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Feeble WD To Bring Light Snow: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A feeble Western Disturbance (WD) is affecting Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday and under its influence light snowfall is expected at isolated higher reaches in the next 48 hours.

Director Meteorological de-partment (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches during the early morning of the 16th.

He added that from January 17 to 19, the weather would remain generally cloudy, adding that overall, nothing significant is expected till January 19.

On January 20 & 21, generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of light snow at isolated to scattered places, he said.

Meanwhile, Kashmir continues to be in the grip of a cold wave as the minimum temperatures stayed several degrees below freezing point in the valley, the meteorological department said on Tuesday.The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 4.1 degrees Celsius on Monday night, up from the previous night's minus 5.1 degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological department.

North Kashmir's tourist resort of Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 6.5 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam re-

J&K Incomplete Without PoK: Rajnath Singh

>> Warns Pakistan
On Terror Camps

>> 'BJP Govt Treats Delhi, Kashmir Equally'

Press Trust Of India

Akhnoor: Declaring that Jammu and Kashmir remains "incomplete" without Pakistan-occupied Kashmir Defence Minister Rajnath Singh delivered a strong message to Pakistan on Tuesday warning Islamabad to dismantle its terror infrastructure or face serious consequences.

Speaking at a gathering of armed forces veterans in Akhnoor, Singh emphasised that the abrogation of Article 370 has initiated a transformation in the region.

"The situation in Jammu and Kashmir has changed drastically, and this truth must be accepted. Jammu and Kashmir is incomplete without PoK, which remains the crown jewel of India," he said. Reaffirming India's stance, Singh said, "For Pakistan, PoK is nothing more than foreign territory" and the aspirations

of the people of Jammu and

Kashmir have never aligned with those of Pakistan.

He cited the sacrifices made by many Muslim residents of the region in the fight against

Society **Must Ensure Welfare Of Veterans: LG** Soldiers protecting the borders guarantee the security and development of the nation, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday, as he paid tributes to ex-servicemen for their contribution. Attending the ninth Armed Forces Veterans Day at Akhnoor, which was presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the Lt Governor said it is the | More on P6

'Mobile Medical Units For Ex-Servicemen'

Jammu: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday announced doorstep delivery of medical facilities for ex-servicemen and their families residing in remote areas of the country through mobile medical units.

Asserting the government's commitment to the welfare of veterans of the armed forces, he said that preparations for the initiative have already begun. "Though it will take some time, I assure you that this doorstep delivery will commence.'

Singh, while addressing an Armed Forces Veterans' Day event in Akhnoor, expressed his gratitude to the veterans and martyrs who safeguarded the nation.

'The government has taken several steps to support ex-servicemen and their families. While I do not claim that all measures are sufficient, one significant initiative this year is the introduction of mobile medical units for veterans and their families in remote areas." the defence min-

ister announced. "We have decided to provide doorstep delivery of medicines to veterans and their families in remote areas through mobile medical units," he said.

around Addressing 1,000 ex-servicemen during the event at the Tanda Artillery Brigade, Singh described the Veterans' celebrations at Akhnoor as a testament to the fact that Jammu and Kashmir has been, is, and will always remain an integral part of India.

He described Pakistanoccupied Kashmir as the "crown jewel of India, which is | More on P6

5 Killed In Kargil Accident



Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least five persons were killed while two others sustained critical injuries after two vehicles had head-on collision at Shilikchey area of Kargil district on Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that two vehicles — a Scorpio (UP79A/1150) and a tipper (JK02AD/5118) collided head-on, causing both to plunge into a deep gorge. They said a rescue operation was launched immediately.

"All the victims were rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared five dead. The other two are in critical condition," the official said. He added that three of the deceased were locals, while the remaining two were non-locals.

The locals who lost their lives have been identified as Mohd Hassan, son of Mohd Hussain, a resident of Stakpa; Liyaqat Ali, son of A.K. Raza, a resident of Choskore; and Mohd Ibrahim, son of Haji Mohd, a resident of Budgam. Kargil. | More on P6

Omar Praises Army For Safeguarding Country

Observer News Service

corded a low | More on P6

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday praised the armed forces for safeguarding the country and its people, assuring the veterans of his government's complete support in mitigating their problems.

He said efforts are underway

to improve and strengthen the relationship between the government and the forces.

Omar was addressing a function organised by the Army a Tanda Artillery Brigade in the Akhnoor sector near Jammu to celebrate the ninth Armed Forces Veterans' Day celebrations. Defence minister Rajnath Singh, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and General Officer Commanding-in-chief M V Suchindra Kumar were prominent among those who

attended the event. "Today I consider myself lucky to be among you on this occasion... You are the people who gave everything for this nation. You are those people who did not worry about your tomorrow or care for your lives.



"You are the ones who are ready to sacrifice your lives to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country and you are performing your duties diligently. Now it is our duty to take care of you. While taking care of our country, you took care of everyone," the chief minister said.

He said it is now the duty of the government that they should not face any difficulty or trouble.

"When we do this, we should not think that we are doing any favour to you, because it is our duty. We are | More on P6

Mystery Disease Claims 4 More Lives In Rajouri

Agencies

Srinagar: A six-year-old girl has succumbed to a mysterious disease in Badhaal village, located in the Kotranka subdivision of Rajouri district, bringing the death toll to 14 since December 2024. The latest victim passed away in a local hospital while receiving treatment.

The outbreak has sparked widespread panic among residents as the disease continues to claim lives, including many children, in the village.

Residents of Badh increasingly worried by the fatalities, especially since the victims do not belong to any single family. This has left every household concerned about the health of its members.

Symptoms exhibited by the victims include high fever, excessive sweating, vomiting and episodes of loss of consciousness. Despite extensive medical management, the precise cause of the illness remains unidentified. This has prompted doctors to treat

cases symptomatically while waiting for definitive findings. Minister of Health Sakina Itoo discussed the situation, saying, "In December, there mysterious several

hief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting to assess

brought together officials from Divisional and District administrations

During the discussions, experts from PGIMER (Chandigarh), | More on P6

along with health experts from several national health institutions.

the ongoing investigation into the mysterious deaths reported from

the village Badhal in district Rajouri. The meeting, held in Srinagar,

deaths recorded in the district, which were later controlled. We are currently investigating the cause of these deaths.'

She said that on January 9, seven children were affected and subsequently transferred to hospitals in Jammu and Rajouri, with some tragically passing away.

"The samples | More on P6

Support Home Via Video Calls Observer News Service Friday, every week, the official

IMHANS Brings Mental Health

Srinagar: In a remarkable step towards making mental health support more accessible in Jammu and Kashmir, the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) has introduced an online video consultation service for patients dealing with mental health issues.

This move comes after around two years after launching an online audio consulta-

This initiative is part of the Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) program.

An official at IMHANS Srinagar said the facility enables patients to consult trained professionals via video calls from the comfort of their homes. The video consultation system is also equipped with a prescription generation feature, allowing patients with mental health challenges to seek and avail of necessary

treatment conveniently. Patients can access this service by dialling 14416 between 10 am to 2 pm, Monday to

said, adding that both male and female mental health experts are available for video consultations, and those struggling with mental health issues can benefit from this service.

The official said the initiative is particularly beneficial for those hesitant to seek treatment due to the social stigma associated with mental health issues. "Such facilities aim to bridge the gap for those avoiding treatment due to stigma or other harriers " he said

He said that the number of patients seeking mental health treatment is just the "tip of the iceberg" and the initiative aims to reach a broader population. "During winter, patients from remote and far-flung areas often cannot visit healthcare facilities due to blocked roads. This service offers them the opportunity to access treatment from their homes," he added.

In 2023, the renowned research journal 'The Lancet' published a paper on Kashmir's

telepsychiatry efforts. Under the NTMHP, Tele-MANAS provides free, round-

the-clock | More on P6

SONMARG TUNNEL INAUGURATION

Ruhullah's Absence Sparks Speculation

Agencies

Srinagar:The conspicuous absence of National Conference (NC) Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, at the high-profile inauguration of the Sonmarg Tunnel on January 14 has sparked widespread speculation.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's trusted lieutenant and advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, faced questions from reporters during a cultural event in Srinagar regarding Mehdi's absence. Wani attempted to downplay the situation, stating, "Please do not read too much between the lines. He had prior engagements in South India. He is in Kochi, and that is why he couldn't attend the ceremony.'

However, party insiders suggest Mehdi's absence was more symbolic than circumstantial. "Was the engagement in Kochi more important than an event attended by the Prime Minister himself? Particularly | More on P6

'Substandard Materials, Misuse of Devari Stones'

Experts Rule

Out Viral Or

Bacterial

Causes

ACB Launches Probe Into Srinagar Smart City Project

Observer News Service

The Srinagar: Anti-Corruption Bureau has launched an investigation into the alleged misappropriation of construction materials during revamping and beautification of Srinagar under the smart city project.

The ACB, in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, said that it also initiated a probe into the alleged use of sub-standard material in the ongoing development work at Foreshore road in the Nishat area of Srinagar.

The ACB has registered a preliminary inquiry following reliable inputs indicating misappropriation of materials, including devari stones, path tiles, iron grills in the Srinagar city.

The material is suspected to have been either unaccounted for or allegedly sold in the open market for personal gains, during revamp



and beautification under the Srinagar Smart City project rather than being retained in the stores of the concerned engineering division," the statement reads.

The second Preliminary Enquiry focuses on the alleged use of substandard materials in development works at Foreshore Road, Nishat. These works include the construction of a cycle track, footpaths facing Dal Lake, and viewing decks from Nishat to Naseem Bagh PHC. Officials and contractors associated with Srinagar Smart City Ltd. are accused of bypassing mandatory quality assurance procedures, resulting in compromised work standards.

It is alleged that there was connivance between certain officials of | More on P6

VISION 2047

India Targets 100% Severe Weather Detection, Zero Deaths

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India aims to achieve 100-percent detection of all types of severe weather at the village and household levels by 2047 and reduce the loss of life from such events to zero, according to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Vision-2047 document released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

According to the document, released on the eve of the IMD's 150th anniversary, the weather department targets 100-per cent forecast accuracy for up to three days, 90 per cent for up to five days, 80 per cent for up to seven days and 70 per cent for up to 10 days, covering all severe weather events at the block and panchayat levels.

India plans to achieve "100 percent detection of all types of severe weather at the village and household levels" by 2047 by enhancing observational systems to the village level,



supported by remote-sensing technologies like satellites and radars, the document read.

The goal is to ensure zero deaths from severe weather events by enabling disaster managers, stakeholders and the public to take early action based on timely warnings.

It also aims at minimising property damage and losses by providing impact-based forecasts and risk-based warnings. These will be developed dynamically using geospatial | More on P6

Be Available By Jan 31: DSH

Textbooks To

Agencies

Srinagar: Director of School Education Kashmir, G N Itoo, has assured that steps are being taken to ensure the timely availability of textbooks for students following the restoration of the November session. Acknowledging the challenges posed by the short notice, he according to news agency KINS stated that the Board of School Education had initially planned to distribute books after the March session.

However, following a highlevel meeting chaired by the Education Minister and the Principal Secretary of Education, clear directives were issued to ensure that all textbooks are available in the

market by January 31. "We are expediting the process, and I am hopeful that all required books will be available by the end of January," Itoo told reporters. He said that in areas where winter tutorials are being conducted, existing books are | More on P6

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

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Wednesday | 15-01-2025

از نیابت پلہالن

عنوان: _ درخواست منجانب ثاقب فياض وفرقان فياض وتنزيليه فياض اولا دان فياض احمرخان ساكندوانيگام يا كين تحصيل پڻن نسبت اجرائي EWS سرٹفكيك جمق خود اشتهار هرخاص وعام

سعامله مندر جيمنوان الصدر ميں سائل نے ايك درواست بغرض حصول EWS سرٹفيكيٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائلان واقعی وازیگام پایٹن میں اپنے والد کے ساتھ راہئش یذیر ہے اور والدسائلان کامکان رہائی (ٹین شڈ) نمبرخسرہ 590 میں موجود ہے سائلان کےرہائش مکان (ٹین شڈ) وکچن وہاتھ روم وصحن کل 287.3 فٹ پر ہے سالان کار ہائشی مکان وکچن وہاتھ روم 559 مربعہ فٹ ہے سالان کی کنبہ کی مہوارا آمدنی 5500

وپیے ہے اور سائلان کا کنبدر جدذیل افراد پر شمل ہے فياض احمدخان ولدمجمر رمضان خان مزدوري وفيقة بيكم زوجه فياض احمدخان ثاقب فياض ولد فياض احمد خان زير تعليم رقان فياض ولد__ تنزيله فياج دختر _ _

رُٹفییکیٹ زیر بحث اجراءکرنے میں اگر کہا گرکسی شخص کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہر خبارسات دن کےاندراندرآ پنے عذر یاعتراض ودالت هذاکودفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں ۔ بعدگز رےمیعاد کو پی عذر یاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

General Notice

On my Driving Licence vide No. JK1520100000512 my Father's name's spellings has been wrongly written as Mohd Maqbol Wani which is incorrect. The actual spellings are Mohamad Magbool Wani. Hence correction is needed. In this regad any body having any objections may contact ARTO Bandipora within 7days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained at all.

