

Train To Kashmir A Step Closer

CRS Greenlights Katra-Reasi Rail Section



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has greenlit the final leg of the Kashmir line — the 17-km Katra-Reasi section — taking the ambitious project linking Jammu and Srinagar a step closer to completion.

The inspection by the CRS, the railway safety audit body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is the final check before train operations can commence.

This marks the completion of the entire Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new broad-gauge rail link project in the Ferozpur division of Northern railways.

Due to security concerns, trains will run only during the day on this route, said a source.

Railway ministry officials said the CRS on Tuesday also approved a maximum speed of 85 km per hour for trains running between Shri Vaishno Devi Dham Katra and Reasi stations.

"Apart from this, we have received fitness approval for a speed of 15 km per hour for the loop line of stations. The final CRS report has cleared the path to run a train between Jammu and Srinagar soon," said an official. "Preparations are underway to run Vande Bharat, Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) and Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains from Jammu to Srinagar."

DEMs and MEMUs are self-propelled train rakes — that is, they have no separate locomotives — that run on short- and medium-distance routes in India.

The Kashmir line, or the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla project, was sanctioned in 1994-95. The first three phases were completed by 2014. Trains have been running between Banihal and Baramulla in the Kashmir valley, and between Jammu, Udhampur and Katra in Jammu region. But the 111-km Katra-Banihal | [More on P6](#)

Peaceful Elections, Yatra Indicate Stability: Army Chief

Agencies

Srinagar: Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday said the decline in violence in Jammu and Kashmir, proven by the peaceful completion of the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections and the Amarnath Yatra, indicates an improvement in the union territory's overall security situation.

Addressing the nation during the 77th Army Day celebrations held in Pune, Dwivedi said J&K has witnessed a significant reduction in violence, as evidenced by the peaceful conduct of Assembly and Lok Sabha elections as well as the Amarnath Yatra.

He said the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved due to the



continuous efforts of the security forces. "The peaceful completion of key events, including the elections and the religious pilgrimage, was a

clear indicator of the positive changes taking place," he said, adding that in the hinterland of Jammu and Kashmir, the continued stringent efforts

of the security forces have resulted in a considerable reduction in violence.

These improvements, he said, reflect a more stable environment in the region.

The Army Chief also discussed the broader security situation along India's northern borders. "While the situation remains sensitive, the Indian Army is fully prepared to address any challenges that may arise. We are fully ready to tackle any kind of situation," he said.

Regarding the situation on the western borders, General Dwivedi said, "The ceasefire is maintained along the Line of Control (LoC), but attempts of infiltration are being made."

Meanwhile, the Army Chief honoured the families of soldiers who | [More on P6](#)

Weather To Remain Dry Till Jan 19: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amidst the forecast of light snowfall till Thursday morning, the maximum temperature has increased across Kashmir on Wednesday.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad stated that there is a possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches during tonight and early morning tomorrow.

He added that there is no forecast of any significant weather activity till January 19 and stated that the weather would remain generally cloudy from January 17 to 19.

On January 20 and 21st, the weather would remain generally cloudy with possibility of light snow at isolated to scattered places, he said, adding that there is a possibility of light rain in plains of Jammu and snow at scattered to fairly widespread places on January 22.

In its advisory, the MeT has advised the tourists, travelers and transporters to follow administration and traffic advisory.

Moreover, the day temperatures increased | [More on P6](#)

Police Sets Up SIT To Probe Mystery Deaths In Rajouri

Observer News Service

Jammu: The police here have constituted a special investigation team to probe the mysterious death of 14 people, including 11 children, belonging to three families in a remote village in Rajouri district, officials said on Wednesday.

Amid growing concern over the mysterious deaths in the Badhaal village over the past one month, the administration has directed officials to analyse reports from institutions to identify the cause of the deaths.

Initial reports indicate the presence of certain neurotoxins

in the samples of the deceased, which are being further investigated to determine the reasons behind these fatalities.

The 11-member special investigation team (SIT) headed by the Superintendent of Police (operations) Budhal, Wajahat Hussain, has been formed keeping in view the sensitivity of the inquest proceeding initiated into the deaths, stated an order by Senior Superintendent of Police of Rajouri Gaurav Sikarwar.

According to four daily diary reports (DDRs) registered at the Kandi police station on December 7, 12, 23 and January 12, a total of | [More on P6](#)

No Mysterious Disease: Health Minister

The 14 deaths in the last 45 days in Badhaal area of Rajouri are not linked to any mysterious disease, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters here, Itoo said that extensive tests conducted within and outside Jammu and Kashmir have returned negative for any disease, infection, or virus, | [More on P6](#)

5-yr-old Girl Mauled By Stray Dogs

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A five-year-old girl was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs in a village here on Wednesday, officials said.

Samreen Kouser, daughter of Mohammad Shafayet, was returning home from school when she was attacked by the canines near Shahdra village in Thanamandi sub-division, the officials said.

They said Kouser suffered critical injuries in the attack and was rushed to hospital by some locals who rushed to the scene on hearing her cries.

However, she was declared brought dead by the doctors on arrival at the hospital, the officials said.

