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek & Latin finished
- 1861 US forts & property seized by Mississippi
- 1861 Florida secedes from the Union (US Civil War) 1906 - The British and French begin consultations on
- military and naval issues 1912 - World's 1st flying boat's maiden flight, (Glenn Curtiss
- in NY) 1914 - Yuan Shih-k'ai, president of the new Chinese republic, dissolves parliament and prepares a constitution of his own
- design: he will set himself up as dictator, preparatory to an attempt to make himself emperor 1916 - Russian offensive in Caucasus
- 1916 In retaliation for President Woodrow Wilson's recognition of the Carranza government, members of

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil, on behalf of its Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the devastating fire incident at Baha-ud-din Nowhatta Srinagar, which resulted in the complete destruction of six residential houses and the loss of all properties.

In a statement issued, Darul Khair said it extended its profound sympathy and solidarity to the affected families. The organization emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive assistance and immediate rehabilitation to support those who have suffered in this tragic incident.

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to community welfare, a delegation

Rasool Samoon, visited the affected area. The delegation provided essential relief materials, including rice, flour, blankets, kitchen kits, and other necessities, to the six distressed families while conveying their solidarity

and support. Reiterating its mission, Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil underscored that since its inception, the organization has consistently offered financial and material aid to

individuals in need during

calamities, without dis-

crimination of caste, creed,

or religion. The organiza-

tion remains steadfast in

its efforts to rehabilitate

victims and extend every

possible assistance to the

community during difficult

Khair Extends Support To Affected Families from Darul Khair Mirwaiz Manzil, led by Mufti Ghulam

a wide selection of books,

ranging from educational

materials to inspiring litera-

reading among the youth.

present at the event to dis-

portance of education and

the role of knowledge in

and communities. In his re-

marks, Adeel Musavi stated:

"Education is the light that

leads us out of darkness".

individuals

tribute books.

empowering

Government of Jammu & Kashmir DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR. **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SHOPIAN**

times.

Subject: Declaration of Shopian as Manual Scavenging free and invitation of objections thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In pursuance of order dated: - 20/10/2023 of Hon'ble Supreme Court WP (C) 324/2020 filed by Dr. Balram Singh and the Guideline for Survey of Manual Scavengers issued by the Government of India vide letter dated: - 1st Feb-2024, the survey of Manual Scavengers has been undertaken and completed and no Manual Scavengers have been found in the Municipal Council Shopian.

Therefore, Municipal Council Shopian is declared Manual Scavenging Free.

No:- MC/Spn/25/PA	Chief Executive Officer	
Date:- 07/01/2025	DIPK-NB-3123-24	Municipal Council
	DT: 09/01/2025	Shopian

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dv. CE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites Open Tender (E- Tenders) against below titled tender and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 30/01/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tenderers are allowed to make payments agains this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit Receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type			Tendering	Section	Bidding System		
Open Tender			Gati Sha	kti Unit	Single Packet Syster		
Date of Uploading Tenders			Bid Starti	Bid Starting Date		Closing Date/Time	
08.01.2025		16.01.2025		30.01.2025 / 15:00 Hr			
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender					
1.	OP-08-GSU- FZR-2024-25 Dated : 08/01/2025	Balance works i.c.w Misc Works in connection with the provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at Budgam Railway Station on BAHL-BRML section in C/W ABSS under ADEN/BDGM.					
	Advertised Value (Rs.)		Earnest Money	Valid of of		Period of Completion	
	3,44,31,200.4	7/-	3,22,200/-	60 D	ays	6 Months	
Note : 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No. OP-08-GSU-FZR-2024-25 Date: 08.01.2025							

"Timely and reliable transportation remains our top priority, and we have consistently ensured adherence to the schedule across all routes," read the statement.

Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) operates public transport services within the city and its adjoining districts across 16 routes, including 11 intra-city routes and 5 inter-city routes, with a total fleet size of 98 buses. These services are available to commuters from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM during the winter months and from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM during the summer months. On specific routes connecting important hospitals and railway terminals, SSCL ensures services until 10:00 PM.

All the routes either originate from or pass through the City Centre at Lal Chowk, traversing the Civil Lines area, including IG Road, Sanat Nagar, Rawalpora, and other areas of

the city. SSCL operates these routes with optimal bus deployment to ensure efficient public transportation. In the Lal Chowk area, bus services are available from early morning until late evening, providing reliable public transport services.

For the convenience of the public, the e-bus services can be accessed in real-time through a dedicated mobile application, the Chalo App. SSCL ensures the efficient operation of these services through a real-time monitoring cell.

Additionally, SSCL regularly publishes advisories regarding the temporary unavailability of services on specific routes through the Mobile App. These advisories may arise due to factors such as electricity short-

ages (as the buses are electrically powered), road maintenance works, or route diversion directives issued by the Traffic Police.

"Our operational framework includes regular monitoring and prompt resolution of any servicerelated disruptions. Upon preliminary investigation of this matter, no evidence has been found to substantiate the reported claims. However, SSCL assures the public that any genuine service gap brought to our notice will be addressed with utmost urgency," further read the handout.

Srinagar Smart City Ltd. remains committed in providing efficient and dependable transportation for the people of Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

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

Corrigendum 02 For Date Extension.

- Name of work: -SITC & ITC (as the case may be) of sprinkler irrigation System including HDPE pipe/LLDPE pipeline /DG set including allied fittings for Saffron Crop cultivated area at bore well No.106(24.33 Hac) under implementation of National Mission on Saffron.
- This office e-NIT No: MDSK/TS /2024-25/87 Date:21-12-2024 (Tender **Reference:** ID: 2024_PWDJK_268664_1)

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are here by extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Old Dates		
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	08-01-2024 upto 06:55PM	16-01-2025 upto 06:55	
02.	Date of opening of bids online	09-01-2024 at 02:00 PM	17-01-2025 at 02:00PM	
All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.				
NO: MDSK/15-5605-09Sd/Date: 09 -01-2025.Technical Officer with				
	DSK/TS-5605-09 09 -01-2025.		,	
Date:	,		/Sd Technical Officer with Executive Enginee	

- Pancho Villa's revolutionary army take 17 US mining engineers from a train and shoot 16 of them in cold blood
- 1917 The Allied Governments respond to US President Woodrow Wilson's December 1916 note, giving their terms for ending the war
- 1923 Last US troops leave Rhineland (Germany)
- . 1923 - Lithuania seizes & annexes country of Memel
- 1925 Allies refuse to evacuate the Cologne area of Germany as agreed
- 1928 Soviet Union orders exile of Leon Trotsky
- 1944 British troops conquer Maungdaw, Burma
- 1946 UN General Assembly meets for 1st time in London
- 1951 UN headquarters opens in Manhattan NY
- 1954 A Comet jet airliner crashes in the Mediterranea; 35 people are missing
- 1966 India & Pakistan sign Tashkent Declaration peace accord
- 1968 US Surveyor 7 lands near lunar crater Tycho
- 1969 USSR's Venera 6 launched for parachute landing on Venus
- 1972 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman arrives in Dacca, East-Pakistan
- 1978 Soyuz 27 carring 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6 space station, launched
- 1984 US re-establishes full diplomatic relations with Vatican after almost 117 years
- 1986 NASA's STS-61-C mission scrubbed T 9m because of bad weather at Florida's Kennedy Space Center
- 1990 China lifts martial law (imposed after Tiananmen Square massacre)
- 1994 Uzbekistan & Kazakhstan agrees to abolish trade tariffs.
- 1996 King Hussein of Jordan visits Israel
- 1997 1st Comet of 1997 Discovered: Comet 1997 A1
- 2001- A large piece of the chalk cliff at Beachy Head collapses into the sea.
- 2003- NBA announces Charlotte, N.C. is awarded an NBA expansion franchise to be known as the Charlotte Bobcats and start play in 2004-05; eventually changes to the Charlotte Hornets for the 2014-15 season
- 2013- 81 people are killed and 120 are wounded by a twin bombing in Quetta, Pakistan
- 2015- 57 people are killed after an oil tanker collided with a passenger coach outside of Karachi, Pakistan
- 2015- 72 people are killed & 169 hospitalized after a mass poisoning of beer with crocodile bile at a funeral in Mozambique
- 2018- Jeff Bezos becomes the second man worth over \$100 billion as his wealth hits \$106 billion due to a rise in Amazon's share price
- 2019- Canadian astronomers report fast radio bursts (FRBs) of probable extragalactic origin, one repeating six times at the CHIME observatory, British Columbia
- 2019- Oceans warming faster than previous thought due to fossil fuel burning, according to data published in journal "Science"

NEWS

Los Angeles Wildfires Spread To Hollywood; 100,000 Ordered To Evacuate, 5 Dead

Agencies

Los Angeles: Raging wildfires surrounding Los Angeles spread to the Hollywood Hills on Wednesday, after five other fires in the area killed at least five people, destroyed hundreds of homes and stretched firefighting resources and water supplies to the limit. More than 100,000 people were

to six the number of wildfires burning in Los Angeles County. All but one of them were 0% contained according to state officials, including a pair of major conflagrations on the eastern and western flanks of the city

that continued to grow as night

fell on Wednesday In between, the so-called Sunset Fire in Hollywood Hills doubled in size within minutes to 20 ordered to evacuate as dry, huracres on Wednesday, Cal Fire said.



fighting operations and spread the fires, which have burned parched terrain almost unimpeded since they began on Tuesday.

A new fire broke out in the Hollywood Hills on Wednesday evening, Fire Chief Kristin Crowley told a press conference, forcing more evacuations and raising

The LA Fire Department issued an evacuation order for people in an area within Hollywood Boulevard to the south, Mulholland Drive to the north, the 101 Freeway to the east and Laurel Canyon Boulevard to the west - all iconic addresses for people in the entertainment industry.

samples were sent to Bhopal

for testing, and the test reports

on January 2 confirmed they

were positive for the H5N1

virus, Gorewada project di-

visional manager Shatanik

advisory, directing zoos to take

precautionary measures, he

had said, adding the disinfec-

tion process was underway ac-

cording to the central and state

government guidelines.

The Centre has issued an

Bhagwat said on Monday.

'3 Tigers, Leopard Died Of Avian Flu In **Nagpur Possibly After Eating Chicken'**

Press Trust Of India

Nagpur: Three tigers and a leopard that died of avian influenza at a rescue centre in Maharashtra's Nagpur district possibly contracted the infection after eating chicken, state Forest Minister Ganesh Naik said on Thursday.

It is, however, yet to be confirmed as the lab test report has not been received so far, the minister told report-





Foreign Secretary Misri Meets Acting Afghan FM Muttaqi In Dubai

Press Trust Of India

Dubai: India on Wednesday said it would consider engaging in development projects in Afghanistan and provide material support to the country in the health sector as Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held talks with the Taliban regime's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai.

It was the first publicly acknowledged engagement between the foreign secretary and a senior minister of the Taliban set up and it saw the Afghan side underlining its "sensitivities" to India's security concerns.

'Today, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had a meeting with the Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan. Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Dubai," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

In response to the request from the Afghan side, India will provide further material support in the first instance to the health sector and for the rehabilitation of refugees, it said.

It was also agreed to promote the use of the Chabahar

The foreign secretary underlined India's historic friendship with the Afghan people and the strong people-to-people contacts between the two countries. In this context, he conveyed India's readiness to respond to the urgent developmental needs of the Afghan people

Port for supporting trade and commercial activities, including for the purpose of humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan, the MEA said.

The Misri-Muttaqi talks came two days after India "unequivocally" condemned Pakistani air strikes in Afghanistan that killed dozens of civilians.

India has not yet recognised the Taliban set-up and

Minor's Right To Hold Passport Can't Be Taken Away

Due To Dispute Between Parents: Bombay HC

has been pitching for the formation of a truly inclusive government in Kabul. New Delhi has also been insisting that Afghan soil must not be used for any terrorist activities against any country.

It is learnt that New Delhi remains concerned over the presence in Afghanistan of terror elements belong ing to Pakistan-based terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

The MEA said the two sides discussed various issues pertaining to bilateral relations as well as regional developments.

"The foreign secretary underlined India's historic friendship with the Afghan people and the strong peopleto-people contacts between the two countries. In this context, he conveyed India's readiness to respond to the urgent developmental needs of the Afghan people," it said.

"In view of the current need for development activities, it was decided that India development projects in the ongoing humanitarian assis-

round, he won in the second round,

Lebanese representatives participat-

ed in the presidential election, with

ambassadors from several countries

in attendance, including those of the

United States, Saudi Arabia, Iran,

Joseph Aoun has served as the

Commander of the Lebanese Army

since March 8, 2017, succeeding

General Jean Kahwaji. His military

career began in 1983, marking the

start of his long service in the army.

General in 2013 and continued to

rise through the ranks, achieving

the rank of General in 2017. That

same year, he was appointed Commander of the Army, leading during one of the most sensitive peri-

Lebanon faced significant security and political challenges during this period, including the notable

"Dawn of the Outskirts" battle in

2017. In this operation, the Lebanese

Army, in cooperation with Resis-

tance forces, fought against terror-

ist organizations on the outskirts

of the towns of Arsal and al-Qaa,

cant security challenges following

the outbreak of protests on October

17, 2019, and the prolonged Israeli

war on Lebanon in 2023, which last-

The country also faced signifi-

located on the Syrian border.

ed over 60 days.

ods in Lebanon's history.

He was promoted to Brigadier

Who is the 14th President of the

It is worth noting that all 128

with 99 recorded votes.