Gh. Hassan Wani S/O. Mohamad Magbool Wani R/O. Madwan Sonawari Bpr.

E-mail:-phegwd@yahoo.com,

fko

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-03.02.2025 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 tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available or 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 logon to www.ireps.gov.in.

·					
Tender Type			Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open			Works	Single Bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders			Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
10.01.2025			20.01.2025	03.02.2025/15:00 Hrs	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	296-2024-25 -ADEN-II-ASR	CTR(P) 1.35 km UP & DN loopline at BEAS station and Manual Deepscreening from km 0.80 to 5.70 & km. 10.00 to			

21.00 total = 15.90 km on BEAS-TTO section in the juris of ADEN-II/ASR.
 Advertised Value
 Earnest Money
 Validity of Offer
 Period of Completion

 Rs.2,22,88,453,90/ Rs.2,61,500,00/ 60 Days
 12 Months
 Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track screening distressing of track/pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines &

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No.: 296-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 13.01.2025 141/2025 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TTR by T-28.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ARWA ASHRAF BHAT D/O MOHAMMAD ADHRAF BHAT R/O WAGOORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 20/05 /2021 and event has been shown tobe occured at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate 1st Class fko Kreeri

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. **Ground Water Division Srinagar**

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

GOVERNMENTOF(U.T)JAMMU&KASHMIR

Extension Notice 10th.

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Subject:1. Construction of 02 No. of Bore Wells at different spots in Block Kalaroose in Bandi, Datta in District Kupwara.

Reference: This office e-NIT No.24-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/ Corrs./6373-82, dated: 15-10-2024. Bearing Tender ID No. 2024_PHE_260360_3.

Due to "No Response" for the above mentioned works advertised videe-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under refer-13-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: ence. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	23-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	24-01-2025 11:00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

DIPK-10800/24 dated: 14-01-2025

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BUDGAM

Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111 E-mail:- xenrnbdivbud@gmail.com,Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No:- 88-MDB of 2024-25/10355-70 DATED:-11- 01-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of 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	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest money CDR/FDR / BG	Time of Completi on (days)	Class of Contract or	Major Head of account	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Retrofitting/Restoration / Conservation and Development of Imambara, Khmoneni Chowk Bemina	Rs.235.84 lacs	Rs.5500/-	Rs.471680/-	18 Months	AAY	Relevant Head of Account	Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums Srinagar/ Jammu
2	Retrofitting/Restoration / Conservation and Development of Dia Nag Mandir Budgam	Rs.170.08 lacs	Rs.2600/-	Rs.340160/-	12 Months	AAY	Relevant Head of Account	Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums Srinagar/ Jammu

Position of AAA = AccordedPosition of TS = Accorded

Project Authority: Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums Srinagar/ Jammu Position of funds:- = Available/Committed,

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below: 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 13/01/2025 Period of downloading of bidding 13/01/2025 documents Bid submission Start Date 3. 13 /01/2025 4. Bid Submission **End Date** 24/01/2025 upto 4.00 P.M 25/01/2025 at 11.00A.M in the office of Date & time of opening of Bids Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Budgam Within 7days of receipt of LOI. (The bidder has to provid Submission of Performance Security 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security in shape of 6. (PS) CDR/FDR/BG which shall subsequently release 2% CDR

No: EE/MDB/NIT/ 10355-70 **DATED:- 11- 01-2025**

DIPK-10779/24 dated: 14-1-2025

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** (R&B) Division Budgam,

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of FATIMA MEHRAJ D/O MEHRAJ DIN BHAT Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 09/06 /2020 and event has been shown tobe occured at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine **Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

NOTICE

have changed my name from (Old name) Mohammad Rasik Sajad to (New Name) Rasik Sajad Mir as per Aadhar. In future I will be known as (New name) Rasik Sajad Mir. If anybod is having any objection

fko

Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepetd.

he/she may contact Passport Office,

NOTICE

I, Sajad Ahmad Mir have changed the name of my Son from (Adnan Sajad) to (Mohammad Faris Sajad). In Future my Son will be known as (Mohammad Faris Saiad). If anybody is having objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K), Ph.0194-2477949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, ,CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types

of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order

Suppliers.

Public Notice

I want to transfer electrecity Connection bearing Consumer ID No: 0206030006720 form my father name Sona Parray S/o Ahmad to Khazir Mohammad Parray S/o Sona Parray. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the PDD Sub Divisin Beerwah within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Khazir Mohammad Parray

S/o Sona Parray R/o Ban Makhama bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Adhaar records as Hummra Rashid while my correct name is Baby Rashid which needs to be corrected. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office fo the Concerned Adhaar Cenre within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained. **Baby Rashid**

D/o Ab Rashid Dar R/O Chitragam Shopian

fko

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE TANGMARG/GULMARG.

Subject: Quotation (for supply of CCTV & allied items) at Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg.

E-NIT No:MC/TG/2024-25/01 Dated:.11-01-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons, parties, dealers, firms, suppliers, for supply and installation of below mentioned items for "Surveillance of Town" at Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in,as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11.01.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 11.01.2025 from 03:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	11.01.2025 from04.00 PM
4	Bid submission End Date	18.01.2025 upto 02.00PM
5	Date &Time of opening of Bids(Online)	21.01.2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of the Executive Of-
		ficer, Municipal Committee TANGMARG/GULMARG
6	Call Deposit Receipt	Rs.50000/- (Fifty ThousandOnly)
7	Tender Document Fee	Rs. 1000/-(One Thousand only)

ListofBOQ items:

S. No Particulars

01110	1 di titotalo	20011111
01	Supply of Poles with Toughened Glass Roo Modification (Minimum height: 15 feet above ground, Corrosion-	20 No.
	resistant, heavy-duty steel or equivalent Pole design should include the capability to fix two (2) CCTV cameras	
	securely, Provision of toughened glass to act as a roof for CCTV cameras. Poles to be installed at 30 different	
	locations within municipal limits of Tangmarg-Gulmarg)	
02	Supply of 55-Inch LED Televisions	04 No.
	(Screen size: 55 inches, Display: High-definition LED panel,	
	Resolution: Minimum 1080p Full HD, Connectivity: HDMI & USB ports.)	
03	Supply of Battery-Powered Solar CCTV Cameras with Solar Panels (Resolution: Minimum 4MP@15fps, IR Dis-	40 No.
	tance: Minimum 30 meters for clear night vision, Built-in microphone and speaker with two-way audio support.	
	Storage: Includes 256 GB Micro SD CardWaterproof rating: IP66 (suitable for outdoor use, Network: 4G SIM sup-	
	port with compatibility for local internet service providers. Power supplyBattery-powered cameras integrated	
	with solar panels for uninterrupted operation)	
04	Supply of SIM Connections with Internet Packs: Supplier much ensure that Each SIM includeddata internet packs	40 No
	for a minimum 1-year validity. Facilitation: Municipal Committee Tangmarg-Gulmarg will provide documentation	
	support for procuring SIM cards in its name	
05	Transportation, Installation, and Commissioning:-The successful bidder will be responsible for: Transportation of	f poles.
	CCTV cameras, solar panels, and LED screens to the designated locations within Tangmarg-Gulmarg municipal li	mits.
	Complete installation of 20 poles with two CCTV cameras per pole, Installation and commissioning of all 40 sola	
	CCTV cameras across 30 different locations. Installation of 4 LED televisions at specified sites. Testing and ensuring	
	tional readiness of all equipment post-installation.	
06	Warranty and After-Sales Support: Minimum 1 year on all supplied CCTV cameras and associated components. Th	e seller
	must provide after-sales support/service and Maintenance during the warranty period to ensure smooth function	
	the equipment.	

Summary of DeliverablesAdditional Notes for Suppliers/Sellers:
| Seller must ensure the timely completion of installation and commissioning across the specified locations. The seller shall coordinate with the Municipal Committee Tangmarg-Gulmarg for site-specific requirements.

Final inspection and approval of the installed equipment will be conducted by the Committee before payment release. The buyer is required to strictly adhere to the specifications outlined in the attached document, including the provision of items,

installation, transportation, and training as specified. Final inspection and approval of the installed equipment will be carried out by the Committee prior to the release of payment. Supplier must ensure that Each SIM includes data internet pack for a minimum 1-year validity.

Battery-Powered Solar CCTV Cameras with Solar Panels, including 256 GB Micro SD Card with 4 g network enabled/support. Warranty and After-Sales Support Warranty: Minimum 1 year on all supplied CCTV cameras and associated components. The seller must provide support/service and maintenance during warranty period.

9. CCTV Camera's and other allied Items should be from good/reputed quality

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg.
 The bids must be accompanied with the CDR amounting to the tune of Rs.1000/-only.
 The bids for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.
 The bidder has to make payment of Rs. 50000/- in the name of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg bearing account number 013904010001295at Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Main Branch Tangmarg having ifsc code as JAKAOSPRING as bid document fee and upload the receipt under bank challan

mandatorily, without which the bids are liable to be rejected.

Payment in respect of the successful bidder shall be made only after receipt of items as per the specifications and conditions laid down in the notice.

The registered dealers, suppliers, individuals, interested parties pr persons shall upload valid GST Thebidderhastoquoteitemwiserates (asperBOQ) including all taxes, freight, installation.

The successful bidder has to complete the job within 05 days after order received.

The undersigned reservesthe rightto accept or reject anyoffer without assigning anyreasons thereof.

InstructionstotheBiddersregardingE-Tenderingprocess:
Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" onwebsite www.jktenders.gov. 10.

Toparticipateinbiddingprocess,biddershavetogetDigitalSignatureCertificate(DSC) asperInformationTechnologyAct-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate

Thebiddershave to submit theirbidsonlinein electronic format withdigital Signature. Nofinancial bid will beaccepted inphysical format withdigital Signature.

Bids will be open edon lineas per time, schedule.Bidders must ensure to uploads canned copy of all necessary documents with the bidders must ensure the composition of the contract of the co

Note:-Scanallthedocumentson100dpiwithblackandwhiteoption. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Scanned copy of cost of tender document & Bank Receipt/challan in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg and bid securing

declaration must be uploaded with the bid TheBiddermusthavetoupload(softcopies) of the following documents (Photostat/Originals hould be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal): ValidGSTIN. TenderDocumentForm(annexed)

 $The \textit{Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded done-tending portal before is suance of contract. The \textit{Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded done-tending portal before is suance of contract. The \textit{Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded done-tending portal before is suance of contract.}$

ExecutiveOfficer Municipal DIPK-NB-3183/24 dated: 14-01-2025 Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg

Water Pipeline Damage Leaves Kenihama Residents Struggling

Agencies

Srinagar: The residents of Hamza Colony in Kenihama area of Nowgam, Srinagar, said they have been facing severe water supply issues for the past five months due to a damaged pipeline in their locality.

Despite repeated pleas to the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department, the locals said the problem remains unresolved, leaving them distressed.

The residents alleged they have contacted PHE officials multiple times to report the damage. However, they claim that officials have been passing the responsibility from one office to another without taking any concrete steps to address the issue. "One of the sections is claiming that the ruptured pipeline doesn't fall under their jurisdiction while the other also refuses to act by making the similar statement, thereby leaving us to lurch at large," the residents said.

resident. A local Mubashir Ahmad, expressing frustration, said they have been suffering due to the damaged pipeline for months. "Every time we approach the officials, we are told that it is the responsibility of a different office. We need a solution, not excuses," he said. "Water is a basic necessity, and the officials must take this issue seriously," another resident said.

When contacted, a PHE official said that the department has taken note of the issue and will resolve it at the earliest. "We have taken necessary steps and will fix the damaged pipeline soon," they said—(KNO)

'Wall Of Kindness' **Comes Alive Again**

Agencies

Srinagar: Srinagar's onceforgotten "Wall of Kindness" has come back to life; with fresh clothes now seen hanging on the wall after a recent report highlighted its neglected state.