Art 370 Abrogation Affirmed India's Honour: Shah

No One Dares To Do Mischief During Krishna Janmashtami Procession In Kashmir Now

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Asserting that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved after the abrogation of Article 370, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said no one now dares to do any mischief when the Krishna Janmashtami procession passes through Srinagar's Lal Chowk.

Speaking at Kalol in Gandhinagar district, the BJP leader said it was former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru who implemented Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under Article 370, a special



status was given to the region. "By abrogating Article 370 in 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a clear message to the world that for Indians, there is nothing bigger than the self-respect of India and its honour," said Shah, on a three-day Gujarat visit from January 14. He was addressing a gathering in Kalol town after

inaugurating and laying foundation stones of various projects worth Rs 194 crore.

"There was a time when Army's support was necessary to hoist the tricolor at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. But today, no one dares to do any mischief when Krishna Janmashtami procession passes through the Lal Chowk," the home minister said. | [More on P6](#)

Adopt Urban-planning Strategies: CM To Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday stressed on adopting urban-planning strategies for a planned development of cities.

Omar was speaking at a meeting convened here to review and discuss the implementation of proposed urban-planning schemes and policies aimed at transforming the Union Territory's urban landscape to bring about planned development.

"The housing and urban development department should initiate implementation by taking up projects under land



pooling, transferable development rights (TRD) and transit-oriented development (TOD) to create a few success stories that would infuse confidence among the stakeholders to adopt these urban-planning strategies for the overall development of our cities," he said. At the meeting, the chief

minister was briefed on the land-pooling policy, including its background, guiding principles and objectives.

Under the policy, developers or private landowners shall come together to pool their land and obtain authorisation for development. While | [More on P6](#)

Municipalities Asked To Prepare Waste Management Plans

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday directed municipalities to prepare comprehensive waste management plans and asked them to draw up projections on future waste generation, officials said. On average, 450 grams per person per day of waste is generated in big cities and 300 grams is generated | [More on P6](#)

ED Srinagar Attaches Property Worth Rs 2.25 Cr In Delhi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement Directorate Srinagar has attached an immovable property worth over Rs 2 crore under the provisions of PMLA.

In a post on X, the probe agency stated that the property belongs to shareholders and owners of M/s Manoj Ji and co private limited.

"ED, Srinagar has provisionally attached immovable property situated at Delhi having worth of Rs. 2.25 Crore and related to the shareholders and owners of M/s Manoj Ji & Co. Pvt. Ltd. under the provisions of PMLA, 2002," it said.

ED, Srinagar has provisionally attached immovable properties situated at Jammu, Delhi and Sonapat (Haryana) worth



Rs. 3.66 Crore, in the Bogus Cryptocurrency Scam namely "Emollient Coin" which was operating under the company named M/s The Emollient Coin Limited, UK. In India, the company was represented by Naresh Gulia (Promoter in India & Abroad), the post added.

SRINAGAR MUSHAIRA CONTROVERSY

Religious Scholars Condemn Sectarian Remarks, Call For Unity



Dabirah Hassan

Srinagar: Religious scholars from both the Shia and Sunni communities in Jammu & Kashmir have called for maintaining peace and sectarian unity following a controversy over offensive remarks made during a Mushaira in Srinagar.

The scholars stressed that such divisive actions go against

the teachings of Islam and must be firmly condemned.

The event, held on January 11 in the Kralpora locality of Zadibal, quickly became a flashpoint after videos surfaced on social media showing two participants using hateful language against the companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Mushaira | [More on P6](#)

6 Detained For Inciting Sectarian Unrest

Police have detained six persons in Srinagar and charged them with making derogatory sectarian remarks at an event held to celebrate the birthday of Hazrat Ali. They have also warned people against posting or sharing content with the intent to create division or disturb public harmony. "(Six) 06 miscreants have been charged under sections 126 & 170 of the BNS and have been detained at Central Jail, Srinagar, for inciting sectarian unrest through derogatory | [More on P6](#)

NEW AGREEMENT

95% Jobs In Ladakh Reserved For Natives

Agencies

Srinagar: The Union Home Ministry and groups spearheading agitation for safeguards in Ladakh on Wednesday almost finalized a deal on reserving jobs for natives of the Union Territory, sources disclosed.

The members of Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Wednesday met representatives of Union Home Ministry led by Joint Secretary Kashmir and Ladakh affairs, Prashant Lokhande today in New Delhi to discuss safeguards for natives of the Union Territory.

As per understanding reached between two sides, 95 percent jobs would be exclusively reserved for natives of Ladakh, while five percent jobs would be kept open for those living in Union Territory for a minimum 15 years.

For this, according to sources, domicile certificates would be issued to those who are living in Ladakh for a minimum 15 years.

"The domicile certificate wouldn't confer them any other right," they said.

Of 95 percent jobs for natives, 80 percent would be reserved for scheduled tribes, one percent for scheduled caste, 10 percent for economically weaker sections (EWS) and four percent for those living close to the Line of Control and Actual Line of Control.