Qatar, Egypt, and China.

Lebanese Republic?

of the Lebanese Republic.

of the Lebanese Army, now holds the presidency, following the terms of his predecessors: Emile Lahoud, Michel Suleiman, and Michel Aoun.

for a candidate to win.



In the second round, they successfully elected the president following a two-hour break, during which Aoun reportedly met with the heads of the Loyalty to the Resistance and Development and Liberation blocs for more than an hour. After 71 deputies voted for

would consider engaging in near future, in addition to the tance programme," it added.

Joseph Aoun elected 14th president of Lebanon

Agencies

Beirust: After more than two years of presidential impasse following the end of former President Michel Aoun's term, the Lebanese Parlia ment elected Army Commander Joseph Aoun as the 14th President

Joseph Aoun, the commander This came after the Lebanese parliamentarians' vote on Thurs-

day, where they failed to secure the necessary two-thirds majority (86 votes) in the first round of voting earlier in the day, which is required



the army commander in the first

China-Made Drone Found In High-Security Bhopal Central Jail; Probe On

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A China-made drone has been found lying inside the high-security Bhopal Central Jail, prompting authorities to launch a probe into it, an official said on Thursday. A guard near B-block

building inside the prison spotted the black drone, which

against its capacity of 2,600, another official said.

These include 69 prisoners, including 32 associated with the banned outfit Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), who are lodged in a high-security zone of the jail, Bangre said.

'We have handed over the drone to the Gandhi Nagar police. They have launched an investigation into the recov-



KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Friday | 10-01-2025



ers in Nagpur ahead of his visit to Chandrapur.

Authorities at the zoos concerned have been directed to inspect the food before feeding the animals, he said, adding the facility affected by the incident has been asked to temporarily remain shut.

The three tigers and the leopard had been relocated to the Gorewada Rescue Centre here from Chandrapur following incidents of man-animal conflict.

The big cats died at the centre last month-end. Their

Asked about the death of the four felines, Naik on Thursday said, "I have not yet received any report from the scientific lab, but as per preliminary information, there is a possibility that they got infected after eating chicken. However, it is not yet established whether this was the cause.

The minister said the forest authorities will be briefing him about the matter later in the day.

tain a passport and travel abroad cannot be taken away merely due to an ongoing matrimonial dispute between parents, the Bom-

Mumbai: A minor's right to ob-

Press Trust Of India

bay High Court has said. The court in its order passed on Wednesday, a copy of which was made available on Thursday, directed the Pune Regional Passport Office (RPO) to issue a passport to the 17-year-old girl within two weeks, observing that the right to travel abroad was a facet of the fundamental right guaranteed in the Constitution.

The RPO had issued a communication to the girl's mother in November 2024, stating that her passport application would not be processed as her father had objected to the same.

In response to the passport

in the passport issuance form as and/or taken away by denythere was a matrimonial dispute between the couple.

office's communication, the girl's petitioner's (girl) right to travel

mother sent a declaration that abroad by issuance of a passport the father's consent was missing can in any manner be scuttled

The high court said in its judgment that the valuable constitutional right of the petitioner girl cannot be prejudiced, much less be taken away, merely on a communication issued by her father refusing to give his No Objection Certificate (NOC).

It said the minor girl was living with her mother and is a bright student having secured outstanding marks in her Class 10 examination

These marks have made her eligible to be selected to participate in a study tour to Japan, being undertaken by her school, the HC added

"In these circumstances, in our opinion, it cannot be that the

N E W S MAKERS

ing her a passport to be issued/ re-issued merely for the reason that the father for the only reason that he has disputes with the mother, is not supporting the petitioner's application by consenting to it," it said.

The court said "personal liberty" as mentioned under Article 21 of the Constitution includes the right to travel abroad and "no person can be deprived of that right except according to the procedure established in law." "The procedure prescribed by law has to be fair, just and reasonable, not fanciful, oppressive or arbitrary. The right to travel abroad is a facet of fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," the high court said



The jail, spread over 151 acres, houses 3,600 prisoners against its capacity of 2.600

was charged and weighed 30 to 40 gm, between 3.30 pm and 4 pm on Wednesday, jail superintendent Rakesh Kumar Bangre told PTI.

No one saw the drone landing in the jail premises, he said, adding that prima facie it appears the unmanned aerial device might be of children who were playing with it near the prison.

The jail, spread over 151 acres, houses 3,600 prisoners

ery of the China-made drone which was charged," he said.

Bhopal Commissioner of Police HC Mishra could not be contacted for more information in the matter. The Bhopal Central Jail was in the news in November 2016, when eight undertrials associated with the SIMI killed a prison guard and escaped. They were killed by police after they opened fire on the security personnel on the outskirts of Bhopal.

reenland may become independent if its residents want, but it won't become a US state, Denmark's foreign minister said on Wednesday after US President-elect Donald Trump refused to rule out force to take control of the Arctic island.

Greenland's leader held talks on Wednesday with the Danish king in Copenhagen, a day after Trump's remarks thrust the fate of the Danish-ruled island to the top of world headlines.

Trump, who takes office on January 20. said on Tuesday he would not rule out using military or economic action to make Greenland part of the United States. The same day, Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., made a private visit to Greenland.

Greenland, the world's biggest island, has been part of Denmark for 600 years although its 57,000 people now govern their own domestic affairs.

The island's government led by Prime Minister Mute Egede



Green wns la

aims for eventual independence.

"We fully recognise that Greenland has its own ambitions. If they materialise. Greenland will become independent, though hardly with an ambition to become a federal state in the United States," Danish foreign minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said.

He told reporters the United States' heightened security concerns in the Arctic were legitimate following increased Russian and Chinese activity in the region.

"I don't think that we're in a foreign policy crisis," he said. "We are open to a dialogue with the Americans on how we can possibly cooperate even more closely than we do to ensure that the American ambitions are fulfilled." Still, although

Denmark itself played down the seriousness of Trump's threat to its territory, the returning president's openly stated ambition to expand U.S. borders has jolted European allies less than two weeks before he takes office.

France's foreign minister, Jean-Noel Barrot, said Europe would not let other nations attack its sovereign borders, although he did not believe the US would invade. A German government spokesperson said Berlin stood by the principle that borders must not be changed by force. A spokesperson for the European Commission said the sovereignty of EU member states had to be respected.

Greenland's relations with Denmark have lately been strained by allegations of colonialera mistreatment of Greenlanders

Egede has said the island is not for sale, while in his New Year speech he stepped up his push for independence. Denmark savs the territory's fate can be de cided only by Greenlanders.

Rahul Visits Keventers Store, Interacts With Founders, Makes Coffee

"How do you shake up a legacy brand for a new generation and a new market," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi discussed with the "young founders" of 100-year-old Keventers at one of its stores in Delhi where he also made cold coffee for a few customers.

On Thursday, he shared on X a video of this conversation during his recent visit to the store at Patel Nagar area.

"How do you shake up a legacy brand for a new generation and a new market? The young founders of Keventers shared some valuable insights with me recently," he wrote.

"Play-fair businesses like Keventers have driven our economic growth for generations. We must do more to support them," he also said.

During the conversation with the owners, Gandhi delved into the fascinating journey of the iconic start-up that seamlessly blends legacy with modern ambition.



Speaking with the co-founders, he uncovered how the brand evolved from its pre-independence roots to a consumer powerhouse with over 200 stores across 65 cities.

The conversation covered the commitment of the owners to preserving old recipes while innovating, expansion into Tier-2 to Tier-4 cities, and their FMCG foray into products like flavoured milk and ghee.

STATE

J&K's Electricity Given To Rajasthan, UP By LG: Dr Farooq

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Farooq Abdullah on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the administration, alleging that Jammu and Kashmir's electricity has been diverted to Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, leaving the people of the Union Territory to suffer. Faroog reiterated the demand

for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and said without it, several challenges cannot be addressed.

"Look at the state of electricity here. We do not have electricity but our electricity has been given to Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh by the honourable Lieutenant Governor.

"Where will we go? Where will we get electricity from? Nobody thought about this. Nobody considered this," Farooq told a public rally in Kathua district.

He said, "We are the owners of power (electricity)... one day even their (LG and BJP's) (political) power will be gone - just wait and see. The Almighty will bring justice one day, but it takes time." Farooq stressed the urgency of

restoring statehood. "It is true that until statehood is restored, we cannot do many things. But that too will come soon," he said, expressing hope

for a brighter future. Emphasising the importance of unity, Farooq said, "Religion is good. Religion can never be bad.

"People can be bad — we, people like us, have made religion look bad. It is we who have misused religion for our purposes. I urge you to live in harmony. Only then will the Almighty help us."

He said the region has "secular ethos" and added, "If I had been born in Jawaharlal Nehru's house, I would have been a Kashmiri Pandit. And if Indira Gandhi had been born in my house, she would have been a Muslim.

"But who decided this? It was the one who is greater than all of us. Have faith in Him," the former chief minister said. Farooq expressed concern over rising inflation and corruption. "The cost of medicines has in-

creased and inflation has risen significantly. Today, corruption has reached such heights that money is demanded for everything — as if money will take us to God," he said, adding that those involved in corruption would be held accountable.

The NC chief accused the government of failing to deliver on its promises.

You voted for them because they told you that you were in danger. But for 10 years, they have ruled over you and yet they couldn't even build a primary school," he said.

He also lamented the stopping of the traditional Darbar Move and its consequences.

"At that point, they celebrated it with slogans, couplings and sweets. Now you are being removed from your houses, your lands are being snatched and your government jobs are being given to outsiders. We will try to solve your problems," he promised.

He underscored the importance of collective efforts to build a prosperous state.

other is Kashmir. If one eye loses its vision, can you see clearly?' he asked, adding, "If we want to build this state, then all people, whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians or anyone else, must work together," he said.

"At least 276 Gardens, Parks

and lawns spreading over an

area of about 13186 Kanals of

land are being maintained by

the Government through the

Department of Floriculture, Gar-

dens and Parks. This includes

world famous Tulip Garden,

Eight Heritage Mughal Gardens

including Nishat, Shalimar, Pari-

Mahal, Cheshmashahi, Jarokha-

bagh (Ganderbal), Verinag, Da-

ra-Shikoh in Anantnag, Achabal in Kashmir division and

'Z-Morh Tunnel Will Fuel Economic Growth In Sonamarg'

Agencies

SONAMARG: The highly anticipated Z-Morh tunnel, a critical infrastructure project, which has been completed and will be thrown open on January 13, is expected to transform the region's connectivity and economy.

Once operational, the tunnel will reduce travel time from Gagangheer to Sonamarg - a renowned tourist destination to just 20 to 25 minutes, cutting down hours of travel and offer-

ing safe, year-round access to the popular tourist destination. The tunnel, which was under construction for several years, will also ensure that

the road to Sonamarg remains open even during the harsh winter months when heavy snowfall and avalanches often force the closure of the highway for extended periods. This development is expected to alleviate one of the most crucial challenges faced by locals and travellers by providing uninterrupted access to the region's scenic beauty and

strategic border areas. Equipped with modern amenities and state-of-theart safety features, the Z-Morh tunnel is expected to enhance tourism in Sonamarg, renowned for its winter sports and breathtaking landscapes. Locals, hoteliers and traders

have expressed their enthusiasm and said they anticipate a boost in both domestic and international visitors. Irshad Ahmad Bhat. a lo-

cal business owner, said, "The **'Dual'** Control **Governance Creating Confusion In J&K: JKPCC Chief**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief, Tariq Hameed Karra on Wednesday voiced strong criticism over the 'dual control system' in Jammu and Kashmir, terming it a source of 'confusion and

cratic framework and the people of the region.

and Kashmir," the JKPCC Chief said. to address the issue to prevent further erosio



Chief Minister Omar Abdul-

of infrastructure in the coming

days. This asset will be a game

changer for the expansion of

MLA Kangan, Mian Mehar

Ali, hailed the project, saying

the Z-Morh tunnel will ensure

that Sonamarg remains acces-

sible even through the harsh

winter months, benefiting

CEO, Sonamarg Develop-

ment Authority (SDA), Gh-

ulam Mohammad Bhat said:

"The opening of the Z-Morh

Tunnel is not just a time-

saver; it's a game-changer for

both locals and visitors alike.

winter tourism in the valley.

opening of the Z-Morh tunnel dents while also providing advantages for national security. is a dream come true for us. It will not only improve our livelah termed the tunnel as a lihoods but also offer new opportunities for the growth of game changer. In a post on X, he wrote: 'J&K, especially cenwinter tourism, which is the tral Kashmir, looks forward to backbone of our economy." the inauguration of a vital piece

Local leaders said the tunnel has the potential to strengthen the region's infrastructure and strategic importance. It will create a more integrated and prosperous region by connecting remote areas to the broader national economic framework, they said.

An official termed it a historic moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The Z-Morh tunnel marks a new chapter in regional development. It will ensure safe passage of goods, services and people to the border areas and enhance the economic growth of the region," he said.

Sonamarg. It will revolutionise He said the tunnel's comtourism, and benefit hoteliers pletion underscores the govand winter-games enthusiasts ernment's commitment to and everyone associated with the region's tourism industry. modernising infrastructure in This will keep Sonamarg open remote areas and improving the quality of life for local resifor the whole year."–(KNO)

MCCH Anantnag Handles Over 7,200 Deliveries In 2024

Agencies

ANANTNAG: The Maternity and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) Anantnag, located in the Sher Bagh area of the town, has managed around 7,200 deliveries in 2024 and treated over 3.5 lakh patients in the outpatient department (OPD).