The wall, once hailed as a beacon of compassion during its early launch in 2018, till two years, and now had faded into anonymity, but the story reignited community interest and brought the initiative back into focus.

According to the details, the Wall of Kindness, located along the Bund in Lal Chowk, was introduced to help the needy, especially during harsh winters. However, over time, it lost its charm, becoming nothing more than a forgotten backdrop.

"It is beautiful to see clothes hanging on the wall, it shows us the wall has again gained momentum and stayed in the minds of people," said Zahid Ahmed, a local resident.

Another resident Riyaz said, the wall holds emotional value for many in the city. "It was a symbol of kindness when it first started. Seeing it revived makes me happy,' he added—(KNO)

Controversy Over Appointment Of Non-Nursing Professional As Principal At MMINSR, SKIMS

Srinagar: Discontent has erupted within the nursing community over the appointment of a non-nursing professional as Principal of the Madre-Meharban Institute of Nursing and Research (MMINSR) at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura.

The decision, made by the Director of SKIMS, has drawn strong opposition from nursing professionals, students, and various stakeholders, who have expressed concerns about its implications for nursing education and professional autonomy.

The Nursing Education and Research Trained Nurses' Association of India strongly objected to the appointment, citing it as a violation of Indian Nurs-

ing Council (INC) guidelines. These guidelines mandate that nursing institutions must be led by qualified and experienced nursing professionals. Javaid Ahmad, chairperson of the association, said that such decisions undermine the expertise and leadership of highly qualified nursing faculty within the institution.

"This decision disregards the qualifications and experience of senior nursing professionals, undermining the sanctity of nursing education. Nursing is a specialized profession that requires leaders with in-depth knowledge of nursing sciences," he told news agency KINS, adding that he has received numerous complaints from students and nursing officers expressing their concerns. KINS

Medical Camp Organised



A free medical camp was organised by Idara Islamic Library Imam khamnaei(H.Z), Pattan on the eve of Birth Anniversary of Hazrat Ali Ibn Abi Talib (AS)

Over 300 Patients from village Yakmanpora and adjacent areas were examined, counselled and given free medicines and tests done by a team of highly experienced doctors and paramedical staff, according to statement.

At the end of camp certificates of appreciation were distributed among doctors and paramedical staff for their unwavering support and performance by the core members of Idara.



SHA Suspends Empanelment Of Twin Private Hospitals For 6 Months

Srinagar: The State Health Agency (SHA) in Jammu and Kashmir has suspended the empanelment of Shifa hospital, Srinagar and Florence Hospital Srinagar for violating the guidelines issued by National Health Authority (NHA).

As per an order issued by SHA, a penalty of over Rs 26 lakh has been imposed on Shifa hospital and around Rs 3 lakh on Florence hospital for the illegal payments collected from aggrieved beneficiaries.

"State Health Agency (SHA), J&K received a number of grievances/ complaints against Empaneled Health Care Provider Shifa Medical Centre, Srinagar for violating the guidelines issued by the National Health Authority, New Delhi. Show Cause Notices were issued to the hospital for all such cases and the hospital did not reply to them within the timeframe as mentioned in the guidelines. On the basis numerous grievances/complaints registered against the hospital, a team of officers/officials conducted a surprise visit to the hospital on 23/11/2024 and during interaction with the beneficiaries/patients it was observed that the hospital is flagrantly violating the guidelines of the scheme including coercing the patients to incur out

of pocket expenditure, denial of treatment to the patients," reads an order.

"Again a Show Cause Notice was served upon the hospital on 18/12/2024 to explain their stand with regard to cases highlighted during the surprise visit to the hospital, however, the hospital again did not reply to the said Show Cause Notice within mandated five working days, as Hospital Empanelment and De- Empanelment Guidelines," it reads.

"The case of the hospital along with all the relevant documents was placed before the State Empanelment Committee during its meeting on 26/12/2024 for deliberation/decision," it reads.

"It was decided, in accordance with the Hospital Empanelment Guidelines, that the hospital be immediately suspended for a period of 6 months and a penalty of Rs 2615000/would be imposed for the illegal payments collected from the aggrieved beneficiaries," reads the order.

"However, in the interest of dialysis patients, the hospital may continue providing dialysis treatment to the existing patients under AB PM-JAY/ AB PM-JAY SEHAT," it reads further.

"Now, therefore, Shifa Medical Centre, Magarmal Bagh Srinagar is hereby suspended for a period 6 months from the date of issuance of this order. However, in the interest of dialysis patients,

the hospital shall continue to provide treatment to the existing dialysis patients under AB PM-JAY/AB PM-JAY SEHAT. Also, penalty to the tune of Rs 2615000/- (Twenty-Six Lac Fifteen Thousand only) is imposed on the hospital for the illegal payments collected from the aggrieved beneficiaries. The said penalty amount shall be deposited by the hospital within 5 working days. In case the hospital fails to deposit the penalty/fine amount within the stipulated time same shall be adjusted with the pending payment to the EHCP without any further notice." the order reads further

"Florence Hospital, Srinagar is hereby suspended for a period 6 months from the date of issuance of this order. However, in the interest of dialysis patients, the hospital shall continue to provide treatment to the existing dialysis patients under AB PM- JAY/AB PM-JAY SEHAT. Also, penalty to the tune of Rs 297000/- (Two Lac Ninety Seven Thousand) is imposed on the hospital for the illegal payments collected from the aggrieved beneficiaries. The said penalty amount shall be deposited by the hospital within 5 working days. In case the hospital fails to deposit the penalty/fine amount within the stipulated time same shall be adjusted with the pending payment to the EHCP without any further notice," reads a separate order—(KNO)

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 6:08

ZUHR 12:38 **ASR** 4:07 Magrib 5:48 ISHA 7:12

This Day In History

1861- US Civil War: Union forces at Fort Pikens on Santa Rosa Island near Pensacola, Florida refuse Florida Militia demand to surrender

1865- Second Battle of Fort Fisher: Union Navy bombards Fort Fisher, North Carolina, allowing Union troops to capture Confederacy's last remaining seaport

1882- French explorer Jules Nicholas Crevaux is the first European to discover an Inca City near Sarta, north-west Argentina

1892- Basketball rules first published in Triangle Magazine, written by James Naismith 1902- Abdulaziz Ibn Saud leads 40 men over the

walls of Riyadh and takes the city, marking the beginning of the Third Saudi State 1907- 3-element vacuum tube patented by

American inventor Lee De Forest 1907- Gold dental inlays first described by William

Taggart, who invented them

1915- Japan claims economic control of China 1922- Arthur Griffith is elected president of the Irish Free State after Eamon de Valera resigns in opposition to the Anglo-Irish Treaty (De Valera will lead a military opposition seeking a unified and independent Ireland)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

 $Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Solid Waste Management in Block\ Pahalgam\ District\ An anthag.$ On behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the eligible and interested agencies are hereby invited for the execution of a Solid Waste Management Plan in District Anantnag Block Pahalgam

The Solid Waste Management program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Pahalgam, and the program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Pahalgam, and the program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Pahalgam, and the program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Pahalgam, and the program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Pahalgam, and the program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Pahalgam, and the program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Block Pahalgam, and the program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management program aims to implement effective and the program aims are program aims are program aims and the program aims are progrin line with the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The program will cover the CD Block Pahalgam comprising of 19GramPanchay-

S.No	Name of Panchayat	Approximate No of	Households Other Establishments
1	Ainoo Bari	467	15
2	AmadWagad	437	10 24 10
3	Batkote	733	24
3 4 5 6	Dehwatoo	236	10
5	Frislana	195	10
6	Ganishpora	235 486	10 12
/	Grendwon	486	12
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Karshangam	452	26
9	KullarBala	310	15
10	KullerPaven	331	17
11	Lidroo	331 422	10 10 26
12	Logripora	410	10
13	Mandlana	734	26
14	Awoora	449	24
15	Veeriran	513	10
16	Wajoora	513 226	24 10 16
17	Wahdan	236	118 25 55
18	Yanned A	362	25
19	Yanned B	256	55

SCOPE OF WORK: The contracting agency will be responsible for the following processes:

Solid Waste Collection

Sanitation and door-to-door collection of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from all bouseholds of one of the three designated clusters covering all households, shops, factories, industrial establishments, etc. at least thrice a week Panchayat-Halqa-wise schedule of waste collection shall further be notified in consultation with the concerned Block Development Officer and Gram Panchavat.

The intending agency shall collect all types of waste-door-to-door waste, waste formal ready installed dustbins, and legacy waste so that the objective of ODF plus is obtained and sustained.

Ensuring segregation of waste preferably at the household level and mandatorily at the already constructed segregation shed sites. Effective and scientific management and disposal of collected waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. A

weekly review/report shall be submitted by halqa panchayat to ascertain the effectiveness of weekly disposal. Revenuerealization Conducting a fresh survey, in consultation with the field functionaries of the Rural Development Department, to update the household data and include commercialfactories, business units, institutions, shops, etc. Collection of monthly Fees/ Chargesfrom the households preferablyindigital mode in consultation with the officials of this department.

Revenue generation through sustainable waste management practices, such as selling segregated dry waste to au-User charges collected shall be deposited in Halqa Panchayat Fund of concerned Gram Panchayat on a monthlybasis

out of which 10 to 40% (to be decided later) of the Fee/user charges so collected shall form a revenue part and the remaining shall be utilized for incurring the expenditure on account of sanitation work done. Maintenance

Maintenance and upkeep of departmental garbage collection vehicles, and other amenities used for waste collection and ensuring their dedicated use only for solid waste management purposes.
b) The Vehicles used for waste collection shall be departmental and the agency has to use these Vehicles/e-rickshaws etc. by engaging its own staff and ensuring the vehicle's maintenance in all respects.

The intending agency shall be responsible for the smooth handing over of all assets (Vehicles/machinery/CivilStructuresandpossession of the sitesing ood condition to the concerned department after completing the allotment of one year (without Manpower & Machinery

The contracting agency has to engage sweepers/ waste collectors, Drivers, and Management staff with a unique uniform having a unique logo, the design and details of which shall be conveyed to the contracting agency later. The contracting agency has to operate and maintain all thee-carts, garbage collection vans, and machinery at its

own level and has to bear the electricity, POL, and maintenance /repair charges of the machinery. The contracting agency will be required to obtain necessary permissions/approvals from the BDO concerned for repair, and maintenance of the existing machinery, Dispute Resolution and Penal provision

pellate authority shall be the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Anantnag and the third appellate & final authority shall be the

Incase of any dispute, the Block Development Officer concerned shall be the first appellate authority, the 2nd ap-

District Level Sanitation Committee for implementation of SBM-G.

The contracting agency shall have to report to the Block Development Officer concerned in case of any violation by any Household/establishment for imposing a fine. Further, the agency may be required to paste color-coded notices across the

c) In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the District level Sanitation committee shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise. IEC endeavors and inciting behavioral change

The contracting agency shall chalkout a plan for a sustained IEC campaign for inciting behavioral change among the people through various means. The means could be composing appealing and effective sanitation jingles played through over heads peakers of waste collection vehicles on a regular basis, organizing special sanitation drives by involving local youth clubs, students, and Self Help Groups, organizing monthly felicitation ceremonies for best cooperative and complying Panchayats inconsultation with the BDO concerned and the District administration, etc...Monthly IEC plans, 10 days in advance, to be submitted to the concerned BDO for review and approval.

The contracting agency shall influence the general public through its best possible sanitation services and shall motivate and convince them to segregate the waste at the source besides reducing the use of Single Use Plastics.

FLIGIBILITYCRITERIA: The contracting agency must meet the following criteria:

The agency can be a sole proprietor, registered contractor, registered partnership firm, limited liability partnership, public limited company, private limited company, society or NGO, etc.
b) The agency must have an average annual turnover of more than Rs. 20,00,000 (Rupees twenty Lakh) for the last three years.

Previous experience in managing public utilities as a PPP/outsourcing and knowledge of waste management, includ-

ing running decentralized solid waste management processes, will be advantageous.
d) Additional experience in community mobilization and IEC activities will be preferred.