Sajjad Kargili, a prominent leader of Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), said that they forcefully demanded Assembly for Ladakh.

"Our both Chief Executive Councilors told MHA representatives that we have no objection to abolition of Hill Councils if the | [More on P6](#)

Creation Of 334 Judicial Posts Within 60 Days

SC Dismisses J&K Govt's Plea Against HC Directive

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court Wednesday dismissed Jammu and Kashmir government's challenge to a High Court order which directed the UT authorities to create 334 judicial posts within 60 days.

Live Law reported that a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti passed the order, noting that the main matter is pending before the High Court and the observations contained in the impugned order - an interim order - were tentative.

The court stated, "We see no reason to entertain the present SLP and the same is accordingly dismissed. However, the observations made in the interim order to at the interlocutory

stage is made tentative in the event subject to the final order that would be passed in the pending proceedings."

At the outset of the hearing, Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj pointed out that 2 special leave petitions arising out of the same

proceedings before the High Court are already pending before the Supreme Court. In response, Justice Roy noted that the top Court has granted relief in one of

them, asking the High Court to not unnecessarily summon officials of J&K administration; however, the underlying order in the present case pertained to understaffed judicial offices.

Justice Bhatti, on the other hand, emphasized the burden on clerks and | [More on P6](#)



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

NOTICE

I, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, son of late Mohammad Sultan Bhat, resident of Bohri Kadal, near Ahlihladees Bazar Masjid, Srinagar, hereby notify that I have applied for the transfer of electricity connection bearing installation No. **3516-R1** and Consumer ID: **0204030002419** from my late uncle, Gh Mohd Bhat, to my name.

If anyone has any objection to this transfer, they may contact Office of the Executive Engineer Electrical Division-IV Khanyar, Srinagar Sub Division Khankahi Moulla, Srinagar within one week from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period.

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name in my Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as Fareed Ahmad Wani while my correct Name as per School record is Farid Ahmad Wani. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Farid Ahmad Wani S/O Abdul Gani Wani
R/O Mirpora Salia Anantnag

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Ward's Date of Birth in Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as 15-03-2012 while my Ward's correct Date of Birth as per School record is 07-12-2008. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ali Mohd Bhat F/O Tabish Ali
R/O Mominabad Anantnag

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on Electricity Bill Bearing Consumer ID No.0207020021694 from Sayra Bagam W/O Bull Khan R/O Tarkayat Mohalla Brisnoo Ahabal to Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar C/O Bashir Ahmad Khan Gojar R/O Brisnoo Aho Paisan Anantnag, if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the PDD Sub Division Ahabal, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar
C/O Bashir Ahmad Khan Gojar
R/O Brisnoo Aho Paisan Anantnag

JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 529907035545 from FARIDA SHAFI to KHUSHBOO. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the concerned Adhaar centre within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 230817679171 from SHAHEENA bano to MUBEENA. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the concerned Adhaar centre within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Rayees Ahmad Wagay S/o Abdul Rashid Wagay R/o Pinjora Shopian want to correct name and DOB of my son which has been wrongly mentioned as Abdul Manan in adhaar records instead of Manan Rayees and DOB has been wrongly entered as 02-06-2019 instead of 02-06-2021. Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the concerned Office within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name in my Aadhar Card Bearing Aadhar No.8732 8419 6751 has been wrongly entered as Ab Majeed Bhat S/O Mohd Abdullah Bhat R/O Rather Mohalla Kharman Ganesh Raina Wanpoh Anantnag while my correct Name as per Domicile Certificate is Abdul Majid Bhat S/O Mohammad Abdulla R/O Khirman Ganesh Raina Wanpoh K.G Raina Anantnag. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Majid Bhat S/O Mohammad Abdulla
R/O Khirman Ganesh Raina Wanpoh K.G Raina Anantnag

JNA7780878931

NOTICE

I Khalida Guardian of Mohammad Aasim want to correct name of my Nephew in his School Record From Mohammad Aasim To Mohammad Aasim Mattoo Studying 8th class in R. P. School Alamdar Colony which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal R. P. School Alamdar Colony (Mala Bagh, Srinagar, KMR) within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to apply for the issuance of Chemical Pesticides & Fertilizers Licence under the name and style " M.A. Pesticides & Fertilizers PVT LTD situated at Shop No. 31, Near Crime Branch Office, opposite High Court Srinagar. If anybody is having any objection in this regard he/she may contact Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the stipulated period no objection shall be entertained.

M.A Pesticides and Fertilizers (Prop.)
Mohammad Ayub sheikh
Cell No:- 9906541321

**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 Wagoor) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHD YOUSUF DAR S/O MOHD RAMZAN DAR R/O NAGBAL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 14/01 /2024 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME 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 entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Kreeri

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Nisar Ahmed Dar, S/o Jalal Ud Din Dar R/O Aliya Bagh Talbal Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paving Guest House /Home Stay under the name and style " AL JALAL " situated at Aliya Bagh Talbal Shalimar Srinagar, Kashmir under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011. Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/ Partnership Deed/Issued by concerned Sub- Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable) NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay, Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the Inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, Aadhaar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

inf

**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 Wagoor) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of UROOJ TARIQ S/O TARIQ AHMAD DAR R/O RESHIPORA PUTHAR Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 05/03 /2013 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME 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 entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Kreeri

FKO

SPACE AVAILABLE

4500 sqft of space on first floor is available on Boulevard for lease. It can be suitable for a food court, financial institution or an office space.