According to data accessed, 356,974 patients were treated in the OPD, averaging 980 patients per day. "32,107 patients were admitted and treated in the in-patient department. The hospital conducted 5,026 major operations and 2,148 minor surgeries during the year," it states. Moreover, 7,237 deliveries

were managed at the hospital in 2024, averaging 20 deliveries per day. In the same year, the hospital conducted 18,176 HIV tests and treated 2,991 referred patients. A total of 406 ligation procedures were performed, and over 235,895 tests, including 235,695 ultrasounds, 16,670 X-rays, and 8,148 ECGs, were conducted. The hospital performed 16,993 HCV tests, 16,985 HBsAg tests, and hundreds of other diagnostic procedures, according to data.

Meanwhile, despite catering to patients from the four districts of south Kashmir, as well as Ramban and the Chenab Valley, the hospital has been functioning from an unsafe building since 2014.

Located in the congested Sher Bagh locality, the hospital faces severe space constraints, with beds often placed in corridors to accommodate the high patient influx. The infrastructure includes surgical wards, and a single operation theatre, which leads to overcrowding and shared beds. Noise and congestion are frequent complaints from both patients and staff.

"The building was declared unsafe by the Fire and Services Department nearly a decade ago. If an incident occurs under these conditions, who will be held accountable?" one official asked.

Plans to shift the hospital have faced repeated hurdles. A decision to move the hospital to the district hospital was revoked within 24 hours due to alleged political interference, the official said, adding that plans to relocate to the Rehmate-Alam Trust building in Sarnal have stalled, even after Rs 13 crore was spent on constructing additional floors.

A safety assessment by IIT Jammu revealed that the structure failed to meet post-2005 earthquake safety standards, and retrofitting the building would cost an estimated Rs 8 crore. This proposal, however, was shelved.

The government has proposed constructing a 200-bed maternity and childcare hospital on the premises of GMC Anantnag's Janglatmandi Hospital. Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo said that efforts have been made to shift MCCH Anantnag, but the process has been hindered by various obstacles.

"The current hospital operates from an unsafe building, and if any untoward incident occurs, those obstructing the process will be held responsible," the minister said. –(KNO)

just two labour wards, four

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCP(PHQ) J&K JAMMU SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/95/2024-25 Dated: - 08-01-2025 Executive Engineer PCD PHQ1&K JAMMU/SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and

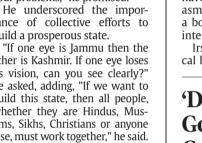
eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CP WD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.								
S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Repair/ renovation of Border Police Post Nagri Kathua including electrification works Under Normal Capex Budget Demand-51 (Police).	PCD(PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	30.28 lacs	2000/-	60560/-	120 working days	18-01-2025	"A", "B"
2	Repair/ renovation of Police Post Basantpur Kathua including electrification works Under Normal Capex Budget Demand-51 (Police).	PCD(PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	10.03 lacs	1000/-	20060/-	75 working days	18-01-2025	"A", "B" , "C"&"D"
3	Repair/ renovation of Police Post Industrial Estate (Hatli) Kathua including electrification works Under Normal Capex Budget Demand-51 (Police).	PCD(PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	8.17 lacs	700/-	16340/-	75 working days	18-01-2025	"A", "B" , "C"&"D"
4	Remodeling/ Up-gradation repair/ renovation of toilet block of double storey Jawans barrack/ Mess block at IRP 7th Bn Kote Bhalwal Jammu including electrification works Under Normal Capex Budget Demand-51 (Police).	PCD(PHQ) J&K Jmu/ Sgr	7.21 lacs	700/-	14420/-	75 working days	18-01-2025	"A", "B" , "C"&"D"
5	Remodeling/ Up-gradation of repair and renovation of USQ building at IRP 7th Bn Kote Bhalwal including electrification works Under Normal Capex Budget Demand-51 (Police).	PCD(PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	20.03 lacs	2000/-	40060/-	105 working days	18-01-2025	"A", "B" & "C"
6	Remodeling/ Up-gradation of repair and renovation of double storey building for Jawans at IRP 7th Bn Kote Bhalwal Jammu including electrification works Under Normal Capex Budget Demand-51 (Police).	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	19 82 lacs	1500/-	39640/-	90 working days	18-01-2025	"A", "B" & C"
7	Repair and renovation of Police Station Gangyal Jammu including electrification works Under Normal Capex Budget Demand-51 (Police).	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	13.02 lacs	1000/-	26040/-	90 working days	18-01-2025	"A", "B" , "C" & "D"

Commercial Growers Registered With Floriculture Deptt 'Eludes' Business

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir nearly 90 percent of commercial floriculture growers registered with the Department of Floriculture have eluded the business-thus raising a question on sustainability of the department.

Commercial floriculture growers are people who cultivate and manage flowers and ornamental plants on a large scale for commercial purposes. The official figures accessed reveal that only 11.03 percent floriculture growers registered with the department of floriculture were active in the line. "At present, 10,789 growers are registered with the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, however only 1191 are active in the line," it reads. It also said that the total area under commercial floriculture in the Jammu and Kashmir was 266.67 Ha and the flower growers have been able to generate income of Rs 19.42 Crores during the year 2023-24.



Agencies

inefficiency'

Karra, while speaking to the media said that the lack of clarity was harming both the demo-

"The dual control system, which lacks proper business rules, is creating confusion in both political and administrative setups. The first casualty of this system is the people of Jammu

He urged 'stakeholders' at the helm of affairs

Bahu and Bhor camp Garden in Jammu division," it reads.

Bagh-e

The documents further reveal that the department is also maintaining two Botanical Gardens in Cheshmashahi and Kokernag and three important installations including in Raj Bhawan, New Secretariat, High Court and office-cum-residential lawns of VVIPs and VIPs.

About the famous Tulip Garden, the documents reveal that during the Tulip show of 2023-24, 1.7 million flowers comprising 73 varieties of Tulip, Mascari, Hyacinth, Daffodils and other spring flowers were on display." –(KNO)

of public trust in governance.

Highlighting the contradictions in the government's approach, he pointed out, "On one hand, they claim militancy is under control, but on the other, the region continues to witness sustained attacks, especially in Jammu. This exposes the contradictory stand of the administration."

The JKPCC leader also highlighted the delay in releasing salaries and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). "Our salaries have been released, but the CDF remains pending. Without it, addressing the needs of the people is challenging," he said.

The JKPCC Chief called for an immediate formulation of business rules to eliminate the confusion stemming from dual governance in J&K-(KNO)

Frozen Panner Dam In Tral Attracts Tourists

Agencies

PULWAMA: A mesmerizing dam popularly known as Panner dam in Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district continues to attract the tourists from different parts of the country even as the locals demanded an upgradation of facilities at the place.

Panner dam, currently completely frozen, is covered by green forests all around, which is adding to the beauty of this dam where tourists have been visiting.

However, the visitors are facing immense hardships due to the official neglect of the place.

Locals said that Panner has a good potential to be developed as a tourist spot, however, the dam continues to be neglected by the authorities.

They said that in absence of the facilities, the tourists from different areas have been visiting the spot and if facilities are upgraded, the rush of tourists is expected to increase further.



The locals said that bethe government has ansides being a source of irnounced that the area will rigation for nearby paddy be brought under tourism fields of Panner Jageer, map but so far nothing has Mandoora and its adjabeen done in this regard. cent areas, has picturesque Bipin, a tourist from Guscenery and attracts the iarat, said that they came tourists as well. to know about this spot through social media after Shabir Ahmad, a local resident said, "The dam which they visited here. was without a proper ac-He said that he found cessible road, which gives a the location mesmerizing

tough time to the visitors." and urged others to experience its charm. Other tour-Zahoor Ahmad, another local said that no resiists also said that the spot dential quarters besides is very mesmerizing but it other facilities are availneeds to be upgraded after able due to which tourists which it can attract more are suffering, adding that tourists.

Locals said that they have brought this issue in notice of higher ups several times but to no avail. They said that if this area will be brought on a tourism map, it will help in generating employment opportunities for locals and the government can generate good revenue as well.

They urged the higher ups to look into the matter and take immediate steps for development of the spot so that it can attract more and more people and can generate employment for local youth-(KNO)

Date of Publishing 09-01-2025 at 1600 hours

The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 1630 hours on 09-01-2025. 2.

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 10-01-2025 to 17-01-2025 upto1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 18-01-2025 online.

The complete bidding process will be online. ii.

- Technical bids of bidders shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHO J&K Jammul Srinagar on 18-01-2025 at 1100 Hrs. iii.
- The lowest bidder i. e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant iv. documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.
- In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others). The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same. vi.
- Earnest Money: The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHO J&K 3. Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer in charge.
- 4. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://jktenders. gov.in Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
- 5. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
- 6. Financial Bids will be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids
- as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/ 8. tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited
- 9. No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Govern is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
- 10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
- 11. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website http://jktenders.gov.in.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in ii. online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate
- iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(111). iv.
- Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be
- vii. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online
- viii. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
- Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded online. ix.
- 12. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in
- 13. No construction material shall be supplied by Police Construction Division, PHQ. However; the brands of the material will be approved by Engineer In charge of the concerned site in consultation with Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K.
- 14 In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates /LMR with contractor's Tender appreciation/depreciation.
- 15. If any item or items of work beyond the scope of bill of quantities are found necessary to be executed at site of work during execution, the same shall be paid on prevailing sanction schedule of rates or LMR with its appreciation/ depreciation applicable according to the allotment of contract.
- In case of delay in completion of the work beyond scheduled period of completion (as per allotment), a penalty at the rate of 1% per week (on pro-rata 16. basis) on the amount of allotted work shall be imposed on the contractors subject to a maximum of 10% of the contract value

No:- e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2024-25/100-108	(Er. Neeraj Gupta)
Dated: 08-01-2025.	Executive Engineer
DIPK-10649-24	Police Construction Division
DT: 09/01/2025	PHQ, J&K, Jmu/Sgr.

Think **Opinion**, Analysis, Essays

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

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Friday | 10-01-2025

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®]

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K Editor-in-Chief : Saiiad Haider News Editor: Farzana Nisar **Opinion Editor:** Tooba Towfig Online Editor: Syed Hamid Head Lavout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen. Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah Business & Sales Head: Namisha Rai Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali RNI Registration No: 69503/98 Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705 Editorial: (0194) 2502327 Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

🔌 κο νιέψ

Climate Change Threatens Agriculture

'ndia's rice and wheat yields are projected to decline by 6-10% due to climate change, threatening food security for millions, senior government officials have warned. One major reason for this is that the changes in climate are reducing the frequency and intensity of Western Disturbances, which bring winter rain and snow to northwest India, leading to water shortages for over two billion people dependent on Himalayan rivers. Experts from the India Meteorological Department and Ministry of Earth Sciences have pointed out the growing erratic nature of weather patterns, with extreme events becoming more frequent and harder to predict. Staples for India's 1.4 billion population like wheat and rice make up 14 percent of global food supplies. Climate change could reduce wheat and rice yields by 6-10 percent, posing serious challenges to the nation's food security.

Rice is also a staple in Kashmir, and we import it in large quantities to compensate for the low paddy output in the region. Now climate change is threatening to further reduce the local rice production by depleting the water resources. Jammu and Kashmir boasts approximately 18,000 glaciers, including large ones like Siachen glacier. These glaciers are an invaluable resource, serving as a lifeline for the region, providing water for agriculture. However, with temperatures on the rise due to climate change, these glaciers are melting at an accelerated pace.

One of the most pressing concerns is the shift in the timing of water availability. Historically, the Valley has relied on the gradual release of water from melting glaciers during the crucial months of June and July, coinciding with the agricultural season when water demand is at its peak. However, changing climate patterns have disrupted this cycle, leading to a surplus of water in March, April, and May when it is not required. It has dire implications for the ecosystem and the people who depend on it. The melting glaciers disrupt the traditional water supply cycle, severely affecting agriculture.

In Kashmir, the impact of climate change on agriculture is further exacerbated by the shrinking paddy lands. According to official figures, over the past seven years, Kashmir has lost a staggering 6,000 hectares of paddy land, reducing the total land under paddy cultivation from 1,35,000 hectares to 1,29,000 hectares. Although there has been a significant increase in rice yield. This threatens both food security and the livelihoods of the people. Although the magnitude of this problem is so huge that mere government policies and interventions can't alter the factors that are global in scale. But yes, government interventions can certainly make a redeeming difference and is the need of the hour.



Is India Ready For A Looming Battle Of The Sexes?

ushpa II, a mega-hit with record box office collections, is a typical masala film filled with overt misogyny. So are Animal and Kabir Singh. Together, they have elevated sexism and misogyny to unprecedented levels. And yet, they have drawn audiences much bigger than most other films. Why? Is it because a growing segment of men, feeling sidelined and frustrated, are finding some vicarious pleasure in such portrayals of skewed gender dynamics on screen? Has the rapid ascent of women in recent years irked them? How are these frustrations going to affect India's sociopolitical dynamics?

While the world is far from achieving gender equality, the pace of change in recent years has indeed unsettled some. Girls consistently outshining boys academically has been an old trend. Now, accelerated changes are taking place. More women have begun to enter boardrooms; they are excelling at IITs and IIMs. challenging the gender pay gap in the entertainment industry, and winning accolades in sports. All this is unfolding right now and at a pace India has not seen before.