The agency must deposit a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs. 30,000 (thirty thousand rupees) pledged to the Block Development Officer Pahalgam. CONTRACTING PROCESS:

Interested agencies must submit their EOI in sealed envelopes within 07 days addressed to the Block Development Officer Pahalgam, by 21.01.2025 up to 2: 00PM.

b) The envelopes will be opened on the next day 22.01.2025at3; 00PM in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives. The EOI will be followed by Technical Evaluation and Financial Evaluation.

government, department, and public funds

The selected agency will be awarded one-year contract, which may be extendable based on its performance and the necessity of the Department

The agency shall adhere to all the terms and conditions specified in the EOI document. The authority reserves the right to acceptor reject any EOI without assigning any reason thereof, in the interest of the

SUBMISSION OF EOI AND CONTACT INFORMATION: Interested agencies must submit their sealed envelopes containing the EOI to the following address:

Block Development Office Pahalgam

Headquarter Batkoot Email:bdopahalgam@gmail.com For any inquiries or clarifications regarding the EOI, interested agencies may contact Block Development Officer Pa-

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS:

• The results of the EOI evaluation will be communicated to the eligible agencies through official communication channels. LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The selected agency must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards during the execution of the Solid Waste Management project in Pahalgam

 $\label{thm:contracting} The contracting agency has to \bar{a} dhere to a) the Environment protection act 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control Prevention and Control Prevention act 1986) and \bar{a} distributions are contracting agency has to \bar{a} distributions and \bar{a} distributions are contracting agency has to \bar{a} distributions and \bar{a} distributions are contracting agency has to \bar{a} distributions and \bar{a} distributions are contracting agency has to \bar{a} distributions and \bar{a} distributions are contracting agency has to \bar{a} distributions are contracted as \bar{a} distribut$ of Pollution) Act 1974 and the bylaws drafted and passed by the Gram Panchayats in letter and spirit

Sub-contracting shall not be allowed and shall be considered illegal The contracting agency has to submit an affidavit duly attested by a Judicial Magistrate affirming therein the com-

mitment to bear all costs related to damage, theft, or loss incurred to the vehicles /machinery of the department during the execu-In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the District level Sanitation committee shall hold

exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise. The process of technical Evaluation will be done by a designated committee based on the score for the solutions & procedures provided by the agencies to transform the entire solid waste management into an efficient, effective, and sustainable one in the Block.

> Block Development Officer Pahalgam

No:-BP/SBM-G-ii/24-25/3412-17 DIPK-10829/24 Dated: 14.01.2025

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🔪 KO VIEW

Reining In Militancy

nly four local men in Jammu and Kashmir joined militant ranks in 2024, while 60 percent of militants killed in counterterrorism operations were Pakistani, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said on Monday. Speaking at the Army's annual press conference, he highlighted that the low recruitment figures and a 60 percent voter turnout in Assembly elections were proof of the local support for peace. General Dwivedi attributed the ongoing violence in the union territory to infiltration from Pakistan but added that the enhanced counter-terrorism measures and troop reinforcements in the region has succeeded in reigning it in. The situation, the Army chief asserted, remains well under control, a reason for the growth of tourism in recent years.

General Dwivedi, however, acknowledged that challenges persist. He blamed the terror infrastructure across the border for keeping the militancy alive in J&K, saying the infiltration attempts, drone incursions, and narcotics smuggling continued unabated. Last two years have also witnessed a surge in militant activity in the Jammu division, leading to the loss of nearly 50 soldiers. The districts like Rajouri, Poonch, and Doda hogged the headlines for the resurfacing of militancy. The districts have been sites of successive militant attacks which have led to loss of many a security force lives. 2024 also saw militancy returning to Kashmir Valley, with two major attacks taking place in Ganderbal and Gulmarg. Although the situation has normalized over the last few weeks, security agencies can't afford to let their guard down. More so, considering the changing nature of militancy in the union territory.

As the relative peace of the last few months has demonstrated, the security forces have been able to force the militancy to retreat, showing the efficacy of the revamped security approach. But sustaining these gains will require a multi-pronged strategy involving security, development, and diplomacy. And above all, understanding the nature of militancy in the union territory. Although the number of local militants in the Valley has steeply gone down in recent years with the last year recording the lowest recruitment, this isn't a true indicator of the retreat of militancy. As the violence in the last two years has demonstrated, the shortfall in local recruitment is replenished by the infiltration from Pakistan. This has been the story of J&K militancy over the past more than three decades and a factor in its perpetuation. The best counter-insurgency strategy that would help can't be entirely security-centric. It has always alienated people. We need one that reaches out to people and seeks their cooperation. A sustainable peace in Jammu and Kashmir will depend on giving people a genuine sense of empowerment within the existing system, ensuring they feel invested in shaping their own future.



Did you know? Understanding Market Declines and Importance of a Strong Portfolio

Irshad Mushtaq

Then the stock market experiences a decline, like if the Nifty drops by 10%,20% it's expected that investment portfolios will also take a hit. However, if your portfolio isn't set up correctly, the decline could be much more significant. Some people might see their portfolios drop by 30% of even 40% when the market only falls by 10%.

To avoid these issues, it's essential to have a healthy portfolio. Here's how to do

1. Diversify Your Investments

2. Choose Quality Stocks

Don't put all your money in one basket. Spread your investments across different sectors and industries. This way, if one area is struggling, others might still do well, helping to balance your losses

Invest in companies that are financially sound. Look for businesses with strong

earnings, good balance sheets, and good leadership. Even great companies can set their stock prices drop during market downturns, but they tend to bounce back better

3. Understand the Reasons for Declines Sometimes a stock may decline because of problems within the company, like poor earnings or bad management. That's a worry. On the other hand, if the drop i

due to broader economic issues or global factors, it might not be as bad, and the stock

4. Limit Your Investment in Individual Stocks It's wise to avoid investing more than 10% of your total portfolio in any single stock. This approach keeps your portfolio balanced and limits your exposure if that

5. Think Long-Term

Stock prices can change a lot in short periods, but it's important to keep a longterm perspective. Even if your portfolio doesn't perform well over six months to two years, maintaining patience and a vision for the future is key.

Managing a portfolio effectively requires learning and practice. Not every stock will give you quick returns, but with good management and patience, they can grow over time.

In summary, having a well-diversified portfolio filled with quality stocks is crucial for weathering market downturns. Remember, the stock market goes up and down that's normal. Focus on building a balanced portfolio, stay educated, and remain patient for the best long-term results. Your investments are a marathon, not a sprint! 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

Disclaimer: This article is for information only and doesn't offer investment advice. It's not an endorsement or an offer to buy or sell any financial products. If you decide to act on the information here, you do so at your own risk

Rediscovering **Lost Crafts**

Reviving the Legacy of Obscure Artisans



Narayanan Kizhumundayur

n the relentless march of modernization and industrialization, many traditional professions and crafts have been swept aside, unable to compete with mass production and digital innovation. Professions such as bell-making, manuscript restoration, and bespoke shoemaking—once vital to their communities—now teeter on the edge of extinction. However, these trades carry a wealth of cultural, historical, and economic significance. Reviving and preserving these "forgotten professions" is not merely an exercise in nostalgia; it is a commitment to sustainability, heritage, and the human touch that modern technology often lacks

Historical Significance of Obscure Trades

Artisans of bygone trades were once the cornerstones of their societies. Traditional bell makers, for example, crafted instruments that marked the rhythms of daily life, from calling worshippers to prayer to signalling town meetings. The resonance of a handcrafted bell—each unique in tone and texture-embodied not just sound but the soul of a community. Similarly, manuscript restorers played an essential role in preserving the written word, ensuring that the knowledge and culture of the past could be passed down to future generations. These restorers meticulously repaired ancient texts, safeguarding wisdom that might otherwise have been lost to time.

Bespoke shoemakers, with their finely tailored creations, offered not only utility but also an expression of individuality and craftsmanship. A pair of custom shoes was a statement of personality, tailored to the wearer's needs and aspirations. These trades were more than economic activities: they were art forms, deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of their times. The techniques and tools employed by these artisans often took decades to master, representing a lineage of knowledge handed down through generations.

Why Are These Trades Vanishing?

The decline of these professions can be attributed to several factors. The rise of industrial manufacturing has made mass production cheaper and faster, rendering many handcrafted goods obsolete. Globalization and urbanization have further accelerated this decline, as traditional crafts are often unable to compete in the global marketplace. Products that once took weeks or months to create can now be churned out in minutes, albeit without the artistry or personal touch that defines handmade goods.

Moreover, the younger generations frequently shy away from pursuing these trades, perceiving them as unprofitable or outdated. The allure of technology-driven careers and the societal emphasis on modern education have further distanced youth from traditional crafts. As older artisans retire without successors, the skills and knowledge required for these trades are at risk of disappearing forever.

The disappearance of these trades has far-reaching consequences. When an obscure trade is lost, it is not just the technique or product that vanishes but also the stories, traditions, and identities tied to it. A community loses a piece of its cultural mosaic, and the world becomes a little less



These trades are not relics of the past but living embodiments of human creativity and resilience. By embracing innovative strategies and supporting the artisans who practice these crafts, we can ensure that the art of the obscure thrives in the digital age, enriching both our cultural heritage and our future

Reviving the Forgotten Professions

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of reviving traditional crafts and professions. Innovative approaches are helping breathe new life into these trades, often by integrating modern technology and contemporary market demands.

Digital Platforms and E-commerce: Artisans are increasingly leveraging online platforms to showcase and sell their work. Websites like Etsy and social media platforms provide a global marketplace for craftspeople, enabling them to reach a wider audience than ever before. Through online storytelling and marketing, artisans can share the history and significance of their crafts, fostering a deeper appreciation among buyers.

Collaborations with Designers: Traditional artisans are collaborating with contemporary designers to create unique products that blend heritage techniques with modern aesthetics. For instance, bespoke shoemakers are partnering with fashion houses to create high-end footwear lines, while manuscript restorers work with digital archivists to preserve ancient texts in both physical and virtual formats.

Skill Preservation through Education: Establishing schools, workshops, and apprenticeship programs dedicated to these trades can attract younger generations. Initiatives like Japan's "Living National Treasure" program, which recognizes and supports masters of traditional crafts, could serve as a model for other countries. Such programs emphasize the value of these professions, ensuring their continuity and evolution.

Government and NGO Support: Governments and NGOs can play a crucial role by providing financial aid, creating heritage zones, or offering tax incentives to artisans. Policies that promote the use of handmade, local products in public projects—such as traditional bells in town halls or bespoke furnishings in government offices—can also provide much-needed support.

Community Engagement: Communities themselves can champion the preservation of these trades by celebrating local artisans, organizing craft fairs, and integrating traditional skills into tourism. Storytellingwhether through documentaries, books, or online content—can inspire a new generation to value and participate in these crafts.

Cultural and Economic Benefits

Preserving these professions goes beyond cultural nostalgia; it offers tangible benefits. Artisanal crafts are often more sustainable than mass-produced goods, relying on loca materials and generating minimal waste. For instance, a bespoke shoemaker sources highquality leather and creates durable products, reducing the environmental impact associated with fast fashion. Similarly, manuscript restorers employ methods that ensure longterm preservation, minimizing the need for frequent replacements.

By investing in these trades, communities can build local economies that are resilient to global market fluctuations. Artisans can become ambassadors of their culture, attracting tourists and creating opportunities for cultural exchange. Handcrafted goods, with their inherent uniqueness, often command higher market value, offering artisans a viable livelihood while fostering economic growth.

Moreover, these crafts foster a sense of identity and pride, particularly in regions where globalization has eroded traditional cultural markers. The revival of these trades can also serve as a counterbalance to the homogenization of global culture, ensuring that local traditions and aesthetics continue to thrive.

In a world that increasingly values speed and efficiency, the revival of forgotten professions offers a vital reminder of the importance of craftsmanship, tradition, and individuality. These trades are not relics of the past but living embodiments of human creativity and resilience. By embracing innovative strategies and supporting the artisans who practice these crafts, we can ensure that the art of the obscure thrives in the digital age, enriching both our cultural heritage and

The journey to revitalize these professions is not without challenges, but the rewards—a more sustainable, diverse, and culturally rich world-make the effort invaluable. The hands that shape bells, restore manuscripts, or craft bespoke shoes carry the stories of our past and the promise of a future that honours both heritage and innovation. The time to invest in these hands is now, for they hold the keys to preserving the beauty and meaning of human expression in

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author is an Accountant and a Freelance Writer in English and Malayalam

California's Burning Winter

A Warning from Nature?