**For enquiries send message to :
8826581348**

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/SIncredible yatra Of Kashmir Tour & Travels situated at Manglora

Whereas I, Mr. Maroofa Nazir D/o Nazir Ah Shah R/O Takiya Batpora Tehsil Kunzer intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Incredible yatra Of Kashmir Tour & Travels situated at Manglora under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate , Qualification Certificate, pan card \ Experience Certificate(Minimum 5years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. / Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar records as Gh Mohd Bhat while my correct name is Ghulam Mohammad Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the concerned Adhaar centre within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohammad Bhat
S/o Gh Hassan Bhat
R/o Batmuran Wanpora Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Mohammad Yousaf Roshangar to new name Mohammad Yousuf Roshangar in future I will be known as Mohammad Yousuf Roshangar. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the regional passport office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: - Application of Abdul Majid Mir S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/o Bangdara. Reshipora (or Issuance of Income Dependent certificate.

Sir,

Regarding the subject cited above, In this connection a report was sought from patwari halqa concerned which reveals that applicants Family consists of 6 members and Annual income of the applicant family is Rs 84000/- (Eighty Four Thousand Only) .

Moreover, family structure of the applicant is as under:

S. NO	NAME OF LEGAL HIER	RELATION WITH DEPENDENT	AGE	OCCUPATION	Marital Status
1	Abdul Majid Mir	Self	51	Labour	Married
2	Shareefa Begum	Wife	48	Housewife	Married
3	Afshana Majeed	Daughter	22	Student	UnMarried
4	Suhail Ahmad Mir	Son	21	Student	UnMarried
5	Shazia Majeed	Daughter	17	Student	UnMarried
6	Armeena Majeed	Daughter	08	Student	UnMarried

It is further submitted Abdul Majid Mir S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir who is labour by profession is sole earning hand in the said family. The applicant needs income Dependent certificate for Marriage Assistance in favour of his son namely Suhail Ahmad Mir. Hence report is submitted for favour of further necessary action.

fko

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of Yamen Gulshan S/o Gulshan Ahmad Hajam R/o Dolipora Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance Of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his tavor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Dolipora and belongs to the Hajam Community having annual income of 784396/= (Seven lakh Eighty Four Thousands Three Hundred Ninety Six) the details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S.No	Name of Family Member	Relationship with Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Gulshan Ahmad Hajam	Self	56	Govt. Employee	784396
02	Sarva Begum	Wife	51	Housewife	
03	Fazil Gulshan	Son	24	Student	
04	Rubiya Gulshan	Daughter	22	Student	
05	Yamen Gulshan	Daughter	20	Student	
06	Masroof Gulshan		18	Student	

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from the public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date me notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

fko

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI



**IAPM Department
Zonal Office Budgam.**

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 04.08.2023 thereby calling upon 1) Mr. Tasleem Ahmad Jan S/O Mohammad Syed Jan R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Borrower/Mortgagor), 2) Irshad Ahmad Jan S/O Abdul Aziz Jan R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Guarantor), 3) Irshad Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Guarantor), 4) Riyaz Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Guarantor) and 5) Ashiq Hussain Wani S/O Mohammad Maqbool Wani R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Guarantor), to repay an amount of Rs. 33,31,890.50 (Rupees Thirty Three Lacs Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety & Paise Fifty Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.07.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 15th day of January of the year 2025.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.25,95,079.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Lac Ninety Five Thousand Seventy Nine only), being balance outstanding in the borrowers Cash Credit (Fruit) Account as on 31.12.2024 together with future interest thereon from 01.01.2025 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Land measuring 06 Kanals falling under Khasra No. 1303 min, Khata No.1055 and Khawat No.194 situated at Mouza Aloosa, Tehsil Aloosa, District Bandipora standing in the name of Mr. Tasleem Ahmad Jan S/O Mohammad Syed Jan R/O Aloosa, Bandipora.

**(Mohd Muzaffar)
Authorized Officer**

Dated: 15.01.2025



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

IAPM Department, Zonal Office Srinagar,
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.
0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

AUCTION NOTICE

It is notified for information of public in general & interested persons in particular that auction of vehicle hypothecated to the J&K Bank Ltd. Branch Sonwar, Srinagar as per following details is scheduled to be held:-

Vehicle	Registration No.	Model	Makers Name	Maximum Reserve Price (excluding GST)	Earnest Money 10% of the Reserve Price
Commercial e-Rikshaw	JK01AV4935	MAYURI AUTOSHAPE E-RIKSHAW PRO+1VX 1200W (4+1)	SAERA MAYURI E-RICKSHAW	Rs.2,25,000/-	Rs.22,500/-

Auction will be held on "as is where is", "as is what is" and whatever there is" basis for recovery of balance outstanding & interest in the loan account of Mr. Mohammad Asif Bakshi S/o Mohammad Amin Bakshi R/o Buchwara Dalgate, Srinagar. The above vehicle shall be available for inspection between 10:30 A.M to 03:00 P.M on any working day with prior arrangement with Branch Manager J&K Bank Ltd. Branch Sonwar (Mobile No.9906673927) by the prospective bidder/s up to 30.01.2025.