In 2014, women accounted for sin NIF-

larly among younger men who feel things have gone too far. A 2024 Ipsos global survey found that over half of Gen Z and Millennials believe that efforts to achieve gender equality in their countries have gone too far, to the detriment of their own interests. Older men, the survey shows, do not share such sentiment as they grew up in an era with fewer challenges to male dominance.

Ipsos surveys have observed that the attitudinal change is intensifying over the years. "More people think that when it comes to giving women equal rights with men, things have gone far enough in their country (41% in 2019 vs. 54% in 2023 / 2024)." The proportion of GenZ and millennial males with such views is much higher at 60% and 57%, respectively.

The attitudinal changes are getting reflected in political outcomes across the world, from the US and the UK to South Korea, Poland, Germany and France. Analysing the US presidential verdict, a columnist for The Guardian writes: "In 2024, men aged between 18 and 29 turned out in force for Trump, with the Republican winning the demographic by 14 points, overturn-

ing a generational

for

born in the 1980s and later) comprise 52% of the population of India-a significantly higher share than the global average of 47%. This will have a profound impact on India. Given that a majority of India's population is susceptible to attitudinal shifts driven by the quest for gender parity, the issue of gender justice-or the lack thereof-is poised to become one of the most significant political flashpoints during elections.

While predicting the future is inherently risky, we can venture a few guesses about the impending changes. The dominant theme of campus politics may shift. Tra-ditional left, right, and centrist divisions may give way to party alignments based on what they offer to specific genders. Highly desirable pro-women initiatives, which are increasingly gaining traction and winning elections, may need to be balanced with incentives targeting other segments. Additionally, fair gender representation in state assemblies and Parliament will likely become a focal point of the political discourse going forward.

To understand how family dynamics might evolve, we should examine how men and women currently spend their

Mayank Mishra



numbers converge. the traditional family unit as we know it is bound to undergo

transformation. This

shift will have far-



Did You Know? Nurturing the Dreams of Our Future

A Path to Success for the Younger Generation

Irshad Mushtaq

'n a world brimming with endless opportunities, the younger generation stands at the crossroads of their future. Yet, many are ensnared by a common misconception—that education solely signifies passing academic classes, knowing how to read and write, and earning a degree. In reality, education encompasses much more; it is a vital weapon for success that needs to be wielded wisely

The Foundation of Financial Literacy



" should be equipped with the fundamental knowledge them how to control their earnings, make responsible tand the dynamics of saving can set them on a path to en, they grasp the significance of money and time, how npowered they would feel to tackle future challenges!

The Power of Hard Work

Engaging in hard work is another essential building block toward success. By gaining early experiences through part-time jobs or internships, young individuals develop critical skills that go far beyond academics. Hard work instills a sense of com-mitment and responsibility, teaching them that success is not handed to them but earned through effort.

Breaking the Chains of Distraction

Today's youth often find themselves distracted by the allure of video games, on-line earning games, and shortcuts that only lead to disappointment. Instead of sinking precious hours into fleeting pleasures, they should focus on essential elements: educa-tion, part time hard work concepts , savings, and small investments. By cultivating thabits that prioritize these aspects, they will learn to respect time and money, paving the way for a fruitful future.

The Crucial Role of Parents

Parents play an irreplaceable role in guiding their children through the maze of life. They have the opportunity to instill solid financial principles, fostering an appreciation for hard work and ethical behavior. By educating their children on finan cial matters and teaching them to respect money, parents lay a strong foundation for future success

The Heart of the Matter

Ultimately, the journey toward success is anchored in understanding that educated tion is more than grades. It encompasses financial literacy, the value of hard work, and the wisdom of making sound choices. If young people approach life with honesty and humility, embracing the challenges ahead while cherishing their humble beginnings, they can emerge from the shadows of uncertainty into a world filled with promise. A Call to Action

Let us foster a generation that understands the true essence of education-one that values ethics and responsibility, spends wisely, and is eager to learn. By guiding them with love and wisdom, we can empower our youth to seize their future and avoid the regrets often linked to a lack of foresight. In the journey of life, let us remind them that slow and steady wins the race, and that integrity is the cornerstone upon which

they should build their dreams. Together, let us nurture the dreams of our future, ensuring that every child, with the right tools and values, becomes the architect of their own success story. Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur &

Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at misecurities@ bp.sharekhan.com reaching implications for family structures, marriages and society as a whole as more women exercise their agency and rights

npanies, a figure that favour left-ganing andidit not been for Vinesh Phogat's un orginale Assual rication, wom n wond take outperformed men n Indias Olympic medal tally with a coveted gold. gender parity has gained mo- < mentum in recent sears. In the United States, for example, the proportion of women n corporate boardrooms has risen from 16% in 2012 to 30% in 2022. A Bank of America Securities report cited by CNBC noted that women comprised 20% of boardroom members in Asia in 2022, a seven-percentage-point increase from 2010. Female representation in boardrooms is widely regarded as a critical benchmark for gen-

der equality. However, the world over, this assertion of women's equal rights has coincided with a growing sense of resentment, particuUS and the UK to South Korea, Poland, Germany and France Analysing the US presidential a columnist for The

Guardian writes "In 2024, mer aged between 18 and 29 turned

for decades seen young people favour left-leaning candidates.... Trump's victory in the 'manosphere' is just one part of an unprecedented phenomenon across the world, in which the politics of a single generation has split across the gender divide.'

A Young Population

With such sweeping changes worldwide, can India remain insulated? Highly unlikely. Millennials and Gen Z (essentially those

in residual othegoativities The stark divergence in the time spent on paid activities between men and women highlights the isting gender imbalance. As these numbers converge, the traaged between 19 and 29 and 20 structures, marriages and society as a whole as more women exercise their agency and rights.

These changes are necessary to create a much more equal world. But are we ready for it?

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 NDTV. The author is a consulting editor at NDTV.com



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001 email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Shamasabad Residents Suffer Due to Usmanabad's Unresolved Cable Issue

he residents of Shamasabad Bemina are facing electricity overload issues due to the incomplete coverage of insulated cables in adjacent Usmanabad Bemina. Despite 50% of both areas relying on the same transformer, Shamasabad is fully covered with insulated cables, whereas Usmanabad remains partially uncovered, leading

to illegal power pilferage.

This has already resulted in transformer damage, causing a 48hour power outage in both areas. Currently, Usmanabad Bemina does not live on the laid insulated cables, perpetuating power pilferage. As a consequence, Shamasabad residents, who have smart meters and AB cables, suffer due to overload from the

adjacent colony.

Locals report that insulated cables were laid in both Usmanabad and Shamasabad in August, but were only made live in Shamasabad. With voltages dropping as low as 140V, residents fear another transformer damage. Despite repeated requests to ground staff, the issue remains unresolved, raising concerns that the staff

may be complicit in supporting power pilferage in Usmanabad, Bemina.

This issue is not an isolated one, as highlighted in a previous news article by The Kashmir Observer, which reported delays in cabling in Iqbalabad and Usmanabad Bemina.

A Resident



The Hidden Patterns of Love How Our Unconscious Shapes Relationships and Marriage

Nasir Geelani

Two souls, one heart. Love overcomes all hurdles. We have all heard and read small quotes like these in our environment since childhood, from the time we start perceiving our surroundings. We have watched countless movies and serials about relationships, love, and marriages, etc. However, without realizing it, most, if not all, of these information sources about the idea of love only talk about the beginning, or metaphorically speaking, the first quarter of love. What happens after this part - how love and relationships start, and why we love the people we love, even when we know we shouldn't – is mostly unknown to us. When we fall in love with someone and then get married, we have intentionally done so for all the right reasons, but there is more beneath the surface. This is largely, if not entirely, due to our primitive childhood unconscious forces driving our decisions.

The Unseen Forces in Our Relationships

When we get attracted to someone, we think it's mostly based on who they are, how they look, and what they are. All of us embark on this unknown and shaky territory with the right intention of finding peace, happiness, family, and completeness. However, little do we know that most of our love and relationship interests are driven by unconscious familiarity rather than conscious factors and reasons. The templates of our interpersonal relationships are laid in our infancy and childhood, even as early as our first year of life, as proposed by the Kleinian psychodynamic school. The attachments we form with adults in our infancy and child-hood decide whom we will choose and get attracted to for our marital journey. Since most relationships these days are based on emotions and feelings, which are very primitive and start at birth, like a child's birth cry.

Why We Seek Familiarity Over Happiness

In our formative years, we develop attachment styles, which are broadly categorized as secure, anxious/insecure, and anxious/



avoidant. We are attracted to people through different permutations of these attachment styles in dating pools. For example, people with secure attachment styles - who are very rare – have stable relationships and are settled when they get married. Therefore, most people in dating and marriage pools are anxious and avoidant, attracted to each other like magnets through unconscious push-pull dynamics. We unconsciously try to repeat our relationship templates formed in childhood in our adult relationships. This is why we gravitate toward familiar emotional landscapes over unfamiliar ones. For instance, we might consciously find a person a good match, but often feel they don't strike

the chord we long for. They are good but not "good enough" to hurt us in the familiar ways we expect – the way we got hurt in our early relationships. Since no one's childhood is perfect, and no one can achieve perfect parenting, we all carry emotional scars that we seek to heal. We are eager to repeat those familiar patterns, not out of bad intention but to give them a good, logical conclusion. Even if one learns from a failed relationship what the red flags were (which we often talk about but make little use of), we seldom make a different conscious and informed choice when entering another relationship. We give ourselves all the reasons in favor of unconscious forces and against logical reasons. So, again, we get lured into this vicious cycle.

The Drama Magnet: Why We Gravitate Toward Emotional Chaos

As Alain de Botton says (author of The Course of Love), the first question we should ask the person we want to marry is not, "What do you do?" or "How are you good in different ways?" but rather, "How are you mad in different ways?" De Botton suggests that everyone has their accidents and flaws, and the real question in relationships isn't about finding someone without issues, but rather finding someone whose "madness" is compatible with your own.

We must accept that we are driven by this unconscious pull and drama, and we need to make our unconscious marriages and alliances conscious by developing and supporting our well-chosen, conscious behaviors.

Evidence from media and popular culture - our obsession with intense, unpredictable love stories - supports this idea. Common readers may be skeptical about these unconscious determinants and theories, but I would like to draw their attention to media, novels, and popular culture. We are drawn to dramatic romantic movies and novels, while more realistic and mundane stories often bore us - even though they reflect reality. In fact, we should get used to less intense stories, movies, and anecdotes because normal is often not exciting; however, every exciting thing isn't necessarily healthy, like cocaine and heroin. So, here we might be reminded of the common fact that cocaine and feelings of love, as we commonly call it, give the same high. To conclude, I want to emphasize that

while we may believe we have control over our relationships, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Most of the dynamics operate unconsciously, and these processes are very automatic and quick to lead us through that rabbit hole. One wonders, if human beings are so biased in their decisions, how will we be guided? The answer is that guidance should come from outside our subjective bubble. That is why human beings are endowed with willpower and divine guidance through revelation. By using our willpower and adhering to revelation and the way of life exemplified by the Prophet (PBUH), we can navigate these strong forces of human nature and make our unconscious marriages conscious based on values and virtues.

Next, we will talk more about unconscious forces and then lightly discuss strategies to make our relationships and marriages healthy and thriving for us and as a healthy template for coming generations.

To be continued. The author is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, M.Phil. Clinical Psychology and currently works at Cyma Care Clinic. Reach at: nasir.geelani@gmail.com

Meta for Misinformation?

Jo Adetunji

Main the united states of the spread of online lies among more than 3 billion people who use Meta's



META'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL NOW LIKELY FORCE THESE INDEPENDENT

social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

In a video, the company's chief, Mark Zuckerberg, said fact checking had led to "too much censorship".

He added it was time for Meta "to get back to our roots around free expression", especially following the recent presidential election in the US. Zuckerberg characterised it as a "cultural tipping point, towards once again prioritising speech".

Instead of relying on professional fact checkers to moderate content, the tech giant will now adopt a "community notes" model, similar to the one used by X.

This model relies on other social media users to add context or caveats to a post. It is currently under investigation by the European Union for its effectiveness.

This dramatic shift by Meta does not bode well for the fight against the spread of misinformation and disinformation online.

Independent assessment

Meta launched its independent, thirdparty, fact-checking program in 2016.

It did so during a period of heightened concern about information integrity coinciding with the election of Donald Trump as US president and furore about the role of social media platforms in spreading misinformation and disinformation.

As part of the program, Meta funded factchecking partners – such as Reuters Fact Check, Australian Associated Press, Agence France-Presse and PolitiFact – to independently assess the validity of problematic content posted on its platforms.

Warning labels were then attached to any content deemed to be inaccurate or misleading. This helped users to be better informed about the content they were seeing online.

A backbone to global efforts to fight misinformation

Zuckerberg claimed Meta's fact-checking program did not successfully address misinformation on the company's platforms, stifled free speech and lead to widespread

censorship.

But the head of the International Fact-Checking Network, Angie Drobnic Holan, disputes this. In a statement reacting to Meta's decision, she said:

Fact-checking journalism has never censored or removed posts; it's added information and context to controversial claims, and it's debunked hoax content and conspiracy theories. The fact-checkers used by Meta follow a Code of Principles requiring nonpartisanship and transparency.

A large body of evidence supports Holan's position.