Ikkz Ikbal

raging across Los Angeles, California, with destructive intensity fueled by extreme weather conditions. These fires have been fueled by unusually dry conditions and hurricane-force seasonal winds. Gusts reached over 145 kilometers (90 miles) per hour. Over 100,000 people have been forced to evacuate, and at least five lives have been lost as of January 9. The largest blaze, the Palisades Fire, has consumed 17,000 acres and destroyed 1,000 structures, while other fires, such as the Eaton Fire, are also wreaking havoc. What is driving this unusual and devastating winter wildfire outbreak? Let's break it down.

Why Are Wildfires Happening in Winter?

Typically, fire season in Southern California occurs between May and October. However, climate change is expanding this timeline. Rising temperatures and declining precipitation have transformed the region's fire season into a year-round phenomenon. The dry start to this winter, combined with unusually high temperatures, has created perfect conditions for wildfires.

What's Fueling These Fires?

The two main culprits behind the fires' intensity are the Santa Ana winds and an abundance of dried vegetation. Santa Ana winds, which usually blow in the fall and winter, are fierce and dry. As they travel from the high desert areas to the coast, they compress and heat up, further drying out vegetation. This season, gusts have reached speeds of 145 kilometers (90 miles) per hour, fanning flames and spreading embers with devastating efficiency.



Adding to the problem is the dried-out vegetation. Southern California experienced a very wet year in 2024, which led to the growth of abundant grass and brush. However, the driest start to winter on record has turned this vegetation into fireready fuel, amplifying the fires' spread.

Is Climate Change to Blame?

While pinpointing individual wildfires to climate change can be challenging, it is clear that human-caused climate change is worsening conditions for wildfires in California. Rising

temperatures, drier winters, and more erratic weather patterns—sometimes referred to as "weather whiplash"—create conditions that make wildfires more intense and frequent. Wetter years encourage vegetation growth, while drier years prime this vegetation for burning.

What About the Health Impacts?

The fires are not just destroying land and property—they're also endangering public health. Wildfire smoke contains fine particulates that can harm lungs, increase heart attack risks, and The wildfires raging across California are more than just natural disasters—they are urgent warnings from nature. Human-driven climate change is pushing the planet to its limits, turning oncepredictable seasons into unpredictable cycles of extremes

shorten life expectancy. The smoke from the Palisades Fire has already caused unhealthy air quality in Los Angeles County, with children, older adults, pregnant individuals, and those with respiratory or immune condi-

tions being at the highest risk.

Health officials warn residents to monitor air quality and take precautions. "Smoke and ash can harm everyone," said Muntu Davis, a health officer for Los Angeles County. Staying indoors, using air purifiers, and wearing masks are essential steps for protecting health during this crisis.

What's Next?

California's wildfires are a stark reminder of the growing challenges posed by climate change. Efforts to mitigate the risks will require addressing the root causes of climate change and investing in fire prevention and management strategies. For now, residents in affected areas must prioritize safety and remain vigilant as these blazes continue to burn.

Will this be the costliest wildfire disaster in U.S. history? As the Palisades Fire and its counterparts wreak havoc, experts fear this may well be the case.

A Warning from Nature

The wildfires raging across California are more than just natural disasters—they are urgent warnings from nature. Humandriven climate change is pushing the planet to its limits, turning once-predictable seasons into unpredictable cycles of extremes. Wetter years bring abundant vegetation, while hotter and drier years transform it into kindling for devastating fires.

These patterns underscore the profound impact of our choices. The burning forests, smoldering homes, and polluted air are stark reminders that the natural world is not separate from us—it reflects our actions. Addressing climate change is no longer optional; it is a necessity. It requires bold steps to reduce emissions, adopt sustainable practices, and safeguard ecosystems.

The message from nature is clear: we must act now, or the warnings will only grow louder and more destructive.

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AI, Risks and Safeguard

Simon Rogerson

The progress of artificial intelligence (AI) has been relentless. With OpenAI's latest model, o3, recently breaking records yet again, it raises urgent questions about safety, as well as the future of humanity.

One place we can turn for help is to great thinkers from the past. They explored beyond the obvious in their worlds and often looked into the future, foreseeing a time when machines would have Al-like capabilities.

The English 19th century mathematician and writer Ada Lovelace is sometimes recognised as the first computer programmer for her work with the polymath Charles Babbage on his "analytical engine". This was a general purpose mechanical computer, which was never completed, but its design mirrored that of computers decades later.

Her 1842 notes to Babbage, exploring the potential of his proposed device, foresaw something akin to AI in future. "It might act upon other things besides number", she said, suggesting that such a machine could one day express relationships between pitched sounds in order to "compose elaborate and scientific pieces of music of any degree of complexity or extent".

This requires pattern recognition across a vast array of sound and music data – exactly what large language models are doing today by generating music from text prompts

All the same, Lovelace was sceptical about the machine's thinking capabilities, arguing it would still be dependent on humans to originate whatever it could come up with. Indeed, Al models today are still not really thinking, so much as building sentences based on mathe-

matical probabilities from being trained on trillions of human words from the internet.

Lovelace pointed to such limitations to "guard against the possibility of exaggerated ideas that might arise as to the powers of the analytical engine". However, she also emphasised the "collateral influences" this machine could have beyond its bare output. Her example is that it could shed new light on science, but the wider implication is that such devices must never be underestimated.

The Turing test

Lovelace's argument also raised another implicit question. What happens if and when the

machines do become the originators, once sentience is no longer science fiction? This inspired another English mathematician and thinker a few decades later, Alan Turing.

Turing's 1949 "imitation game", later known as the Turing test, sought to determine whether a computer could think in a way comparable to a human. It remained a key test of AI until it was considered surpassed by OpenAI's ChatGPT in 2022.

Turing actually thought this would happen sooner, writing in a famous 1950 paper:

I believe that at the end of the century the use of words and general educated opinion will have altered so much that one will be able to speak of machines thinking without expecting to be contradicted

He wasn't especially pessimistic about what crossing this rubicon would mean, arguing in the same paper in favour of trying to create a machine that simulated a child's mind rather than an adult's. He thought this could be "easily programmed", implying we had little to fear from such endeavours.

Equally, he wasn't blind to the potential for humans to end up subordinated by thinking machines. In a public lecture in 1951, he remarked: "If a machine can think, it might think more intelligently than we do, and then

where should we be?"

Turing's biographer, Christof Teuscher, described him as an "Orwell of science". It's interesting to contrast his views with George Orwell himself, who despite never pondering AI, did talk about the dangers of machines more generally in The Road to Wigan Pier (1937).

If you are prepared to indulge swapping out the references to "machines" for "AI", it offers interesting possibilities about what Orwell might have made of today's technological arms race:

The sensitive person's hostility to [AI] is in one sense unrealistic, because of the obvious fact that [AI] has come to stay. But as an attitude of mind there is a great deal to be said for it ...

Verbally, no doubt, we would agree that [AI] is made for man and not man for [AI]; in practice any attempt to check the development of [AI] appears to us an attack on knowledge and therefore a kind of blasphemy. And even if the whole of humanity suddenly revolted against [AI] and decided to escape to a simpler way of life, the escape would still be immensely difficult

Mechanise the world as fully as it might be mechanised, and whichever way you turn there will be some [AI] cutting you off from the chance of working – that is, of living.

Norbert Wiener's ethics

This brings us to the American scientist and mathematician Norbert Wiener. Recognised as the founder of computer ethics, Wiener's seminal work is The Human Use of Human Beings (1950), which aimed to "warn against the dangers" of exploiting machines' potential.

machines' potential.

Wiener foresaw a time when machines would be talking to one another, and improve over time by being able to keep track

of their past performances. Comparing it to the old folk

tale of a person finding a djinnee (genie) in a bottle and knowing it was better left there, he wrote:

The machine like the djinnee which can learn and can make decisions on the basis of its learning.

made, or will be acceptable to us.

Decades later, the English
physicist Stephen Hawking had
similar concerns. He wrote in
2016 that Al could be:

will in no way be obliged to make

such decisions as we should have

The biggest event in the history of our civilisation, but it could also be the last – unless we learn how to avoid the risks. Alongside the benefits, AI will also bring dangers like powerful autonomous weapons or new ways for the few to oppress the many.

In his final months, he wrote:

I fear that AI may replace humans altogether. If people design computer viruses, someone will design AI that improves and replicates itself. This will be a new form of life that outperforms humans.

These five giants of the past prompt us to think very carefully about Al. Lovelace talked about a human tendency to first overrate the potential of a new technology, only to later over-correct by underestimating the reality. Wiener warned against the "selfish exploitation" of untested technological potential, which has surely led us to numerous catastrophic outcomes from IT failures over the years

Clearly the same thing could now happen with a much more powerful technology. It's likely that these writers would have looked at recent developments and seen fools rushing in where angels fear to tread.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Southern California faces new wildfire warnings as near hurricane-force winds regain strength

Los Angeles, Jan 14: Weary and anxious from a week of massive blazes burning around Los Angeles, Southern California residents faced dire new wildfire warnings and power shutoffs Tuesday while they prepared to flee at a moment's notice as firefuelling winds blasted across the scarred landscape.

The winds, predicted to reach near hurricane-force in some areas, were expected to peak Tuesday morning before easing and then regaining strength later in the day.

A beefed-up firefighting force was in place to attack flareups or new blazes. A week after the first fires began, the flames have destroyed thousands of homes and killed at least 24 people.

"Life threatening and destructive and widespread winds are already here," LA city Fire Chief Kristin Crowley told a news conference.

Residents gathered up their pets and family photos in case they had to make a hasty escape.

In other developments, nine people were charged with looting, including a group that stole an Emmy award from a house that had been evacuated, said Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman. Another pair pilfered more than USD 200,000 worth of items in a neighbourhood filled with mansions, he said.



Police have made roughly 50 arrests for looting, flying drones that could illegally interfere with firefighting aircraft and violating curfew.

Three people who tried to start small fires that were immediately extinguished were arrested on suspicion of arson, said LA Police Chief Jim McDonnell. One person was using a barbecue lighter to start fires. Another ignited brush while a third tried to set fire to a trash can outside the disaster zones, he said.

More than 75,000 households, mostly in Los Angeles County, were without electricity Tuesday morning in the blustery conditions, according to Southern California Edison,

which shut off power in areas of high risk to prevent their

lines from sparking new fires.

Santa Ana winds gusted up to 50 mph (80 kph) before sunrise in the mountains around LA, said meteorologist Todd Hall of the National Weather Service. Strong winds were expected to continue through midday Wednesday and could carry embers miles ahead of the fire lines or trigger fire tornadoes,

Much of Southern California was under an elevated fire risk Tuesday, from San Diego to far north of Los Angeles into Ventura County. Facing the greatest risk were inland areas north of LA, including densely populated Thousand Oaks,

Northridge and Simi Valley, forecasters said.

The weather service issued a rare warning for Tuesday: The winds, combined with severely dry conditions, have created a "particularly dangerous situation," meaning that any new fire could explode in size.

Planes doused homes and hillsides with bright pink fireretardant chemicals, while crews and fire engines deployed to particularly vulnerable spots with dry brush. Dozens of additional water trucks rolled in to replenish supplies after hydrants ran dry last week when the two largest fires erupted.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and other officials - who have faced criticism over their initial response to the fires – expressed confidence that the region was ready to face the new threat with scores of additional firefighters brought in from around the US, as well as Canada and Mexico.

Seeing the destruction from the air drove home the enormity of the situation, she said, comparing the aftermath to what would remain after being hit by a "dry hurricane."

Although winds were not expected to reach the same fierce speeds seen last week, they could ground firefighting aircraft, LA County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said. He warned that if winds reach 70 mph (112 kph), "it's going to be very difficult to

More than a dozen wildfires have broken out in Southern California since the beginning of the year, mostly in the greater Los Angeles area. The parched, brush-filled region has seen almost no rain in more than eight months.

Firefighters quickly jumped on small fires that popped up, knocking down a blaze that broke out Monday night in a dry riverbed near an agricultural area northwest of LA.

Authorities advised residents in high-risk areas to just leave home – and not wait for formal evacuation orders — if they sense danger.

The four fires around the nation's second-biggest city have scorched more than 63 square miles (163 square kilometres), roughly three times the size of Manhattan.

The Eaton Fire near Pasadena was roughly one-third contained, while the largest blaze in Pacific Palisades on the coast was far less contained.

Searching for victims

The death toll is likely to rise, Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said. At least two dozen people remained missing, he said Tuesday.

At a Monday evening community meeting about the Palisades Fire, a Los Angeles Police Department official said many people reported as missing had been found.