The interested persons will submit their sealed bids for auction of said vehicle subject to deposit of earnest money @10% of reserve price as bid amount for vehicle by way of payment order/DD in favour of the J&K Bank Ltd. payable at Srinagar by or before 31.01.2025 which amount shall be refunded to unsuccessful bidders at the time of completion of auction process. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall not attract any interest.

The sealed bids will be opened on 01.02.2025 at 01.00 P.M at Bank's Zonal Office Srinagar M.A. Road, Srinagar in presence of the bidders who choose to remain present on the given day and time & they will be given an opportunity of inter-se bidding to improve the offer and highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder subject to his bid/offer accepted by undersigned. The successful bidder shall have to deposit the entire qualified auction amount within 15 days. In the event of default in payment of amount, or the sale is not completed by reason of any default on part of successful bidder the Bank shall be entitled to forfeit all the money paid till then by the successful bidder and the vehicle shall again be put for resale in absolute discretion of the undersigned. The Bank reserves the right to withdraw/cancel the bid/auction of the vehicle at any time/stage without assigning any reason thereof and shall neither entertain any claim/liability of any other person of whatsoever nature. All attendant charges/dues/taxes/Insurance/including transfer of ownership/permits etc., shall have to be borne and be the responsibility of the purchaser exclusively at his own. GST at the applicable rate on the taxable value derived under GST Law will be charged in addition to the bidder price/sale price.

Authorized Officer

Demise Of Raja Jahangir Khan Widely Condoled

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Condolences have poured in from various quarters following the demise of Advocate Raja Jahangir Ali Khan, an eminent figure of the Burushaski community leaving



behind a legacy of remarkable contribution.

Raja Jahangir Ali was the first advocate from the Burushaski community also known as Bot Rajs, a unique linguistic group with a rich cultural heritage. The Raja clan hails from the princely state of Hunza-Nagar now under Pakistani control.

He was the grandson of Raja Uzur Khan last Raja of Nagar and son of Raja Mohammad Ayub, the former General Secretary of the Awami Action Committee (AAC).

Both Raja Jahangir and his father contributed significantly to the AAC's mission, working closely with its founder, Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Farooq.

AAC has expressed profound grief on his demise and paid rich tributes to his life and work. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, along with the AAC leadership, acknowledged his family's

continued efforts to advance the committee's public welfare mission.

A high-level AAC delegation visited Botraj family to convey condolences, offering prayers for his soul and strength for the bereaved.

Apni Party leader Syed Altaf Bukhari also paid a visit to the bereaved family and expressed condolences.

Ittehadul Muslimsen also has paid rich tributes to late Raja Jahangir Khan. Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari described Raja Jahangir as a versatile person with rich qualities.

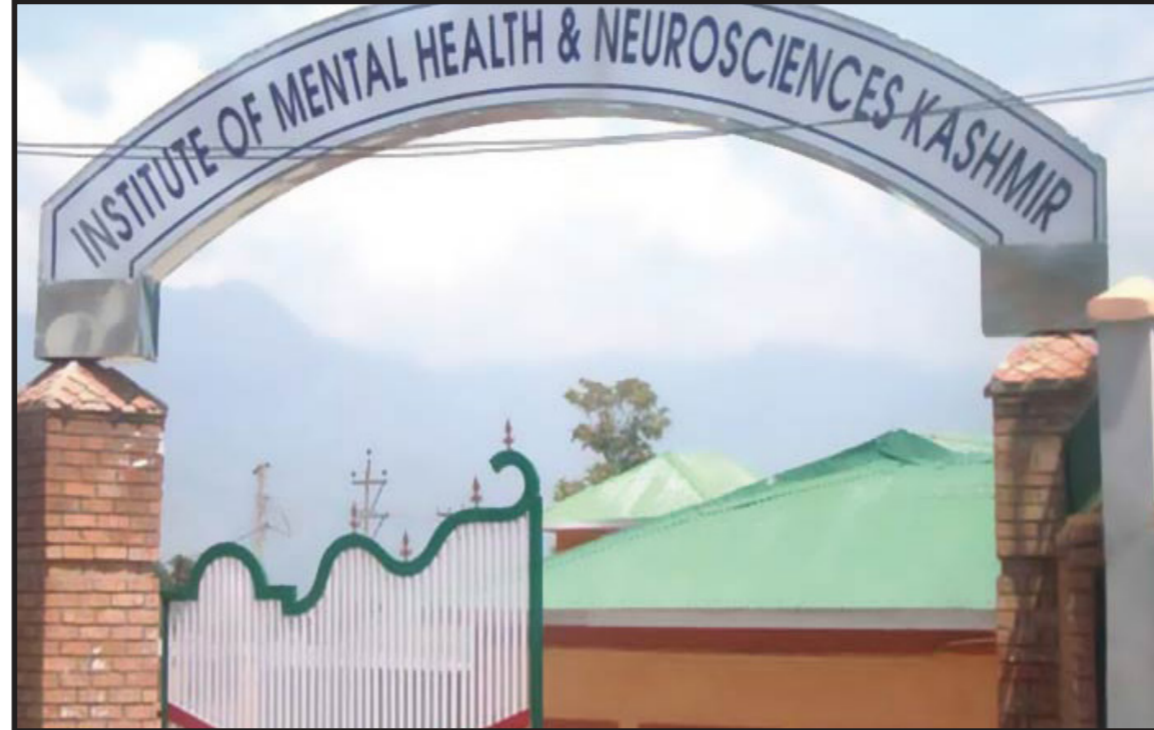
Many people remember Raja Jahangir as a key figure leading Botraj daira during Muharram processions.