In 2023 in Australia alone, Meta displayed warnings on over 9.2 million distinct pieces

of content on Facebook (posts, images and videos), and over 510,000 posts on Instagram, including reshares. These warnings were based on articles written by Meta's third-party, fact-checking partners.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that these kinds of warnings effectively slow the spread of misinformation.

Meta's fact checking policies also required the partner fact checking organisations to avoid debunking content and opinions from political actors and celebrities and avoid debunking political advertising.

Fact checkers can verify claims from political actors and post content on their own websites and social media accounts. However, this fact checked content was still not subject to reduced circulation or censorship

on Meta platforms.

The COVID pandemic demonstrated the usefulness of independent fact checking on Facebook. Fact checkers helped curb much harmful misinformation and disinformation about the virus and the effectiveness of vaccines.

Importantly, Meta's fact-checking program also served as a backbone to global efforts to fight misinformation on other social media platforms. It facilitated financial support to up to 90 accredited fact-checking organisations around the world.

What impact will Meta's changes have on misinformation online?

Replacing independent, third-party fact

fact checkers to turn away from stringsattached arrangements with private companies in their mission to improve public discourse by addressing online claims

checking with a "community notes" model of content moderation is likely to hamper the fight against misinformation and disinformation online.

Last year, for example, reports from The Washington Post and The Centre for Countering Digital Hate in the US found that X's community notes feature was failing to stem the flow of lies on the platform.

Meta's turn away from fact checking will also create major financial problems for third-party, independent fact checkers.

The tech giant has long been a dominant source of funding for many fact checkers. And it has often incentivised fact checkers to verify certain kinds of claims.

Meta's announcement will now likely force these independent fact checkers to turn away from strings-attached arrangements with private companies in their mission to improve public discourse by addressing online claims.

Yet, without Meta's funding, they will likely be hampered in their efforts to counter attempts to weaponise fact checking by other actors. For example, Russian President Vladimir Putin recently announced the establishment of a state fact-checking network following "Russian values", in stark difference to the International Fact-Checking Network code of principles.

This makes independent, third-party fact checking even more necessary. But clearly, Meta doesn't agree.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP | Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam | Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K Editor: Sajjad Haider News Editor: Farzana Nisar | Opinion Editor: Tooba Towfiq | Online Editor: Syed Hamid | Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah | Business & Sales Head: Namisha Raj | Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen, | Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali RNI Registration No: 69503/98 | Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja | Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +911947969705 | Editorial: (0194) 2502327 | Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

LIFE & TIMES

Brain Scans Reveal Girl Infants Have More Grey Matter, Boys White Matter

Press Trust Of India

rains of girl and boy infants differ at birth — while boy infants tend to have bigger brains and more white matter, girl infants have significantly more grey matter that is known to help with learning, speech and cognition, a study has shown.

The results, published in the journal Biology of Sex Differences, might reflect biological sex-specific differences as the brain is developing in the womb, according to researchers.

White matter is made of long nerve fibres connecting neurons, thereby helping with communication between different parts of the brain.

Researchers at the University of Cambridge, UK, analysed brain scans of over 500 newborn babies - 236 girls and 278 boys - aged 0-28 days.

"Our study settles an age-old question of whether male and female brains differ at birth. We know there are differences in the brains of older children and adults, but our findings show that they are already present in the earliest days of life," lead researcher Yumnah Khan, a PhD student at the Autism Research Centre, University of Cambridge, said.

'Because these sex differences are evident so soon after birth, they might in part reflect biological sex differences during prenatal (pre-birth) brain development, which then interact with environmental experiences over time to shape further sex differences in the brain,' Khan said.

After taking this difference in total brain volume into account, the researchers looked at brain regions.

Girl infants, on average, showed larger grey matter volumes in areas re-

lated to memory and emotion regulation,



sensations and motor control. volumes in areas involved in processing "On average, males had signifi-

cantly larger intracranial and total brain volumes, even after controlling for birth weight," the authors wrote.

The researchers stressed that the differences in brains of boys and girls are average differences, adding that they do not apply to all males or all females.

'These differences do not imply the brains of males and females are better or worse. It's just one example of neurodiversity. This research may be helpful in understanding other kinds of neurodiversity, such as the brain in children who are later diagnosed as autistic, since this is diagnosed more often in males," author Simon Baron-Cohen, Director of the Autism Research Centre, said.

Data for the study came from the Developing Human Connectome Project, led by universities in the UK, including King's College London, in which where infants receive an MRI brain scan soon after birth.

Could Fluoride Be Harming Kids' IQ? New **Study Raises Alarms Over Water Safety**

AFP

A controversial new study in a US medical journal could reignite debate over fluoride's safety in water, linking higher exposure levels to lower IQ in children.

Published on Monday in the prestigious Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Pediatrics, it has sparked pushback from some scientists who criticise the study's methods, defend the mineral's proven dental benefits, and warn the findings may not directly apply to typical US water fluoridation levels.

Its release comes as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office. His health secretary nominee, Robert F. Kennedy Jnr, is a vocal critic of fluoridated water, which currently serves over 200 million Americans, or nearly two-thirds of the population.

Researchers from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) reviewed 74 studies on fluoride exposure and children's IQ conducted in 10 countries including Canada, China, and India.

The same scientists helped



Crucially, the paper does

not clarify how much lower

than 1.5 mg/L could be danger-

ous, leaving questions about

whether the US guideline of 0.7

that "there were not enough data

to determine if 0.7 mg/L of fluo-

ride exposure in drinking water

The authors acknowledged

Steven Levy, a member of the

mg/L needs adjustment.

affected children's IQ".

formulate an official government recommendation in August that suggestion that exposure below there is "moderate confidence" 1.5 milligrams per litre - currently the World Health Organithat higher levels of fluoride are zation's safety limit - may also linked to lower IQ scores. affect children's IQ.

Now, the team led by Kyla Taylor told Agence France-Presse the new analysis found a "statistically significant association" between fluoride exposure and reduced IQ scores.

Specifically, the study estimates that for every 1 milligram per litre increase in urinary fluoride - a marker of overall exposure - children's IQ drops by 1.63 points. Fluoride's neurotoxicity at

high doses is well known, but the

national fluoride committee for the American Dental Association, raised significant concerns about the study's methodology. He pointed out that 52 of the

74 studies reviewed were rated "low quality" by the authors themselves but were still included in the analysis.

"Almost all of the studies have been done in other settings where there are other contaminants, other things we call confounding factors," he said, citing coal pollution in China as an example.

Levy also questioned the study's use of single-point urine samples instead of 24-hour collections, which provide greater accuracy, as well as the challenges in reliably assessing young children's IQ.

With so many uncertainties, Levy argued in an editorial accompanying the study that current policies "should not be affected by the study findings."

The journal also published an editorial commending the study for its methodological rigour.

On the other side of the debate, the benefits of water fluoridation are well documented.

Women More Likely Than Men To Live For 5 Years After Lung Transplant: Study

IANS

omen who receive a lung transplant are more likely than men to live for five years post-transplant, according to new research on Thursday.

However, women are less likely to receive a lung transplant and spend an average of six weeks longer on the waiting list, according to a study published in ERJ Open Research.

The researchers encourage changes in regulation and clinical guidelines to address this inequality.

"It is important to understand that people on the waiting list for a transplant have a very poor quality of life, sometimes they are not well enough to leave their house, and have a high risk of death," said lead researcher Dr Adrien Tissot from Nantes University Hospital, France.

Lung transplantation is the only treatment for people with end-stage respiratory failure and patients on the waiting list have a high risk of death.

A transplant can restore normal lung function, giving patients an improved life expectancy and higher quality of life.

The study included 1,710 participants - 802 women and 908 men - who were being cared for at one of France's 12 transplantation centres between 2009



and 2018.

Patients were followed-up for around six years after transplantation. The main underlying diseases affecting patients were chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis and interstitial lung disease.

Dr Tissot's research found that women wait 115 days for a lung transplant on average versus 73 days for men.

Notably, after transplantation, survival was higher for women than men with 70 per cent of female recipients still alive five years after transplantation, compared to 61 per cent of male recipients.

The researchers also found that most women received a donor lung that was matched by sex and height.

According to researchers, clinicians, patients and policy makers must acknowledge this gender difference as it's essential for appropriate action to be taken.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,					
OFFICE OF THE SUPEINTENDING ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL	OFFICE OF THE SUPEINTENDING ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL				
CIRCLE SOLITH SRINAGAR					

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS Notice Inviting E-Tenders-NIT No.18 of 2024-25

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

GIST of e-NIT No.: 34 of 2024-25 Dated: 08/01/2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K. Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South (Awantipora), invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments at water supply scheme AIIMS AWANTIPORA (Well No 01 & Stage 2nd)". The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on percentage basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No Particulars of the work	Esttd. Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee	(in Earnest money De-	Bid Validity	Time of Comple-
		Rs)	posit		tion of work
1 2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Supply, Installation, Testing & Commis-			02% of the esti-	120 days	As indicate against
sioning of electro-mechanical equip	wise details given		mated cost of each		in Form-I of Tender
ments at water supply scheme AIIMS	in Form-I of Tender		work		Document
Awantipora (Well No. 01 & Stage 2nd)	Document				
of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Divisior	n				
South Awantipora					

Programme/Position of funds: Approved Under JKIDFC (LUP Code: 1174) now funded under UT CAPEX. The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora. The awarding authority is Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Circle South Srinagar.

Critical Dates:

	Publish Date on Tender Portal	09/01/2025 (09:00 AM)
	Document Download/sale start Date	09/01/2025 (09:00 AM)
	Bid submission start Date	09/01/2025 (09:00 AM)
IV	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	13/01/2025 (11:00 AM)
V	Document Download/sale end Date	16/01/2025 (06:00 PM)
VI	Bid submission end Date	16/01/2025 (06:00 PM)
VII	Date and time of Bid opening	17/01/2025 (02:00 PM)

Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.iktenders.gov.in

The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Circle 2. South Srinagar.

The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal

The bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Circle South Srinagar

Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified against each item of work. a.

Bid Security to be pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Circle South Srinagar. Bid Seb. curity will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bid.

The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e Challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-Challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.

The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. 7.

8. Queries by email if any should be made at semechsouthsgr111@gmail.com/ xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com.

	Sd/-
No: JSMCS/TS/2934-36	Superintending Engineer,
DIPK-10617/24 Dated: 09/01/2025	PHE Mechanical Circle,
	South Srinagar.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jand K U.T, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors with J&KU.T Govt. for the follo

register								
S. N O.	NAME OF WORK	Estt Cost	Earnest Money	Time for	Class of	Cost of Tender	Major Head of	T ender opening
		(Rs in lacs) 3.97	(EMD) Rs	completion	Contract	document (Rs)	Account	authority
1	Repairs to existing damaged falls of	3.97	11910/=	12 days	DEE	300/-	2701	Ex. Engineer
	dadi canal at RD 1950m at Kathsoo							
2	Checking of overflow zone by way of	1.61	4830/=	10 days	DEE	200/-	2701	Ex. Engineer
	construction of lining wall near Rd							
	5300m Left side of Martand canal							
3	Checking of sloughing of embankment	5.00	15000/=	15 days	DEE	500/-	2701	Ex. Engineer
	on left side of Martand canal by way of							
	crate at Grend Ashmugam							

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website.www.jktenders.gov.infrom :-

			06.00011
1	Publishing date	08.01.2025	106.00PM
2.	Download Date Starts	08.01.2025	06.00PM
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	08.01.2025	06.00PM
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	23.01.2025	06.00 PM
5.	Date of opening of tenders	24.01.2025	10:00 AM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the basis of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies (on 100dpi) of all necessary documents like Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag / latest GST clearance certificate(GSTR-3B and GSTR-1) /Registration card duly renewed along with Verification/BID Security in the form of EMD as per above. The date of CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date. After opening of tenders online, the 1st lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the CDR/FDR pledged to tender receiving authority and other documents in original. The CDR/ FDR and other documents in original shall be deposited within two Days positively after opening of tenders. The EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful bidder will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period, whereas the EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned latest by 30 days after award of the contract. The check list of documents for cover 1st is attached with the NIT & bidders are advised to recheck the uploaded documents as per the Check list.

Additional Performance Security is to be deposited by the L1 bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below failing which the tender shall be rejected.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz. Ouoted percentage on BOC).Additional Performance Security
01.	Upto and Including 15% Below	Nil
02.	> 15% upto and including 20% Below	5% of Advertised Cost
03.	> 20 % upto and including 25% Below	10 % of Advertised Cost
04.	> 25% up to and including 30% Below	15 % of Advertised Cost
S.No Ol. O2. O3. O4. O5.	> 30 % Below	20 % of Advertised Cost

Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/FDR / Treasury Challan as required, their EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/ prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of Six Months (06 Months) in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.

Contractor who shall be allotted the work has to start the work within the stipulated time period after the date of allotment as the work is of very important nature.

The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids due to any reason what so ever.

The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days. (Ninety Days)

As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms & condition of the bid.

The successful bidder fails to execute an agreement with the department within 10 days after fixation of contract.

26.Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25.

Remittance Head:-0702

6

8

a.

Sd/-

Position of AAA: -(l)Accorded Vide Order No. 70-DB of 2024 dated 30-12-2024 issued under no.