Supporter of extortion case accused immolates self in Parli town; hospitalised

Sambhajinagar, Chhatrapati Jan 14: A supporter of Walmik Karad, a key accused in an extortion case linked to the murder of a village sarpanch in Maharashtra's Beed district, set himself ablaze in Parli town on Tuesday evening to protest his arrest, a police official said.

Police promptly intervened, doused his flames and sent him to a local health facility for treatment, the official said.

The protester was identified by the police as Datta Jadhav. "We have sent him for treatment and he is fine now," the

official said. Videos of Jadhav's legs caught in flames went viral on

social media after the incident at around 7 pm.

Earlier in the day, Karad, a close associate of Maharashtra minister Dhananjay Munde, was charged under the stringent law MCOCA (Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act) and remanded to 14 days of judicial custody by a court in Kej town of Beed district in the Rs 2 crore extortion case.

Supporters of Karad vented their anger over the invoca-tion of MCOCA against him by throwing stones at buses, setting tyres on fire and attempting to block roads in Parli town. The protests took place even though prohibitory orders had been in place in Beed district till January 28.

Karad's mother staged a

sit-in protest outside a police station demanding her son's release, while his wife accused IPS officer Basavaraj Teli, heading the SIT in the sarpanch murder case, of bias, citing his "connections" with ruling BJP MLA Suresh Dhas, who has joined opposition in demanding the resignation of Munde from the cabinet.

Santosh Deshmukh, sarpanch of Massajog village in Beed district, was abducted, tortured and murdered on December 9, apparently because he tried to thwart an attempt to extort money from an energy firm operating a windmill project in the central Maharashtra district.

Speaking to the media at Antarwali Sarti village in adjoining Jalna district, he lauded Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the home portfolio, for slapping the tough anti-organised crime law on Karad, making it difficult for the accused to obtain bail anytime soon.

Jarange said such "antisocial elements" should be dealt with strongly by the administration.

The activist, who is set to launch a fresh round of agitation in support of reservation in jobs and education for the Maratha community next week, accused NCP minister Munde of supporting "goons".

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

J&K Incomplete

highlighting that PoK has been exploited by Pakistan as a base for terrorist training camps and infiltration activities.

The defence minister said that the land of PoK is being used to run the "business of terrorism" and India is well aware of the launch pads created near the border.

.. Pakistan ko inko khatm karna hi hoga, nahin to dot dot (Pakistan must destroy this (these terror camps), otherwise)," Singh said while delivering a strong ultimatum to

The Defence Minister also condemned the recent remarks made by Anwar-ul-Haq, the socalled prime minister of PoK, who batted for the continuation of Pakistan's anti-India agenda, and added that the people of PoK have been deprived of a dignified life and manipulated by Pakistan's rulers under the guise of religion to further their agenda of exporting terror to

Criticising Pakistan's persistent support for terrorism, Singh said, "Pakistan has always made every effort to destabilise India. Despite international pressure, it has never abandoned its policy of supporting terrorism. The terrorists infiltrating Jammu and Kashmir come from

At the event, the Defence Minister announced that doorstep delivery of medical facilities through mobile medical units will be provided to ex-servicemen and their families in remote areas across the country.

"The government has taken several steps to support ex-servicemen and their families. While I do not claim that all measures are sufficient, one significant initiative this year is the introduction of mobile medical units for veterans and their families in remote areas." he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and General Officer Commanding-inchief M V Suchindra Kumar were prominent among those who attended the event organised by the Army at Tanda Artillery Brigade in the Akhnoor sector near Jammu to celebrate the ninth Armed Forces Veterans' Day

Omar praised the armed forces for safeguarding the country and assured the veterans of his government's complete support in mitigating their problems.

He said efforts are underway to improve and strengthen the relationship between the government and the forces.

Singh lauded Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his efforts to reduce the distance between hearts of people of J&K and Delhi, and asserted that the BJP government treats Delhi and Kashmir equally.

Singh was addressing the ninth armed forces veterans' day rally at the Tanda Artillery brigade in Akhnoor sector near here.

"Kashmir was treated differently (by previous governments) in the past as a result our brothers and sisters in the region could not get connected with Delhi as it should have been. I do not want to go into the past as our government's biggest achievement is that we have been working to bridge 'dil ki duri' (distance between hearts) between Kashmir and the rest

"I congratulate Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for taking the right steps to help overcome the little bit of gap (which is still there)," the defence minister said.

The Defence Minister recalled the bravery of the Indian Army during the 1965 war with Pakistan, emphasising the strategic brilliance and sacrifices that led to India's victory.

Singh particularly highlighted the significance of the Battle of Akhnoor, where the Indian Army successfully thwarted Pakistan's Operation Grand Slam and advanced towards Lahore.

"History stands as a testament that Pakistan has lost every war against India -- be it the tribal invasion of 1948, the 1965 war, the 1971 war, or the 1999 Kargil conflict. In each case, Pakistan has faced humiliation and defeat," he

Reflecting on the lessons learned from the 1965 war, Singh criticised the missed opportunity to capitalise on strategic military gains during negotiations, citing Haji Pir as an example where territory was ceded despite army success.

"If that had not happened, the routes for terrorist infiltration would have been closed back then. However, we began to change this by abrogating Article 370," he concluded.

'Mobile Medical

nothing more than foreign territory for

The defence minister extended his heartfelt wishes to the veterans and their families on Makar Sankranti, calling them his "larger

Highlighting the significance of the Armed Forces Veterans' Day, he recalled the valour and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces during the 1965 India-Pakistan war, particularly the critical battle fought in Akhnoor. This year marks the diamond jubilee of the 1965 war.

The minister paid tributes to the soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation and said, "The victory in the 1965 war was a result of the valour, courage, and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces. Pakistan has lost every war it fought against India, whether it was in 1948, 1965, 1971, or the 1999 Kargil conflict."

"What inspires our soldiers to dedicate everything to the protection of the nation's borders and to fight terrorism? It is the deep sense of honour, respect, and self-esteem of the nation that resides in their hearts," Singh said.

Society Must

collective responsibility of the society to take concrete measures for welfare of soldiers and

"I bow my head in gratitude to all the veterans, valiant jawans, brave women and families of our Armed Forces' bravehearts. We will forever remain indebted to our veterans who have protected the nation from the enemies and continue to contribute to the nation's growth and development," Sinha said.

"Soldiers protecting the borders guarantee the security and development of the nation," he said.

Sinha said the Akhnoor bears the indelible footprints of the "valour and saga of courage of our veterans".

He said the 108-ft high national flag and Akhnoor Heritage Museum dedicated to the nation by the defence minister will inspire future generations and "keep reminding us of the selfless devotion and sacrifices of our brave soldiers and their families for the motherland".

"A martyr's house is a sacred temple. This feeling and respect should be there in the minds of common man. The administration and society can express their gratitude to those who sacrificed everything for the country by fulfilling their responsibilities and ensuring that they live a life of comfort and dignity," Sinha said.

The Lt Governor highlighted various welfare programmes for the education of the children of veterans.

Feeble WD

of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius, down from minus 8.4 degrees Celsius the night before.

The minimum temperature was minus 5.6 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 5.5 degrees Celsius in Konibal in Pampore town, minus 4.7 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and minus 3.4 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

The weather in the valley will be mostly

cloudy but dry till January 18 with possibility of light snow at isolated places in the higher reaches on January 15 and 16, the meteorological department said.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the harshest period of winter.

During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', which began on December 21, the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.

'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30 followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd' and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha'.

Omar Praises

grateful for what you did for the nation and in fact, you have done a great favour to us. Now it is our duty to fulfil our duty by helping you, solving your problems, and reducing your difficulties," the chief minister said.

Assuring complete support of his government to mitigate any problems being faced by the veterans, Omar said they should bring to his notice any shortcoming or flaw, so that it can be resolved on time.

He said his government will try to implement reservation in recruitment for the veterans and also facilitate financial support in accordance with the government schemes.

"Efforts are being made to further improve and strengthen the relations between the government and the forces," he said, asserting that he along with his cabinet colleague and the son of a retired soldier, Satish Sharma, will try to bring relief to them by addressing their

"It is our duty to serve and help you. And we will carry out our duty to the fullest," he said.

Mystery Disease

collected have all returned negative so far. We need further tests to clarify the cause of the deaths. I have directed the Health and Medical Secretary to visit the district, and I am in regular contact with local health and police officials," the minister added.

Specialist teams from national institutions such as the National Institute of Virology (Pune), PGI Chandigarh, NCDC, and AIIMS Delhi have been dispatched to the affected village. These teams are conducting field studies and collecting samples for laboratory analysis.

High-ranking officials and medical professionals from leading hospitals in Jammu have also visited Badhaal to assist in the investigation.

The tragic sequence of events began on December 8 when Mohammad Fazal and his four children lost their lives, followed by the deaths of three children from another family, led by Mohammad Rafiq. Rafiq's pregnant wife also died on December 23, a case linked to medical negligence.

Two siblings succumbed to the illness on January 12, with another sibling passing away on January 13. On Monday evening, 62-yearold Mohammad Yusuf, a relative of the affected family, died at GMC Rajouri, and on Tuesday, a six-year-old girl succumbed.

Dr Rakesh Magotra, Director of Health Services Jammu, said that toxicology is likely behind these deaths, although no viral or infectious link has been established so far. He said experts from the national institutions have verbally noted the presence of toxins, and further investigations are ongoing.

Experts Rule

National Institute of Virology (NIV), CSIR, and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) revealed that extensive microbiological studies have ruled out any viral, bacterial, or microbial infections as the cause of these deaths. According to the health officials, the incidents appear to be localized, with possible epidemiological linkages.

Despite eliminating known infectious

causes, the experts did discover the presence of certain neurotoxins in the samples taken from the affected individuals. These findings are now undergoing deeper investigation to understand their impact and connection to the reported fatalities.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Health and Police Departments to assess the reports received from different institutes of repute to identify the real cause of these deaths. He asked them to work in close coordination to take this investigation to its logical conclusion. He also directed the Police Department to

utilize the best of their resources to study these reports along with using other scientific measures to reach the conclusion. He also urged the Health Department to study these reports to find the reasonable leads causing these deaths. He made out that the reports furnished by different institutions are now available with us and more are going to be received soon. He

maintained that these should be enough to conclude the investigations and reach to possible reasons for these deaths reported from this particular village. It is pertinent to mention here that from 7th of December, 2024 about 12 deaths out of 38 affected persons were reported in three differ-

ent incidents from the village Badhal of District Rajouri the causes of which were unknown. The government has taken several measures including rushing of Rapid Response Teams, carrying out investigations of samples from humans and animals, testing of water etc besides taking assistance of reputed health institutions of the country to know about the actual

causes behind these deaths. **IMHANS Brings**

telepsychiatry services through the Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Nationally Actionable Plan through States (Tele-MANAS) and a mobile app called 'MANAS Mitra.'

Officials highlighted that the high volume of audio calls demonstrates not only the significant demand for mental health services but also public acceptance of Tele-MANAS.

The introduction of video consultations is expected to deliver cost-effective and comprehensive mental health services to underserved populations in the region, addressing a historically neglected area in J&K.

Doctors emphasized the dual impact of the Tele-Mental Health Service.

Quantitatively, they said, 74,000 people have sought mental health support, making it the second-highest number in the country and showcasing the "service's societal acceptance."

Ruhullah's Absence

when speculation is rife about growing differences between Mehdi and the party after his recent critical remarks in an online interview," an NC functionary, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

In the interview with Karan Thapar for The Wire, Mehdi claimed that Kashmiris are worried about Omar Abdullah distancing himself from the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the NC's mandate. He warned that Abdullah risks being perceived as "Delhi's representative" in the Valley.

Tensions have been brewing since December 23, 2024, when Mehdi led a protest outside Omar Abdullah's residence, opposing a controversial reservation policy that undermines job opportunities for open merit students. The protest drew opposition groups and student representatives.

Although Omar later met with the students and assured them of support, his response on X seemed to contain a subtle dig at Mehdi. "Today I met the representatives of the Open Merit Students Association. The beauty of democracy is the right to be heard & dialogue in a spirit of mutual cooperation. I have made certain requests of them & given them a number of assurances," he posted, adding, "This channel of communication will remain open without any intermediaries or hangers-on.'

A day later, NC MLA from Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar, criticized the protest as a platform for political adversaries, alleging that Mehdi's involvement gave rivals an opportunity to exploit the situation.