In addition to his religious contributions, Raja Jahangir was a passionate advocate for the Burushaski language. He worked tirelessly to promote and preserve this language, organizing numerous seminars and awareness programs to bring attention to its cultural importance.

As the chairman of the Hunters Club for almost a decade, late Jahangir demonstrated his leadership abilities and commitment to community welfare. Even after stepping back from active legal practice six years ago, he continued to contribute to various causes, reflecting his lifelong dedication to service.

He is survived by his son, Advocate Raja Sajid Ali, and three daughters.

His congregational fateha Khawani will be observed on Friday at Botraj Mohalla, kathi Darwaza, family sources said.



Tele Manas Emerges As Boon For People With Mental Health Issues

Agencies

Srinagar: The groundbreaking Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) cell, operational at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, has emerged as a lifeline for individuals grappling with stress, drug addiction and anxiety-related issues in Jammu and Kashmir.

Tele-MANAS, the first-of-its-kind mental health helpline, completed two years and has received an overwhelming response, with approximately 75,000 calls being made.

Launched on November 4, 2022, this unique three-tier system incorporates mental health counsellors, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists, ensuring a comprehensive support network for those in need.

An official of IMNHAS said that the helpline has handled over 75,000 calls, addressing concerns ranging from stress and drug addiction to suicidal tendencies and anxiety.

He said approximately 90 per cent of calls were routine inquiries, while

around 10 per cent involved crisis interventions for individuals with self-harming ideas. "On average, the helpline receives 130 calls daily, with the highest daily call volume reaching over 300 calls. The average call duration is approximately 20-30 minutes, depending upon the nature of the issue" he said.

"Almost every day around 2-3 self-harming calls are being received and multiple suicide cases were prevented by providing crisis management," he added.

Highlighting the significance of these numbers, the official said there is a positive reception of Tele MANAS by the public. He said the initiative aims to provide cost-effective and comprehensive services to an underserved population in the region, thereby strengthening mental health—a historically overlooked area in Jammu and Kashmir.

The toll-free helpline number for Tele MANAS Cell J&K is 14416/1-800-891-4416 which operates 24x7, offering mental health services and drug de-addiction services to the general public.

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 barriers," he said.

He said 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 light of previous studies conducted by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), it is evident that Kashmir faces a significant mental health challenge. A study in 2016 revealed that 11.3 per cent of the adult population in the valley suffers from mental illness. Another study in 2015 by Medecins Sans Frontieres and IMHANS indicated that nearly one in five individuals in Kashmir exhibits symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder—(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: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH 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)

HIJRI CALENDAR
15 Rajab
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 08
ZUHR	12:38
ASR	4: 07
Magrib	5:48
ISHA	7: 12

This Day In History

- 1929 - WHP-AM in Harrisburg PA begins radio transmissions
- 1935 - Adolf Hitler orders German rearmament in violation of The Treaty of Versailles
- 1939 - Germany occupies Czechoslovakia
- 1939 - Hungary annexes republic of Karpato-Ukraine
- 1940 - German air raid on British fleet base Scapa Flow
- 1941 - Blizzard hits North Dakota & Minnesota killing 60
- 1945 - Allies secure Iwo Jima
- 1945 - Würzburg, Germany is 90% destroyed, with 5,000 dead, in only 20 minutes by British bombers.
- 1959 - Iraq & USSR sign economic/technical treaty
- 1962 - 1st launching of Titan 2-rocket
- 1962 - US Super-Constellation disappears above Pacific Ocean, kills 167
- 1966 - Gemini 8 launched with Armstrong & Scott, aborted after 6.5 orbits

MIR FAMILY BEREAVED

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved elder brother (Mohammad Shafi Mir) on 14th January 2025 at Jammu city. His congregational Fateh Khwani will be performed on 17th January 2025 Friday at 2.30 pm at Malkha graveyard near Police Station Gandola Road, Tujgari Mohalla Sangtarash, Nowhatta.