SE/hyd/DB/AA/7076-78 dated 30-12-2024 Position of TS.-(1). Accorded vide order No. 72-DB of 2024 dated 30/12/2024 issued under No. SE/Hyd/Ang/dB/TS/7084-85 dated 30-12-2024 and N0.07 DB of 2024-25 dated 04-01-2025 issued vide this office no. IDA/7254 dated 04-01-2025 Position of Funds: -Budgetary Provision 2024-25/ Sd/-

		50/-
No.IDA/7311-33		Executive Engineer
Dated:07/01/2025		Irrigation Division Anantnag
DIPK-10589/24	dated: 09-01-2025	

BUSINESS

delays in receiving OTPs. The

DoPT explained that while

OTPs are promptly dispatched

from the NIC email domain,

delays may occasionally occur

due to high traffic on either NIC

server or external email servic-

es like Gmail or Yahoo," it said.

pire until they are used, mean-

ing users can access the status of

their applications as soon as the

OTP arrives, the statement said.

9,782 users have successfully ac-

cessed their RTI status using the

new system, underscoring its

reliability, the statement added.

As per the latest feature, an OTP is generated by the system

to an applicant's email for ac-

cessing the status of RTI appli-

the additional step as compli-

cating the process. The DoPT

reiterated that the measure is

vital for protecting user privacy

and that the system has been

tested thoroughly to ensure

smooth functioning," the state-

ment said

Gold Rises By ₹300 To ₹80,300

"Some users also criticised

cations filed by him or her.

As of January 9 at 10:55 am,

Importantly, OTPs do not ex-

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Friday | 10-01-2025

OTP Feature In RTI Portal Meant To Protect User Privacy: Centre

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The recent introduction of a one-time password (OTP) feature for the RTI portal is meant to protect user privacy, the Centre said on Thursday.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has examined the concerns raised about the functioning of the Right to Information (RTI) portal -www.rtionline.gov.in -- and clarified that the system is operational and effective after the introduction of a new OTP feature, an official statement said.

The portal allows an user to file RTI applications, appeals and to know their status.

A comprehensive review by the DoPT has confirmed that the portal's newly-implemented features, including an enhanced security protocol, are operational and user-friendly, it said.

Responding to issues reported by some users, the DoPT said the OTP feature, introduced on January 2, 2025, has been implemented to authenticate users and protect sensitive personal information included in the RTI applications.

By ensuring only authorised access, the measure strengthens cybersecurity and aligns with best practices, the statement issued by the personnel ministry said.

Press Trust Of India

strong global cues, according to

the All India Sarafa Association. Traders said the precious

metal surged, following news

that People's Bank of China

(PBoC) increased its reserves for

the second consecutive month.

yellow metal of 99.9 per cent

purity ended at Rs 80,000 per

10 grams. The price of gold of

99.5 per cent purity rose Rs 300 to Rs 79,900 per 10 grams

on Thursday. Silver rose by Rs 500 to Rs 93,000 per kg from the previous close of Rs 92,500

Additionally, gold contracts

for February delivery climbed

per kg on Wednesday.

In the previous session, the

"Concerns were raised about

Congress Slams India's GST System As The 'Worst' In The World, Calls It 'Tax Terrorism' Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The opposition Congress on Thursday called India's GST the world's "worst" such regime, accusing the government of being interested only in imposing new levies under the cover of

rationalisation. The country has reached a point where the middle class is propping the government's tax revenue because corporates are not paying as much tax revenues due to a downturn in business, claimed party spokesperson Rangarajan Mohan Kumaramangalam here. Calling the present system "tax terrorism", the Congress leader hoped Prime Minister

Narendra Modi will "rectify the faulty" GST system. "We have a regime that has created one of the worst GST (Goods and Services Tax) systems in the whole world. In about 50 countries, there is a tax collection system equivalent to GST. But nobody has such complications

which are put in our GST system," he said. "Just last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman again tried to complicate GST even more by putting three different taxes on three dif-



ferent forms of popcorn," said the Congress leader in the press conference.

He claimed that the middle class is shrinking and the ultra-rich and upper middle class are driving consumption. "So this government now wants to put everything in the luxury bucket and collect 28 per cent GST," he said. Kumaramangalam alleged that the government is now trying to tax the only people left who are actually buying products. "In the end, that consumption will also come down, resulting in further job losses," he said.

Instead of focusing on the shrinking middle class and the tax burden on it, the government wants to collect tax from wherever it can, said the Congress leader.

"It will come up with some reason to impose new taxes and cess under GST in some

'Rationalise GST Slabs, Provide Relief To

Middle Class, Lower Income Groups'

sort of vague method of rationalisation. In the end, it will kill whatever consumption, which is already reducing, (happening) in our economy," he said.

According to a new study, 64 per cent of India's GST collection comes from the bottom 50 per cent of the population, claimed Kumaramangalam.

"We are going after the poorest of the poor. Half of the GST is taken from them. Such a tax system is the main reason why our economy is slowing down. Now it has become apparent and GDP numbers don't lie," he said.

Latest GDP figures suggest that every sector is suffering, he said. Six months ago, all companies had started complaining that demand had slowed down because the common men did not have enough money, said the Congress leader.

"For the first time, the amount of money collected from companies is less than the tax revenue collected from individual taxpayers which is going up. Corporate tax collection is up 1.2 per cent. While GST collection is up 12 per cent, income tax is up by 20 per cent," he said.

PM Modi Flags Off Pravasi Bharatiya Express, A Special **Tourist Train For NRIs**



Press Trust of India

BHUBANESWAR- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday remotely flagged off the inaugural journey of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a special tourist train for the Indian diaspora. The train will travel to vari-

ous tourism and religious

destinations across India over

three weeks. This initiative is

part of the Pravasi Teertha Dar-

shan Yojana of the Ministry of

The Pravasi Bharatiya Ex-

press is a special state-of-the-

art tourist train, exclusively de-

signed and built for the Indian

diaspora, and that too for the age group between 45 and 65

Starting from its launch day,

January 9, the train will travel

to multiple destinations across

the nation, including promi-

nent tourist and religious plac-

The date for flagging off the

special train has also been de-

liberately chosen by the Modi-

es, for three weeks.

External Affairs.

years.

the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on this date in the year 1915. The departure of the train is from Safdarjung Railway

Station in New Delhi and the route is - New Delhi - Ayodhya - Patna- Gaya - Varanasi - Mahabalipuram - Rameswaram Madurai - Kochi - Goa - Ekta Nagar (Kevadia) - Ajmer -Pushkar - Agra. The train can accommodate 156 passengers.

led government. The date Jan-

uary 9, 2025, commemorates

To connect the Indian diaspora to their roots, this tour is being organised under the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Indian **Railways Catering and Tourism** Corporation (IRCTC).

Indian Embassies across the world had invited applications from participants, giving a preference to Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs) belonging to the low-income category who would otherwise not be able to afford to visit India on their own.

Markets Tumble Nearly 1% Amid Broad-Based Selloff; Sensex Sinks Below 78k

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1 per cent on Thursday due to heavy selling in market heavyweights HDFC Bank, TCS and Reliance as investors turned nervous over earnings growth concerns amid unabat-

ed foreign capital outflows. Besides, abysmally low Chinese inflation data, an indication of poor demand, and a sell-off in US bonds added to the pressure, traders said.

Sliding for the second straight day, the 30-share benchmark dropped 528.28 points or 0.68 per cent to sink below the 78,000 level at 77,620.21. During the day, it tanked 605.57 points or 0.77 per cent to 77,542.92.

The NSE Nifty slumped

162.45 points or 0.69 per cent to 23,526.50.

"The Indian stock market mirrored the decline across its Asian peers, with cautious investor sentiment driven by a sell-off in US bonds. The US 10year Treasury yield surged to its highest level since April 2024, signalling the expectation of fewer rate cuts by the Fed.

"Further, disappointing inflation data from China added pressure, indicating that recent stimulus measures have failed to rejuvenate one of the world's largest consumer markets," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. From the 30-share Sensex blue-chip pack, Tata Steel, Zomato, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Mo-

tors, Adani Ports, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank and NTPC were the major laggards.

Per 10 Gms On Global Cues **NEW DELHI:** Gold price climbed Rs 300 for a third consecutive session to Rs 80,300 trinit. per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid

> uity market and weak macro data from China, drawing flow towards the traditional safe haven asset gold.

"China's consumer inflation fell to zero, decelerating for a fourth straight month, raising concerns about growth in the world's second-largest economy," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC

The data has undermined the Chinese government's attempts to combat deflation and boost demand through stimulus measures. Gandhi added.



Securities, said.

MUMBAI: Ahead of the Union

Budget, Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot on Thursday demanded that the Centre rationalise goods and services tax (GST) slabs and provide relief to the middle class and lower income groups. Addressing a press confer-

Press Trust Of India

ence here, the former Union minister said the BJP-led NDA government should unveil GST 2.0 in the budget for fiscal year 2025-26 to be presented in Parliament on February 1. GST, a single tax on the

supply of goods and services levied on every value addition, came into force on July 1, 2017, when the BJP was in power at the Centre. After subsuming majority indirect

STD Urges Taxpayers To Follow Fair-Trade Practices

taxes, GST became a single domestic indirect tax law for the entire country. "GST, when it was con-

ceived by the (Congress-led) UPA, was supposed to widen the tax bracket, but it has ended up increasing income of a few persons and providing no relief to the middle class and lower income groups," Pilot noted

Only 5 per cent people in the country pay income tax, while the rest of the population pays GST which burdens the middle class and professionals, the Congress leader emphasised.

The BJP opposed GST, Aadhaar project and DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) when they were conceived during the UPA rule, but supported them

after coming to power, he said. The saffron party also opposed FDI in retail and defence when in opposition, but became a strong promotor of the measure on assuming office, Pilot maintained.

He insisted the BJP government brought a "flawed" GST system and demanded that slabs be rationalised instead of giving tax breaks to a select few and burdening 80 per cent of the country's population.

Pilot said GST is a consumer-based levy and the Congress was against lopsided approach to tax collection.

The former Rajasthan deputy CM asserted the Congress was pro-industry and in favour of investment, but was against discriminatory disposal of resources.

247 or 0.32 per cent to Rs 77,994 per 10 grams in futures trade on MCX.

In futures trade, silver for March delivery rallied Rs 593 or 0.65 per cent to Rs 91,531 per kg on the Multi Commod-ity Exchange (MCX).

Globally, Comex gold futures inched up by USD 10 per ounce or 0.37 per cent to USD 2,682.40 per ounce.

"Gold rose on Thursday amid risk-off sentiment in the eq-

According to Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, Comex gold edged up to USD 2,680 per ounce, maintaining a two-day advance as traders awaited the official US jobs report due on Friday for further clues on the Federal Reserve's monetary policy outlook. Comex silver futures increased 0.83 per cent in the Asian market hours at USD 30.95 per ounce.

Govt To Soon Launch New Credit Guarantee Scheme For MSME Sector Up To ₹ 100 Cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju on Thursday said the government would soon launch a new credit guarantee scheme for the MSME sector covering loans up to Rs 100 crore.

"We are likely to come up with a scheme, which was announced by Finance Minister in her last Budget, that could provide loans up to Rs 100 crore without guarantee, if they are already having the enterprise," he said at the concluding day of Grameen Bharat Mahotsav.

The scheme is expected to be placed before the Union Cabinet soon for its approval.

"For facilitating term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment without collateral or third-party guarantee, a credit guarantee scheme will be introduced. The scheme will operate on pooling of credit risks of such MSMEs. A separately constituted selffinancing guarantee fund will provide, to each applicant, guarantee cover up to Rs 100 crore, while the loan amount may be larger," the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in Budget 2024-25..

The borrower will have to provide an upfront guarantee fee and an annual guarantee fee on the reducing loan balance, she had said.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector employs 50 million people, he said.

MSMEs exports have witnessed a remarkable rise, increasing from Rs 3.95 lakh crore in 2020-21 to Rs 12.39 lakh crore in 2024-25, underscoring their critical role in boosting India's economy and strengthening global trade.

The MSME sector in India has consistently demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, significantly contributing to the nation's GDP over the years. The Gross Value Added (GVA) by MSMEs in India's GDP was 29.7 per cent in 2017-18, rising to 30.1 per cent in both 2022-23

To promote entrepreneurship in rural India, Nagaraju said, the government is very keen to lend more to rural areas through its various schemes.

As the country surges ahead, he said, there is need to focus on four things, quality, linkages for exports, capacity building, and support to achieve the vision of Vikshit Bharat.

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In continuation to the drive against menaces of ITC mismatch, recycling B2C bills and GST violations, Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department (STD) intensified its inspections and enforcement drives across various districts of Jammu division.

STD Officials said that based on inputs generated by various AI tools including Business Intelligence and Fraud Analyt-ics (BIFA), E-way Bills Portal, inputs from SIU and other components of enforcement wings, the department constituted special teams headed by State Tax Officers (STOs), tasked to carry out inspections. STD official said that these teams visited

seven different locations and inspected various business premises simultaneously to investigate violations under GST Law by verifying documents, physical stock position, bill books etc.

The inspections were carried under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P K Bhat and under the supervision of Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra.

"At present inspections have been conducted at seven different locations, which commenced on Wednesday and continued on Thursday also," an official informed

He added teams specifically targeted dealers who were found engaged in the recycling of B2C invoices into B2B invoices, thereby passing on ITC to other dealers and contractors. The ITC was being used to settle GST output tax instead of being paid in cash, which results in less flow of cash.

The State Taxes Department urged the dealers to follow the fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax evasion activities or fraudulent practices involving fake ITC.