As tensions simmer within NC, the question remains whether the rift will escalate into open conflict or whether peace will prevail within the party. For now, the NC faces a daunting battle on multiple fronts, with its leadership grappling with internal dissent and external challenges. (KNO)

ACB Launches

Srinagar Smart City Ltd. and contractors to execute these substandard projects, undermining the intended purpose of the initiative.

Both Preliminary Enquiries are actively under investigation, and the ACB is committed to uncovering the truth behind these allegations and ensuring accountability. Further updates will follow as the probes progress.

India Targets

technology, hazard and impact modelling. and data-driven systems.

Modi has set a target of making India a developed country by 2047.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the Vision-2047 document will help integrate weather and climate information into all national objectives, making India a "weatherready" and "climate-smart" nation while improving socio-economic conditions.

The document highlights the current status of weather and climate monitoring and forecasting systems, the achievements of the last 10 years and the gaps that need to be addressed. It also outlines targets for the next two years,

the next 10 years (by 2035) and the next 22 years (by 2047), considering advancements in science and technology. Born out of calamities -- a devastating cy-

clone in 1864 and monsoon failures in 1866 and 1871 -- the IMD turns 150 on Wednesday. As part of the celebrations marking the IMD's 150th foundation day, Modi also launched "Mission Mausam" that aims at improving weather understanding and forecasting through expanded observation networks, better modelling and advanced tools like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine

The prime minister also released a special Rs

150 commemorative coin and a postal stamp. The government has invited officials from all countries that were once part of undivided India, including Pakistan, to mark the IMD's 150th anniversary. Representatives from the Middle East and Southwest Asia also attended the celebrations on Tuesday.

For the first time, the IMD will showcase its own tableau in the Republic Day parade on

Textbooks To Be

being utilized to continue classes without

interruption. The Director further revealed that advance plans are being formulated to avoid future inconveniences for students. "We are closely monitoring the situation in coordination with the Chief of Operations Team (COT) to ensure that textbooks reach children at the earliest,"

Addressing concerns from parents regarding private schools, Itoo noted that monitoring teams have been established in every district and zone. These teams have been directed to act on genuine complaints within 24 hours.

"We have already taken action in several cases where complaints were verified. Any violations will be dealt with according to the rules and procedures," he asserted. (KINS)

It Is Apt Time For Statehood **Restoration: CM's Advisor**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Stating that the opposition parties should do constructive opposition, Advisor to chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani on Tuesday said that the apt time for the restoration has arrived and it should be restored at earliest.

Talking to the reporters here, Wani said that the parties in the opposition should do constructive opposition and must not spread negativity. "The opposition should think beyond the vested interests," he said, adding that one of the opposition parties has been responsible for the current mess in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that it is because of the opposition party that J&K is presently facing such a situation. "Had they worked positively, the situation would have been different," he said.

Replying to a query, Wani said that one should appreciate the way the Chief Minister put forth every issue before the



Prime Minister. "PM has rightly said that there is an apt time for everything. We believe the right time has come and the restoration of statehood must be ensured now," he added.

"The PM has assured that he fulfills all his promises and we are hopeful that statehood will be restored at earliest," CM's Advisor stated.

About Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah giving a miss to the Sonamarg tunnel inauguration yesterday, he said the parliamentarian has already clarified that he was in Kochi to attend a function. (KNO)

PDP Trying To Sabotage Statehood Restoration: NC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar Tuesday vehemently condemned PDP President Mehbooba Mufti for her public outburst against Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's dedicated efforts to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir saying we are in this situation because of the ill-conceived moves of PDP.

He made these remarks while engaging with the press at the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha in Srinagar. Imran didn't hold back in criticizing PDP President, stating that PDP is clearly rattled by CM Omar Sbs relentless efforts to restore statehood.

"Omar Sahib's call for the restoration of Statehood has caused quite a stir, especially among the PDP. It is his rightful duty to advocate for this cause, and his approach was both dignified and official. It's a stark contrast to the obsequious language used by Mehbooba Ji when she was CM, which of-

ten bordered on cringe-worthy when addressing the Government of India. It seems like Omar Sahib is taking a more direct and assertive approach, and it's definitely making waves in the political arena," he said as per a statement issued.

Imran pointed out that PDP and its leadership have been consistently rejected by the people in election after election, from DDC to parliament to legislative assembly elections. "It's like the pot calling the kettle black. No amount of whataboutery will change the fact that the people have clearly said 'thanks, but no thanks' to PDP and its policies time and time again. It's high time for PDP to gracefully take a back seat, which the people have kindly relocated her to, and let Omar Sahib's government work on restoring what was snatched from us due to the deceptions of PDP. This whole theatrical performance won't make a lick of difference in the end. People see through her charades and won't be fooled,"

Rana Cautions Officers Against Unnecessary Delay In Execution Of Projects



Observer News Service

IAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Tuesday directed the officers to expedite completion of Water Supply Schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission besides accelerating irrigation and flood control projects in Akhnoor.

The Minister was reviewing the functioning of Jal Shakti and Forest Departments during his visit to Akhnoor constituency.

Minister for Sports, Satish Sharma and local MLA Mohan Lal were also present on the occasion.

The Minister emphasised the need for timely completion of water supply projects being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide tap water connections to every rural household. He exhorted upon the officers to ensure faster execution of works and better coordination among various agencies involved. He also called upon them to maintain the quality of work while ex-

ecuting these projects. While calling for fast tracking irrigation projects to improve water availability for agricultural purposes, the Minister said that flood control projects need to be completed without any unnecessary delay. He emphasised the need for time bound completion of all projects pertaining to various departments and cautioned against any unnecessary delay

in execution of vital works. Maintaining that the government has taken several initiatives for soil conservation in the Kalidhar Range, he called for more focused efforts, particularly in view of climate change challenges

The Minister called for prioritizing soil conservation measures along nallahs and undertaking afforestation efforts on barren patches in the Kalidhar Range. He said that these steps are crucial for environmental sustainability and will help prevent soil erosion and enhance biodiversity.

Javed Rana asked for increasing awareness regarding environment and soil protection and called for involvement of the community for enhanced results. He asked the officers to chalk out a plan to increase the forest cover in the barren lands of Kalidhar range. He asked them to undertake afforestation by planting trees, which will not only provide livelihood opportunities but promote sustainable development and help mitigate climate change.

During his tour to Akhnoor, people handed over memorandums as well as individual requests to the Minister and demanded early resolution of their issues.

Locals raised issues pertaining to Jal Shakti, Irrigation & Flood Control and Forest department.

The Minister asked the officers to take local MLA's into confidence in preparation of DPRs of new works and implementation of government's schemes in the area.

Javed Rana also called for making defunct hand pumps functional on priority basis to ensure that the general public does not suffer on this account.

In Decontrolled Kashmir Markets, Sellers Call Shots

SRINAGAR: In absence of the government regulations, prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed in Kashmir and no quality check has added to the insecurities of the consumers.

The Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCSCA) that regulated the prices and checked the quality of essential items like bread, mutton, vegetables, and milk lost its teeth after the markets were decontrolled in the Valley.

An official of the FCSCA department said, "Our department has no power to regulate the prices of the essential commodities sold in the open market."

He said that many years have passed since markets in Kashmir were decontrolled. "At present, shopkeepers and traders are free to fix the prices."

Asked whether the department is authorized to check the quality of the items being sold in the market, the official said, "No." "In the open market it's the duty of the traders, vendors and shopkeepers to ensure that no substandard product is sold."

It may be recalled that earlier the government used to fix the rate of mutton, chicken and other items and special squads were deployed to check the quality of the essential commodities sold in the markets.

"Butchers had to get the mutton stamped before selling it in the open market. The stamp was put by a SMC official under the supervision of an official of the Animal Husbandry Department," said an official.

He said that mutton prices were deregulated a few years ago. "At present there is no



slaughter house in Srinagar. A new slaughter house is being constructed at Alocha Bagh in uptown. Once it becomes operational the mutton will be checked and stamped again,' the official said, adding, "The process of putting stamps on mutton was a certification that it's fit for human consumption."

In December last year Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) had urged the government to regulate essential commodity prices in the Valley. "The decontrolled prices are hitting the common masses hard. There is a pressing need to revert to the previous pattern of price regulation to provide succour to the people," the KTA had said in a statement.

According to the consumers, prices of vegetables and other commodities have surged beyond previous highs. "Cost of the mutton has reached Rs 700 per kg, forcing many families to reconsider their food choices and cut down on consumption," said Mohammad Furqan.

"Without the fixed price lists and enforcement mechanisms that were once in place, the market has been left to operate without oversight. Prices of vegetables and other essential commodities vary from area

to area. Earlier prices used to be consistent but now there is no regulation. Consumers have been left at the mercy of the sellers," said a resident.

Another consumer said, "The costs of bakery items like cakes, pastries and patties too have witnessed a steep hike. A plain cake which used to cost around Rs 40 not long ago is now being sold at Rs 80. Many bakery items have gone out of reach of the consumers due to exorbitant price hikes.'

The deregulation of markets besides hitting a common man hard has also created problems for the small businesses such as restaurants, roadside food vendors and others.

Common people have been left with no other option other than to cut back on what to eat, while the small business owners have increased the prices to survive.

According to economists, supply and demand determine prices in a free market, government intervention is essential to prevent inflation and protect both producers and consumers. "A balance needs to be maintained to protect the interests of both buyers and sellers," said an economist-(KNO)

Birth Anniversary Of Imam Ali (A.S) Celebrated Across Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Muslims across the Kashmir valley observed the birth anniversary of Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib (A.S) cousin and son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on Tuesday.

The eve was observed with eligious fervor throughout Kashmir in which Imams mesmerized devotees with Islamic teachings. They prayed for peace and prosperity for the whole Muslim Ummah.

Devotees thronged Mosques and Imam Bargah to commemorate the great occasion. In Srinagar city, the largest congregation was observed at Imam bargah Zadibal in which hundreds of men and women participated.

A large congregation of devotees was also witnessed at Hazratbal shrine.

While addressing devotees, speakers threw light on the life and contribution of Imam Ali (A.S) and urged people to pray for peace and prosperity for all the Muslims across the World.

Speakers described the birth of Imam Ali(A.S) in Holy Kaaba as a miracle and described him as a personality who was full of wisdom, justice and compassion.

They advised people to follow the path of Islam and the

Shia Clergy Condemns Defamatory Remarks Against Prophets Companions

SRINAGAR: Various Shia scholars belonging to the Shia community have condemned the use of derogatory language by Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) companions at a Mushaira which was held at Kralpora, Srinagar on Sunday.

The Mushira was streamed live on social media and soon the clips of Mushaira were circulated on social media causing outrage among Shia and Sunni communities.

Popular Shia cleric Aga Syed Hadi took to social media, shared a video on the social media website Facebook. He slammed the abusive language used against

the Prophet's companions. "Nobody whether Shia or Sunni has the right to target each other's beliefs, this goes against the tenets of our faith. This is either done by people on the behest of money or those who look for cheap fame on social media"

Hadi said that the Shia Jurists from both Iraq and Iran condemn any use of such language against

"Our jurists prohibit the use of such language and such behavior is unacceptable" Hadi said. Hakim Suhail, a social activist

and a cleric said that it is sad to witness such kind of incidents. there is no place for such things in Kashmir

The people of Kashmir are known for their tolerance and compassion, such incidents have the potential of tarnishing the image of the Kashmiri community, it is unacceptable and condemnable" Suhail said.

Suhail also said that insulting companions is against the spirit of Ouran and has been prohibited by the Shia Jurists including Avatollah Khamenei and Ayatollah Sistani and called for exposing vicious elements spreading hate

teachings of Imam Ali (A.S) Meanwhile, similar congregations and processions were also reported from other areas of Kashmir which include Bud-

gam, Chattergam, Chattabal, Khanda Wapore, Barjee Harwan, Haniveera Pattan, Magam, Watergam. Wagoora, Ashmugam. Sofipora and other places.

Police Facilitate PCPG Meetings Across Kulgam To Address Public Grievances

Observer News Service

KULGAM: In its ongoing efforts to address public concerns and strengthen community engagement, the Kulgam Police facilitated Police-Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meetings at various locations, including Police Station Kulgam, Police Post Frisal, Police Post Mirbazar, and the village of Humpathri, DH Pora.

The meetings were chaired by jurisdictional officers and witnessed participation from prominent citizens, including members of Market Associations, Augaf Bodies, Chowkidars, Numberdars, youth, and representatives from Sangus, Kaharwath, Town Kulgam, Frisal, Chinigam, Shirpora, Akhran, Malpora, Mirbazar, Humpathri, and nearby villages.