BEREAVED: NAZIR AHMAD MIR, MUKHTAR AHMAD MIR, AAMIR MIR (SON)
Cell Nos. 7006054527, 9419402133, 9149835435

پچھڑا کچھ اس ادا سے کے رت ہی بدل گئی
اک شخص سارے شہر کو ،،، ویران کر گیا

SAD DEMISE

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Mrs Mohammad Yaqoob Mir R/o Nalbandpora, Srinagar who left for heavenly abode on January 15, 2025, after a brief illness.

May Almighty Allah grant highest Place in Jannatul Firdous to the departed soul. Ameen

The congregational Fateha Khawani will be held on January 17, 2025 (Friday) at 2: 30 pm at our residence Zampa Kadal near Masjid Sharief, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Bereaved Family
Altaf Hussain Mir - 9149695685

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

IAPM Department
Zonal Office Budgam.

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 04.08.2023 thereby calling upon 1) Mr. Tasleem Ahmad Jan S/O Mohammad Syed Jan R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Borrower/Mortgagor), 2) Irshad Ahmad Jan S/O Abdul Aziz Jan R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Guarantor), 3) Irshad Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Guarantor), 4) Riyaz Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Guarantor) and 5) Ashiq Hussain Wani S/O Mohammad Maqbool Wani R/O Aloosa, Bandipora (Guarantor), to repay an amount of Rs. 33,31,890.50 (Rupees Thirty Three Lacs Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety & Paise Fifty Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.07.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 15th day of January of the year 2025.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.8,01,452.80 (Rupees Eight Lac One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two and Paise Eighty only), being balance outstanding in the Housing Loan account of the borrower as on 31.12.2024 together with future interest thereon from 01.01.2025 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Residential House along with Land measuring 15 Marlas falling under Khasra No. 2354, Khata No.398 and Khewat No.53 situated at Mouza Aloosa, Tehsil Aloosa, District Bandipora standing in the name of Mr. Tasleem Ahmad Jan S/O Mohammad Syed Jan R/O Aloosa, Bandipora.

(Mohd Muzaffar)
Authorized Officer

Dated: 15.01.2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Sub: Pre bid meeting regarding PCET tender ex. SNL to BXG and back.

No. 179-C/PCET/SNL-BXG/24 Date: 15.01.2025
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur

Invites E-tender through IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train having composition of 15 parcel Vans having CC 24 tonnes each (LVPHs) and one brake Van for a period of six years ex. Sanahawal to Bhanga and back to Sanahawal. (PCET shall be 15 parcel vans + 1 Brakevan, for first six months of contract, and after six months, the composition shall be 20 parcel van + 1 brakevan). Tender will be opened on 05.02.2025.

All interested bidders/leaseholder are requested to go through the terms and conditions of the tender and submit the queries/ suggestions through email at ID.sr.dcmfsrz@gmail.com upto 18.01.2025 at 16:00 hrs.

A pre bid meeting for above tender is scheduled on 20.01.2025 at 11:30 hrs through Video conference (Google meet). Link: - <https://meet.google.com/zro-xktm-rjg>.

Interested bidders may kindly join the VC through the link given on 20.01.2025 at 11:30 Hrs.

For any queries may please contact: Sh. Siddhesh Kumar, CMI/Lease. Mob.-: 9779233934

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur

167/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433_Sig_JAT_24_25 Closing Date/Time 06/02/2025 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Name of Work	Replacement of overaged point machines & reliability improvement of Signalling assets in BANIHAL-BARAMULLA section of FZR Division.
Tender closing Date Time	06/02/2025 15:00
Date Time of Uploading Tender	14/01/2025 18:42
Advertised Value (Rs.)	19956175.65
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	23/01/2025
Earnest Money (Rs.)	249800.00
Period of Completion	06 Months

Tender Notice No: 433_Sig_JAT_24_25 Closing Date/Time: 06/02/2025 15:00 Date: - 14/01/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 165/25

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Golden opportunity for cargo operators and transporters to be a partners with Northern Railway through leasing Parcel Cargo Express Train in Firozpur Division. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur invites E-tender through IREPS for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train having composition of 15 parcel Vans having CC 24 tonnes each (LVPHs) and one brake Van for period of six years. (PCET shall be 15 parcel vans + 1 Brakevan, for first six months of contract and after six months, the composition shall be 20 parcel van + 1 brakevan).

Tender Opening Date: 05.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs.

From	To	Total Tonnes	Minimum Frequency	Reserve Price	EMD (in ₹)	Tender Cost including GST @ 18% (in ₹)
Sanahwal (SNL)	Bhanga (BXG)	363.9	Per week	₹25,64,040 per round trip	50 Lakh	₹11,800/- (Rs. 10000+ ₹1800/- GST)

A.Tentative Time Table: Parcel Cargo Express Train Ex. Sanahwal to Bhanga and back to Sanahwal on round trip.