Furthermore, the department appealed all taxpayers to practice invoice-based business and report their actual sales and pay the necessary amount of GST in their monthly/quarterly returns to avoid enforcement actions and penalties.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION POWER HOUSE GANDERBAL



Email: xeneganderbal@gmail. com | Tel /fax - 01942-416234 e-NIT No. GDG/14 of 2024-25 Dated: 07 / 01 /2025

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of Managing Director JKPDC, online e-bids in double cover system are invited (Cover-I-Techno-Commercial Bid and Cover-II-Price Bid) from authorised firms/ contractors/Self Help Groups/MSME registered with J&K government or any organization owned by PSUs/ State Government/ Central Government having sufficient related experience for undertaking the following titled work at Generation Division Gan

S.No	Name Of Work	Quantity	Cost Of Tender Document	Estimated cost (Rs)	EMD @ 2% (Rs)	Time Completion
1.	SITC of common Synchronization Panel for 3 units in place of obsolete one at power house Ganderbal	As per scope	Rs1500/-	10.80 lacs	22000/-	Within 60 days from date of LOA

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-01-2025		
2	Period of downloading of bidding document	09-01-2025 to 25-01-2025		
3	. Bid submission Start Date	09-01-2025 1400 hrs		
4	Bid submission End Date	25-01-2024 upto 1600 hrs		
5	. Deadline for receiving Hard Copies(Proof of Cost of tender document and EMD only)	27-01-2025 upto 1600 hrs		
6	. Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	27-01-2025 or any other convenient date.		
7	. Venue for submitting the hard copy of EMD/Cost of tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal, Kashmir.		

Position of AAA - Accorded

Technical Sanctior - Sanctioned

Position of Funds Available

The entire process of bidding shall be online. The bidding document consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government websitejktenders.gov.inor www.ikspdc.nic.in. The bidder has to submit the bids(complete in all respects) online on the said website. The subsequent opening as well as comparison of bids(on the opening date/time) shall be online on the said websit

- The following documents are to be uploaded along with the bid; otherwise the bid shall be liable for rejection:
- Details of Contractor along with working phone no. and e-mail id on the letter head of contractor.
- Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Demand Draft only in favour of the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan with the detail as: ii) Account No.0071010200005001 IFSC code : JAKA0KANGAN Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan
- Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan
- iii) iv) v) Copy of Valid Registration Certificate.
- Copy of GST Registration Certificate.
- Copy of PAN Card.
- vi) vii) Experience/Relevant Work Orders' and Completion Certificates copies
- viii) Income tax Certificate for thelatest years
- ix) Information regarding the current litigation(if any) in which the bidder is involved; parties concerned and disputed amount on registered affidavit/stamp paper of Rs 10/
- 3. The bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-bid document as stated above table through Demand Draft pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan with the detail as: Account No.0071010200005001 IFSC code : JAKA0KANGAN Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan

The original demand draft shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, Ganderbal, JKPDC and should reach before the cutoff date. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids.

- All the e-bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BGonly, pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted to the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, Ganderbal, JKPDC and should reach upto the dates mentioned in above table
- 5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if :-
- 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.
- b. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. с. 6.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Superintending Engineer Generation Circle-II Bemina Srinagar Kashmir. 7.
- No price bid/ Commercial Technical bid will be accepted in physical form. The original Demand Draft and EMD only is required to submit in the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, Ganderbal, JKPDC,
- The bidders are advised to visit the site for assessment and go through the contents of the SBD before quoting the rates.
- 10. Modification in scope of work and extension of period of download of tender specification, closing opening date if required will be notified through corrigendum

No:-GDG/T/206-15	Sd/-
Dated:- 07 -01-2025	Executive Engineer
DIPK-NB-3112-24	Generation Division
DT: 09/01/2025	Ganderbal

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Jhelum Water

glaciers but unfortunately these are losing sheen due to Kashmir witnessing prolonged dry spells.

He said, "The various water supply schemes are being hit across Kashmir due to Jhelum becoming dry. It's a cause of concern.'

Experts have warned that these figures are symptomatic of a larger environmental crisis fuelled by erratic climate patterns and prolonged dry spells.

Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng said, "The current dry spell, which has persisted since October, has further aggravated the situation. In fact, the Jhelum had already recorded a historic low of -1.0 feet earlier this season.

"Over the past five years, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced below-normal precipitation during the critical winter months of December to February, which has significantly hampered the replenishment of glaciers that feed the river," he added.

"Rising temperatures throughout the year have accelerated the melting of glaciers while reducing their overall size. Summer and winter months have seen below-normal rainfall, exacerbating the problem as water sources continue to dwindle," Keng said.

He warned that this trend of higher-than-average temperatures and irregular precipitation patterns is likely to continue, threatening the region's water security

Another expert said, "Jammu and Kashmir has lost nearly 30 percent of glaciers in the past 60 years and if the same trend continues 70 per cent of them will recede by the end of this century.

"There are 18000 glaciers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, but all of them are melting. The glaciers are melting in the entire Himalaya including J&K," he added.

Dr Irfan Rashid, Assistant Professor at Department of Earth Sciences University of Kashmir, said that a research has been done, which states that Kashmir's biggest glacier, Kolahoi glacier has melted around 25 per cent since 1960's. "From 1962-2022, it has melted around 25 per cent. It has been receding 35 meters every year," he had said, adding that Kolahoi glacier is the biggest glacier of Kashmir, and at the same time, is the fastest melting glacier as well.'

"According to research there will be a 4-7degrees increase by the end of this century, and therefore the melting cannot be stopped," he added.

No Direct Train

The same train will not continue to further destinations, and passengers will have to wait for the next train to proceed," officials explained.

Notably, Northern Railway had already released a timetable for train services to Kashmir

on December 31. The schedule mentions that one Vande Bharat Express and two Mail Express trains will run daily between SMVD Katra and Srinagar. Although the Railways had issued the train timings, there was no mention of the onward journey from Katra to other destinations.

Meanwhile, all eyes are on the Union government for the official inauguration date of the train service to Kashmir. The inauguration is expected to take place on January 13, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Srinagar to inaugurate the Z-Morh Tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, located between Gagangir and Sonamarg.

If INDIA Bloc Only

Kashmir was a state. The system is different today. We need to understand how we are going to work and what the powers of this Assembly are," Omar said.

The chief minister also said that to familiarise everyone with the procedures of this system, the speaker has organised the orientation programme.

"The deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha also participated in this exercise. I believe the experience of the senior members will prove beneficial. In the upcoming sessions, the MLAs will represent the people better and raise their issues effectively," he added. Sets '100-Day,

Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, all administrative secretaries and senior officers who were present in person and through virtual mode.

During the meeting, each Administrative Secretary presented a detailed vision document outlining achievable benchmarks within two specific timeframes-100 days and one year. The deliverables set include major policy decisions, projects to be completed and launching of new development projects.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the importance of adhering to strict timelines for the execution of all projects, stressing that timely delivery is key to meeting public expectations and driving development.

Discussions and deliberations were held on strategies to ensure these benchmarks are met efficiently.

The Chief Minister also called for a collective effort from all departments to prioritize transparency, accountability, and swift implementation of plans to achieve these goals within the stipulated timeframes. **Intense Cold**

the cold spell continues, with no significant relief expected in the coming days. **J&K Govt Constitutes**

Committee, led by the Chief Secretary of J&K, will focus on the operational aspects, including infrastructure development, coordination among agencies, and supervision of projects.

The committee will also be monitoring venue readiness, reviewing progress and to ensure smooth management of all activities related to the Games. The committee includes senior officials from the Tourism, Transport, and Health departments, along with eminent sportspersons Gul Mustafa and Hafeeza Hassan.

It is worth mentioning that regular meetings of both committees have been mandated to ensure timely execution and resolution of issues. Srinagar-Ladakh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the 6.4-kilometer-long Z-Morh tunnel on the Srinagar-Sonamarg Highway on January 13.

The Z-Morh tunnel, along with the 13-kilometer-long under-construction Zojila tunnel, forms a crucial part of a strategic project for ensuring round-the-year connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh region which remains closed during the winters due to heavy snowfall.

The senior Superintendent of Police Traffic UT of Ladakh Altaf Ahmad Shah in a public notice has informed the general public, especially commuters, drivers, and tourists that the traffic on the Kargil-Srinagar highway (Zojila pass) shall remain suspended due to icy road conditions and inclement road conditions.

The notification said, "whereby a maintenance work on the road shall be carried out by the concerned agencies from January 11 to January 14, 2025".

"Traffic shall resume on the highway on January 14 subject to weather conditions", the notice reads.

"Keeping in view the clement weather condition and scheduled road maintenance, commuters/passengers are advised to restrict their journey till 'Green' signal from the concerned road maintenance agencies, in order to avoid inconvenience as well as any untoward incident while traveling", the notice added.

"The commuters and passengers are advised to undertake journeys on the route only after confirming the status of the road from the traffic police control room and traffic control units of Kargil and Leh", the notice concludes.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Zojila pass on the Srinagar-Ladakh highway experienced snowfall and the minimum temperature plunged to -31.0°C on Thursday. **Kashmir Startup**

operations to several other mountain towns such as Shimla and Mussoorie.

"We also laid out plans to expand in college campuses across the country, and said that there are 1,400 such campuses that they can capture. We have devised our own bikes, and ask for no app downloads, no security deposits from their customers," Yameen said.

Peyush was impressed by the entrepreneurs' ability to erase all the on-boarding issues that customers might have

Vineeta explained, "There is a little complexity here. There is a lot of dependence on governments, and from what I've seen in all the other companies, the setting that you have to do with governments and local bodies, it becomes a make or break situation. Your expansion will not depend on your ambition, it will depend on where you get the local support." Yameen nodded in agreement, and said that they haven't had any losses yet, and have raised a round of investment already, valuing their company at Rs 8.5 crore.

Although all the Sharks backed out of the deal, Peyush bid the founders farewell on a positive note.

Addressing Yameen, Piyush said, "It's like looking in a mirror, you are me. You are saving everything I would have said 10 years back. The detailed customer-focused obsession you have, I have not seen in Shark Tank in four years."

In the end, the two entrepreneurs walked away with no deal, but loads of positive wishes.

Speaking about the experience, Yameen said, "Shark Tank India gave us an incredible platform to share our dream of revolutionizing urban mobility. Coming from Srinagar, this journey represents not just Curve Electric, but the untapped potential of Kashmiri youth. We're excited for what lies ahead." Adhere To Timelines

Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 in the Union Territory, an official spokesperson said.

He reviewed measures taken for capacity building and the training of police personnel and officials from other departments to ensure the effective enforcement of these new laws which came into effect on July 1, 2024.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the importance of improving the conviction rate, particularly in heinous crimes, anti-national activities and terror-related incidents.

"We must ensure transparency in police actions and strictly adhere to the timelines for investigations and trials outlined in the new criminal laws," the Lieutenant Governor stated. He directed officials to conduct a compara-

tive study of the pre- and post-implementation phases of the new criminal laws.

The LG instructed the preparation of a calendar for public awareness campaigns in collaboration with various departments to educate the public about these laws.

The meeting also discussed progress in various technological initiatives, the notification of standard operating procedures (SoPs) and guidelines, the translation of the new laws into Dogri and Kashmiri languages, the procurement of forensic science laboratory (FSL) vans and the training of forensic experts, prison personnel and judicial officers.

NC Govt Will

the Delhi polls separately, the dual power structure in Jammu and Kashmir, the Maha Kumbh and the Tirupati stampede.

He expressed concern over unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a significant issue in the region.

"How will people's problem be solved when unemployment is so severe here? Our hospitals and schools are in dire condition. We need teachers, doctors, and paramedics, but instead, unnecessary battles are being fought," he said.

Faroog said his National Conference has nothing to do with the BJP, but it is the responsibility of the central government to support state governments in addressing local issues.

"We are not with the BJP, nor do we have any connection with them," he said.

Farooq stressed that both the central and state governments should prioritise the needs of the people rather than engaging in conflicts that hinder progress.

Reacting to claims about his son and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah being influenced by New Delhi, the NC chief said, "Omar Abdullah has been elected as the chief minister by the people. He does not act on anyone's instructions. He acts on his own. Those who are under this impression should come out of it."

Replying to a question about Wednesday's Tirupati temple stampede that killed six pilgrims, he urged the government to ensure that incidents causing loss of life are prevented, particularly at religious sites and during festivals.

He highlighted the importance of proactive planning at places of worship, which attract lakhs of devotees, to ensure safety and security, especially for women.

"With the Maha Kumbh approaching, the authorities must take adequate measures to avoid any mismanagement. This is a once-in-twelveyear event where millions visit the Ganga. The government must ensure proper arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents," he said, underlining the cultural and religious significance of such events in India.

On a question about rumblings within the INDIA bloc, Farooq said, "The alliance is not just about contesting elections. It is about strengthening India and eliminating hatred. Those who believe this alliance exists only for parliamentary elections are mistaken. The alliance is permanent -- it is for every day and every moment."

Responding to questions about the dual governance structure, Farooq reiterated the demand for statehood, stating that the dual power structure in Jammu and Kashmir would stabilise once full statehood is restored.

On a controversy over a person facing a probe joining the National Conference, Farooq said, "I was unaware of his involvement in any case. We announced yesterday that until he is cleared of all charges, he will not be admitted into the party."