Appreciation and Discussions

Participants commended the police for organizing such interactive events, which provide a platform to discuss pressing societal issues such as drug abuse, domestic violence, and the need for speedy justice. Attendees highlighted their grievances, and officers assured them that issues requiring attention from other departments would be promptly taken up with the relevant authorities. Police-related con-

cerns, they assured, would be

addressed on priority.

The chairing officers emphasized the importance of strengthening police-public relations to create a peaceful and crime-free environment. They urged attendees to actively cooperate with the police in eradicating crime and illegal activities.

Participants were encouraged to share information about drug smuggling and other unlawful activities to help the police take swift action against offenders.

The Kulgam Police reiterated their commitment to maintaining public trust and fostering a safer and more harmonious society through continued engagement and proactive measures.

Bandipora's DH Gets Round-The-Clock CT Scan Facility For First Time

Agencies

BANDIPORA: In a major healthcare development for north Kashmir, Bandipora District Hospital has introduced roundthe-clock CT scan facilities for the first time, bringing muchneeded relief to the residents.

An official said that the hospital has now launched a Contrast CT scan service, which provides detailed imaging for a wide range of diagnostic needs, including detecting tumors, injuries, and various other health conditions.

Along with the new facility, the patients will also benefit from instant radiologist reports, streamlining the diagnostic process and ensuring quicker medical interventions, he said.

Dr. Masrat Iqbal, the Medical Superintendent of Bandipora District Hospital said that the introduction of the CT scan facility in Bandipora is a significant step towards improving healthcare access for the people of this area.

"For years, patients in Bandipora and nearby areas had to travel all the way to Srinagar to avail these crucial diagnostic services. Now, with this facility available locally, we can provide faster diagnoses and better treatment options for our patients," he said

The MS said that the hospital aims to provide high-quality medical services that are easily accessible to local residents, minimizing travel time and costs for patients, particularly those from remote areas.

"We are committed to enhancing patient care in every way possible. The addition of the CT scan service ensures that patients will not have to endure long travel times to receive diagnostic imaging. It is a vital addition to the hospital, especially in emergencies," he added.

Meanwhile, locals have hailed the initiative, seeing it as a longawaited improvement to the healthcare system in the region. For many, the introduction of CT scan services locally means less hassle and quicker treatment for critical conditions.

Before this facility, patients had to make the long and often difficult journey to hospitals in Srinagar, which was both timeconsuming and financially burdensome.

'We no longer have to travel all the way to Srinagar for CT scans, which was always a hassle. This will save time and money, especially for patients with urgent needs. It will also make healthcare more accessible to those who may have struggled with transportation," Irfan Ahmad a local said—(KNO)

In 5G Era, BSNL Providing **2G Services**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The governmentrun telecom provider, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has come under severe criticism for poor network services in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The subscribers complained that there is a poor network from the government-run telecom company and it has been weeks now.

"BSNL has been a cause of irritation for the users as most of the time it doesn't function properly. The poor service is irking the common customers," they said, adding that they are facing hardships due to the "insensitive and fleecing attitude" of the cellular company.

The subscribers warned that they will switch to other telecom companies if the BSNL doesn't rectify its problems and provide them with better services.

"The signals suddenly disap-

pear from our mobile phones, especially whenever the power supply is being snatched," a resident of Krankshivan Colony said. He said authorities hardly bother to take measures to rectify the problems which generally erupt every other day.

In the era of 5G, this BSNL is providing us with 2G internet services, they alleged. "Despite the fact that BSNL generates high revenue, it has failed to provide better services to its customers," another resident said.

He said it is not the first time they have faced such issues, adding, "We have been going through this problem for a long time."

The subscribers have appealed to BSNL higher-ups to look into the matter and redress their grievances at the earliest.

Meanwhile, contacting official at the BSNL didn't materialize, as official was not available for their comment regarding the issue—(KNO)

Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Elect. Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Jammu for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under **Single Packet System** for the under noted work Tender Notice No: 17-Elect-C-DMU-BDGM-2025

Name of Work: Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 2x3150 KVA, 33KV/415 V Transformers alongwith HT/LT panels, cables, APFC capacitor panel, Installation of DSL Bus Bar, Bus trunking, laying of cables, Electrification of internal & external electrical assets for Extension of DMU shed from 12 coaches to 16 coaches at Budgam in connection with USBRL project).

Approximate Cost of the Work: Rs. 5, 14,36,268.54 (Including GST and all other taxes) Completion Period: 12 (Twelve Months)

Bid Security to be deposited: Rs. 4,07,200.00

Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website: Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** from 27.01.2025. Last date/Time of upload of tenders: 10.02.2025 upto 15.00 hours. Tender

ocuments can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website Date/Time of Opening of Tender: 10.02.2025 at 15.00 hrs. (Immediately after close of uploading of tender)

Detailed Tender Notice & Tender document : Tender Notice is available or IREPS website $\underline{www.ireps.gov.in}$ and the tender document will be available for uploading of offers on IREPS website from 27.01.2025 to 10.02.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in the tender document. Only e-tenders will be accepted and tenders submitted in any other form will be summarily rejected. The detailed notice also can be seen on Notice Board of the

No.: 17-Elect-C-DMU-BDGM-2025 Dated: 13.01.2025 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

157/2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG



Phone: 01932-223273 Fax: 01932-223273; Email: irrigationdivisionang@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-I

Reference:-

This office E-Nit No. 17 of 2024-25 Endorsed vide No. IDA/7286-7308 Dated 07-01-2025

Kindly read time of completion as "two working seasons" instead of "40 days " for the work Rejuvenation of Zadi Nag spring at Achabal under AMRUT-2.0 tendered vide e-nit no. 17 of 2024-25.

Furthermore read cost of tender document as Rs. 1100/-instead of Rs. 3000/-All other terms and conditions shall remain the

same. NO:-IDA/7479-88 Date:-11-01-2025 DIPK-10798-24

DT: 14/11/2025

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (Irrigation) Division, Anantnag.

10-Men Real Kashmir Hold Fort, Draw 2-2 Against Sreenidi Deccan

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Down to 10 men in the very first minute of the match, Real Kashmir FC held fort to settle for a 2-2 draw with Sreenidi Deccan FC in a crucial I-League clash that had everything from penalties and goals to a red card here on Tuesday.

Sreenidi Deccan took the lead twice in the match through Faysal Shayesteh (2nd minute) and Angel Orelien (15th) only to see Real Kashmir's Paulo Cezar (4th) and Muhammad Hammad (22nd) scoring timely equalisers.

Real Kashmir's Cameroonian recruit Aminou Bouba was shown the red card in less than

The draw meant Real Kashmir occupy the eighth spot in



the table with 10 points from

other hand, also have the same number of points after playing Sreenidi Deccan, on the an identical number of matches but they see themselves at ninth spot because of an inferior goal difference.

Sreenidi-Real Kashmir match got off to an intense start when Bouba was dismissed for a foul inside the penalty area. Shayesteh converted the penalty that resulted from the foul in the second minute to put Sreenidi Deccan ahead.

Contrary to expectations, the 10-man Real Kashmir side did not retreat but responded swiftly. In the fourth minute, a cleverly taken short corner allowed Lalramsanga to assist Cezar, whose precise header restored parity.

Undeterred by the setback, Sreenidi Deccan regained the lead in the 15th minute. Following a series of passes that dissected the Kashmir defence, Orelien found himself with space to unleash a fierce shot that found the net, demonstrating the attacking prowess of the Deccan Warriors.

The persistent spirit of Real Kashmir shone through yet again as they equalised for the second time in the 22nd minute.

From a well-placed Lalramsanga free-kick, the Sreenidi Deccan keeper managed only a partial clearance, and Hammad was on hand to pounce on the rebound, driving the ball home to level the scores.

As the match progressed, both teams had opportunities to clinch the win. Sreenidi Deccan, inspired by their recent comeback victory against Aizawl FC, pushed hard

J&K Bank Academy's Talib & Huzafah Sign For Karnataka Club

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the back their excellent performances for J&K in the recently concluded Santosh Trophy 2024-25, J&K Bank Academy graduates Talib Nazir and Huzafah Ahmed Dar have been selected by South United FC, a professional club from Bangalore, Karnataka, on a two-year contract. South United competes in the BDFA Super Division locally, and have played in I-League 2nd Division.

The J&K Football Association congratulated Talib and



Huzafah on their selection.

"This achievement is a true testament to your exceptional talent, hard work, and unwavering dedication to the game. Your journey serves as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring footballers across J&K," the FA said.

"We also take this moment to acknowledge and com-mend the dedicated efforts of coaches and management, especially Manzoor Ahmad Dar, Iftikhar Ahmad, and others, who have worked tirelessly to nurture and groom young talent across J&K," it

Shopian District Level Cricket Tourney From Jan 26

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: On the theme of "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Sports and Fitness," District Administration Shopian, in collaboration with J&K Sports Council, is going to organise

District Level Competition in

The competition named Heemal Naegrai Dixon Ball Open Cricket Tournament shall start from January 26 on the occasion of Republic Day.

Commissioner

(DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar conceived the idea, showing District Administration's commitment in engaging youth in productive and beneficial activities for tackling the issue of drug

England Pacer Saqib Mahmood Hit By India Visa Delay

Press Trust of India

LONDON: England pacer of Pakistani heritage, Saqib Mahmood, will miss the team's training camp in Abu Dhabi due to delay in getting his India visa for the limited overs tour beginning January 22, according to a

'ESPNcricinfo' reported that Mahmood is yet to receive his Indian visa, preventing him from joining the camp in Abu Dhabi as his passport is with the concerned authorities as part of the visa process.

However, he is expected to receive his visa before a batch of cricketers leave for Kolkata on Friday.

It is not the first time that cricketers of Pakistani origin have faced delays in securing an Indian visa. England spinner Shoaib Bashir missed the first Test in Hyderabad last year due to a visa delay.

Australian opener Usman Khawaja had also faced similar delays during the tour of 2023.

Having said that, other England players of Pakistani heritage in the squad. Rehan Ahmed and Adil Rashid. have received their visas, reported

Mahmood has played two Tests, 9



ODIs and 18 T20s for England. England's limited-over tour of India begins with a T20I in Kolkata on Januray 22.

Short TAKES

Kohli, Pant Named Among Delhi's Ranji Probables

ndian stars Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant feature among Delhi's probables for the remainder of Ranji Trophy but their participation in the premier domestic red-ball tournament remains in doubt.

Former India veterans Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri are among many who want the current crop of players, especially the struggling Rohit Sharma and Kohli, to play red-ball cricket.

Rohit's training with the Mumbai team on Tuesday piqued plenty of interest but it remains to be seen if he would make himself available for the next round of Ranji Trophy matches beginning January 23.

There has also been intense debate around Kohli returning to Ranji Trophy to regain red ball form alongside Rohit. Kohli last played in Ranji Trophy in 2012 while Pant featured in the event last in 2017-18.

BCCI To Evaluate Gambhir's Future Post Champions Trophy

Gautam Gambhir's position as head coach will be "revaluated" on the basis of India's Champions Trophy performance next month amid concerns that there is discontent in the dressing room due to his push to end the long-prevalent "superstar culture" in the team.

Since Gambhir took over in July last year, the Indian team has lost six out of 10 Tests and also a bilateral ODI series in Sri Lanka.

The results have left Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's international future in significant disarray thanks to

their own poor form. But Gambhir's position has also become slightly shaky. Adding to the drama is his speculated rift with prominent players during the Border-Gavaskar Test series in Australia which India lost 1-3.

"If India doesn't do well in the Champions Trophy, the head coach's position could become untenable. Yes, his contract runs till the 2027 World Cup but the process of evaluation continues.

Bumrah Named ICC Men's POTM For December 2024

ndia pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday named ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2024 after his sensational performance during the recent tour of Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Leading India's attack single-handedly, Bumrah relentlessly kept Australian batsmen under intense pressure, claiming 22 wickets in three Tests in December last year at an outstanding average of 14.22.

He ended with 32 wickets in the five-match series which concluded on January 5. The first match was played in November.

His match-winning contributions included a ninewicket haul in Brisbane and a five-wicket display in Melbourne as he edged out Australian skipper Pat Cummins and South African Dane Paterson for the award, stated the ICC.

He also reached a significant milestone, becoming the first bowler to take 200 Test wickets at an average below 20.

YEAR OF PUBLICATION OBSERVER **YouTube**

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