28 <u>year</u> of publication YouTube SFRVE

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®] SRINAGAR | FRIDAY | 10.01.2025

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world. Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

INKISHAF

VISIT

https://www.youtube. com/c/kobserver



VOX POP UNRAVEL KASHMIR

THE OTHER SIDE

SPORTS

Gambhir Not Right Choice For Coaching Job, Says Ex India Batter

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Former India batter Manoj Tiwary on Thursday said current national team head coach Gautam Gambhir is "not the right choice" for the top job and he is only adept in mentoring IPL franchises, citing the side's recent struggles to support his remarks.

Under Gambhir, India lost an ODI series in Sri Lanka for the first time in 27 years, and they hit a new low when they were whitewashed 0-3 by New Zealand at home, unprecedented in the country's cricket history. Recently, India lost the Bor-

der-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in a decade, and Tiwary, who has had a dressing room altercation with Gambhir during their playing days in the IPL, took note of these reversals since his appointment as the coach.

See, the results are there to be seen. Results don't lie. Numbers don't lie. The record speaks for itself," Tiwary told



PTI in an interview.

Now a deputy sports minister in the West Bengal government, the 39-year-old Tiwary and Gambhir had an altercation in the KKR dressing room during the 2013 Indian Premier League.

Ouestioning Gambhir's coaching methods and his lack of success with the Indian team, Tiwary said, "he has not been able to carry on the good work which Rahul Dravid did. "It will take a lot of time for

him to get on the track, or to

though beat Bangladesh across formats at home after winning a T20I series in Sri Lanka, which was Gambhir's first assignment with the national team.

But Tiwary believes people with enough experience in coaching, such as VVS Laxman and Sairaj Bahutule, would have been the ideal choice for the India job.

"I think VVS Laxman and Sairaj Bahutule... these guys were in line to be the next head coach. And these guys have been with the NCA for so many years. When Rahul Dravid was not available, the next coach was an automatic choice.

"So, that process was getting followed. And in between how Gambhir came in, nobody knows. So, this result is bound to happen.

"When someone who does not have any experience and he comes up and takes up the job... And knowing him, how aggressive he is as an individual in certain aspects, this result is bound to happen," Tiwary said.

Short TAKES

5th Khelo India Winter Games Gulmarg Preparations Reviewed

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa chaired an important meeting to review preparations for the fifth edition of Khelo India Winter Games 2025 in Gulmarg.

One of the primary concerns discussed was park-ing arrangements. The DC emphasized the need for a comprehensive parking plan to accommodate the large number of participants, officials, and spectators expected. Accommodation for participants, guests, officials, and other attendees was highlighted as a key area of concern. Logistics mobilization was another important aspect of the meeting.

Regarding Traffic management, particularly between Tangmarg and Gulmarg, the DC instructed the concerned authorities to devise effective traffic flow measures and ensure the smooth movement of vehicles, including enhancing public transport services. Lastly, the establishment of a centralized control

room for coordination was deemed essential. The control room will monitor and manage all event-related operations, including security, logistics, and traffic management, ensuring that any arising issues are ad-dressed promptly and efficiently.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all departments to collaborate closely, with regular follow-ups to ensure the timely and successful execution of all preparations.

Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League: Kang Sings Enter Semis



efending champions Kang Sings advanced to the Description of the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2 with a stunning 9-0 victory over United Nubra on Thursday. Captain Mushtaq Ahmed's four goal-haul helped his team register the biggest win of the season.

Meanwhile, in the women's category, defending champions Maryul Spamo earned a semi-final berth by defeating Sham Eagles 2-0 in their final group stage match. They will be joined in the semi-finals by Changla Lamos, Humas Queens and Sham Eagles.

Conversely, the final semi-finalists in the men's category will be confirmed on the last group stage day. The day also featured an exciting 2-2 draw between Changla Blasters and Shakar Chiktan Royals, while Purig Warriors secured a 2-0 victory over Maryul Spawo to stay in contention.

The Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 2 is being organised in partnership with the UT Administration of Ladakh and Ice Hockey Association of Ladakh at Nawang Dorjay Stobdan Stadium in Leh.

Sports Minister Urges South Africa To Boycott Afghanistan Match

Couth Africa's sports minister has joined public calls • for the Proteas to boycott the Champions Trophy game against Afghanistan next month and criticised the International Cricket Council for not upholding its

Sports Min Inaugurates Cycling Velodrome At KIIT-KIIS Campus



Observer News Service

BHUBANESWAR: The Minati Mohapatra Cycling Velodrome was inaugurated on Thursday at the KIIT-KISS campus by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya. The velodrome has been named in honour of Minati Mohapatra – Odisha's first Arjuna Awardee in cycling. Inaugurating the Velodrome, the Union Minister reflected on the significance of the occasion. "Today is an important day for me," he said. "what I witnessed aligns with the dream of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi – a nation where eduthe minister's visit and cation and sports go hand in highlighted plans to double the sports infrastructure at Acharya Quoting

KIIT and KISS in the coming Chanakya, the minister emyears. phasized the importance of Maninder Pal Singh, Secretary General of the Cycling education in shaning a na-

Minati Mohapatra, visibly

Restore J&K Football Glory



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: All India Football Federation President Kalyan Chaubey recently met J&K football stakeholders to get an insight into what is ailing the sport and its association in the region, stressing that it is his personal desire to see I&K

elected body. While the districtlevel elections in Kashmir province were held, the central body elections couldn't be held due to various issues that include court cases.

The lack of proper set up in JKFA has greatly affected J&K football which also hinders AIFF developmen-

AIFF President Wants To

winning ways. Because I don't

see any experience behind his

series, I don't think he has any

experience of coaching to be

"In Test cricket or in one-day

Since his appointment, India

coaching the Indian team.

honest."

tion's future. "I am satisfied Federation of India, lauded that the country's future the minister's passion for sports. "The minister is a cyis in the capable hands of educationists like Dr. Sacling enthusiast himself, and manta. KIIT, KISS, and KIMS his contribution to promoting sports across the country are nurturing students who will grow into responsible is remarkable," he said. citizens. Wherever I go, I will share the best practices moved by the honour, ex-I observed here," Mandaviya pressed her gratitude. "I am added.

hand.'

speechless. People say Dr. Samanta is like a god to us. Dr Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, ex-This is the greatest honor of my life," she said. pressed his gratitude for

football once again flourish.

Chaubey, who was on the personal visit to Kashmir, spared a full day to meet stakeholders of J&K football to get inside information and ground level know-how of the issues pertaining J&K football and J&K Football Association.

The AIFF President met Real Kashmir FC owner, various clubs owners, former JKFA office bearers, former J&K Sports Council member, sports journalists, coaches, players, current DFA Srinagar officials and JKFA officials. Since 2022, JKFA is without any

tal work in J&K. In the absence of JKFA central body, AIFF had to deal with J&K Sports Council and infact recent J&K Santosh Trophy team was directly handled by JKSC.

He said that he will be visiting J&K again shortly and will also seek meeting with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for the same.

Kalyan Chaubey also congratulated J&K Football Team for qualifying for the next edition of National Games after finishing in top eight during recent Santosh Trophy tournament.

Gayton McKenzie said on Thursday he felt "morally bound to support" a match boycott because the Taliban government has banned women's sport and disbanded the national women's cricket team.

"It is not for me as the sports minister to make the final decision on whether South Africa should honor cricketing fixtures against Afghanistan. If it was my decision, then it certainly would not happen," McKenzie said in a statement.

"As a man who comes from a race that was not allowed equal access to sporting opportunities during apartheid, it would be hypocritical and immoral to look the other way today when the same is being done towards women anywhere in the world.'

Manchester City's On Field Woes Could Be Dwarfed By Legal Defeat

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Premier League champions Manchester City's well-chronicled troubles on the field this season could pale into insignificance in the coming weeks if an independent commission rules that the club has breached multiple financial regulations

City's unexpected meltdown on the pitch has all but knocked Pep Guardiola's side out of contention for a fifth successive title and they are even in danger of exiting the Champions League at the first stage.

But while form is temporary and fixable, a much larger and darker cloud has stationed itself over the Abu Dhabi-owned club that in the last decade has amassed a vast haul of silverware and become the dominant force in English soccer.

Three judges appointed by the independent chair of the Premier League Judicial Panel spent more than two months listening to evidence and submissions in relation to the 115 charges brought against City two years ago.

City have always denied any wrongdoing and said at the time of the referral to the Premier League's independent commission that they were surprised by the league's "issuing of these al-

leged breaches." All eyes will now be on the verdict, which is expected soon, and, in the event of City being found guilty of the most serious charges against them, how draconian the punishment might be.

While Everton and Nottingham Forest both fell foul of the Premier League's Profit and Sustainability (PSR) rules last season and were duly docked points, the allegations against City are in a different league, both in terms of their seriousness and duration.

The multitude of charges run from 2009 to the 2022-23 season but arguably the most damaging allegation is that every season from 2009-10 to 2017-18 the club failed to provide accurate financial information to give a "true and fair view" of revenues, including sponsorships, and operating costs. City have denied the allegations and employed a crack team of lawvers to fight their case.

"Has money come in from the owners which they pretend to be from the sponsors? If that is the case, then that is fraud. That is about as serious as it gets," soccer finance expert Kieran Maguire, author of the Price of Football, told The Overlap.

In the event of City being found guilty of some or all of



the charges against them, the punishments could range from a massive fine and huge deduction of points to titles being stripped or even expulsion from the Premier League. While being relegated or

ejected from the Premier League

is perhaps the least likely outcome, City could effectively be relegated if they were hit with unprecedented deduction an that some reports speculate could be more than 60 points.

"If they are found guilty, I think the first point there is nobody

should be really using Everton and Forest as a benchmark, certainly if we talk about points deductions as a potential punishment," Dan Plumley, a football finance expert at Sheffield Hallam University, told Reuters. relatively "They were

straightforward breaches of PSR within that three-year window and were dealt with in line with those circumstances, so I think trying to kind of multiply points deductions out for this one is completely futile."

Plumley thinks it is unlikely

City would be stripped of any of the Premier League titles they won during the span of the allegations against them and says the potential for the saga to rumble on through an appeals process and thereby throw the end of the season into chaos is worrying.

"It's within the Premier League's discretion as to whether they go down that route, my take on that is I think it's always seemed unlikely," he said. "To go back and retrospectively unpick that. There are lots of other factors there you need to consider and it's not as simple as giving it to the next placed team, it would throw up a whole range of permutations.

The Premier League is regarded as one of the best-run and most successful competitions in world sport and Manchester City, in many respects since Guardiola instilled his magical brand of football, have been a benchmark for excellence.

The most pessimistic City fans will console themselves with Guardiola's vow to stay whatever fate befalls the club.

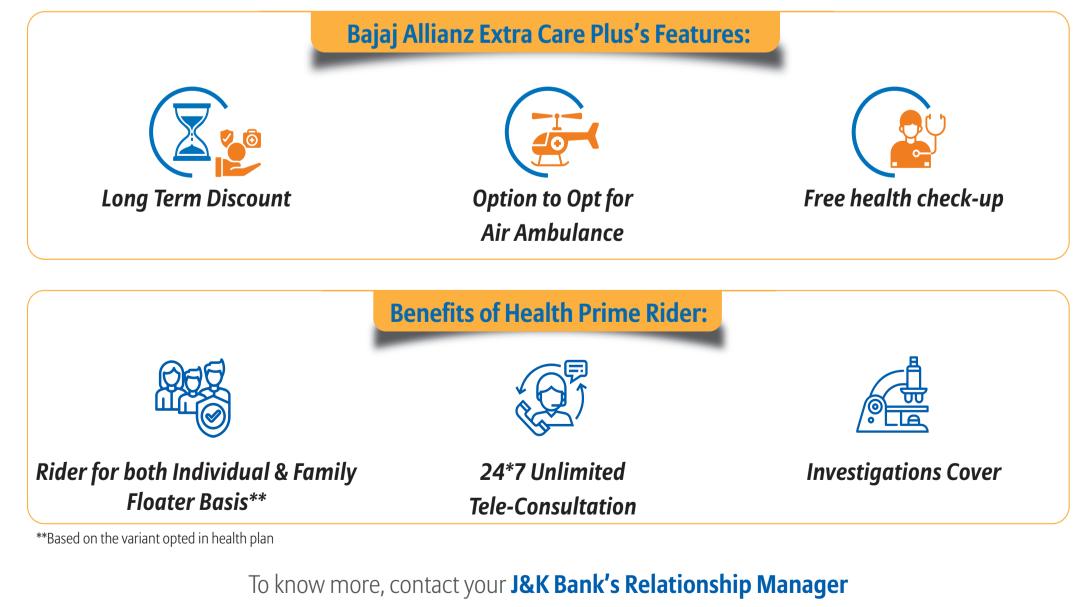
Owner Sheikh Mansour and chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak have bathed in glory for a decade, but where a guilty verdict and accompanying punishment would leave City's hierarchy is another question entirely.

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®] 12



Bajaj Allianz Extra Care Plus policy along with the added benefits of Health Prime Rider ensures that you

don't have to settle for less when it comes to you and your family's growing healthcare needs.



Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune - 411006. IRDAI Reg No.: 113. | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | UIN: BAJHLIP23069V032223 - Extra Care Plus , BAJHLIA24087V022324 - Health Prime Rider | web: www.bajajallianz.com | Toll free: 1800-209-5858 / 1800-209-0144

J&K Bank Ltd is a licensed Corporate Agent [bearing License No.: CA0029] of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. [IRDAI registration No. 113]. The benefits/features of products are indicative and for more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BJAZ-P-JK-0013/03-11-2023