Days	Arrival	Departure	Station	Arrival	Departure	Days
Wednesday	---	18:05	Sanahwal (SNL)	13:55	---	Thursday
Wednesday/Thursday	23:55	06:30	Patel Nagar (PTNR)	00:05	07:30	Thursday
Thursday	12:00	16:20	Rampur (RMU)	11:00	17:50	Wednesday
Thursday/Friday	23:20	03:20	Transport Nagar (TPNR)	02:10	05:10	Wednesday
Saturday	01:00	05:00	New Jalpaiguri (NJP)	23:55	03:55	Monday/Tuesday
Saturday	14:10	18:10	New Guwahati Goods Shed (NGC)	10:30	14:30	Monday
Sunday	05:00	---	Bhanga (BXG)	---	23:45	Sunday

Interested bidders may please visit official website for E-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and submitting tender. **Important Note:** 1. Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to procure class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from www.cca.gov.in.

2. The bidder has to register, if not registered earlier with www.ireps.gov.in using DSC to participate in tender process. Detailed procedure for registration, system requirements and bidding are also available on www.ireps.gov.in

Tender No.: 179-C/PCET/SNL-BXG/24 Dated: 15.01.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 168/2025

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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

Unemployment Is Not The Final

Everyone in Kashmir has a unique story, yet they all share the common challenge of limited job opportunities



KO VIEW

Gaza Ceasefire Hope

The fresh developments surrounding the proposed ceasefire agreement in Gaza offer some hope in a region ravaged by conflict for over a year. If finalized, the agreement will be a crucial step towards alleviating the immense suffering endured by Palestinians. The war that began on October 7, 2023 has killed over 46,000 Palestinians and wounded 109,378 since October 7, 2023, according to the data of the territory's Health Ministry. However, the Lancet medical journal in a study has found that the deaths in the territory may have been undercounted by 41 percent.

The ceasefire proposal, reportedly nearing agreement, would address several immediate concerns. For Israel, it is a means to facilitate the release of hostages and for Hamas, it includes provisions for phased Israeli troop withdrawals and humanitarian aid. Humanitarian aid is a critical component of this deal. Gaza has, more or less, been leveled, leaving its people without access to basic necessities such as clean water, medical supplies, and shelter. So, the proposed increase in aid would provide much-needed relief to millions living in dire conditions.

The proposed phased withdrawal of Israeli troops is another encouraging sign, as this could de-escalate tensions and rebuild trust. However, the challenges remain. One of the most contentious issues is the future governance of Gaza. Israel doesn't want Hamas in power, nor the Palestinian Authority that rules the West Bank which could complicate matters.

The reason that the negotiations have been hopelessly stuck is because of Israel's insistence that the ceasefire will be temporary and will come into effect only after Hamas releases all hostages. This means once Israel gets hostages back, it is free to resume war after the truce period is over and this time unrestrained by any concern for hostages. While one doesn't know all the details of the fresh ceasefire proposal, it should be the one that ensures a sustainable end to the hostilities if not the lasting peace.

Fourteen months into the current war, the human cost in Gaza has reached unbearable levels. The devastation wrought by airstrikes, ground offensives, and airstrikes has reduced homes, schools, and hospitals to rubble, leaving thousands dead and displacing countless others. Children bear the brunt of this carnage, their lives scarred by fear, loss, and instability. The images emerging from Gaza—of families mourning their loved ones and neighborhoods leveled by violence—are heart-wrenching.

While this ceasefire marks a potential turning point, it is not an end in itself. The conflict's root causes remain unresolved. The international community must seize this opportunity to reinvent peace talks, emphasizing dialogue and mutual understanding over violence and unilateral actions.

Uzma Haneef

“There are self-employed individuals who make significantly more than some people with formal education. It is better to keep working towards your dreams, stay persistent, and take on any small job temporarily to support yourself. Success takes time and does not come instantly

As children, we dream of great things, but as we age, we come to realize how challenging it can be to make them a reality. In Kashmir, the youth are faced with a harsh reality: unemployment. Jammu & Kashmir leads the nation in unemployment, with an alarming 32 percent joblessness rate in urban regions among job seekers. Although this issue is widespread in Kashmir, there are solutions that can be implemented to overcome it. Three categories of people can respond in various ways to help resolve this issue. Young people must stay positive during these challenging times. A constructive mindset is key to overcoming challenges. Parents of the youth and the government also have important roles in tackling this issue.

would ensure that individuals with the right expertise have access to job opportunities, helping to align the workforce with the needs of the job market. It could offer employment opportunities to the general category, which is experiencing the highest levels of unemployment.

Entrepreneurship: A Viable Option

Parents should back their children in starting businesses. Young people often spend their time dreaming about jobs and waiting for opportunities. Despite the tough job market, both the youth and their parents are determined for them to secure a job. They endure long waits and keep trying, yet still cannot secure one. Some individuals are eager to start a business due to their frustration with unemployment, but they lack the confidence to take the risks required. They also receive no encouragement from their parents, who consider job security to be a safer option than the risks associated with starting a business. Some young people worry that if the business fails, their parents will blame them for the financial setbacks. The hypocrisy of parents is revealed when they have saved a significant amount for their children's marriage but refuse to allocate even a small portion of that money to help them start a business. It is the parents' responsibility to inspire their children and help them explore alternative options if they are unable to find a job. Times have changed since our parents' generation, and the job market is much more competitive now. While competition has intensified in nearly every business sector, the population is also rising, leading to an increase in consumption. If an individual wishes to start a business, parents should offer financial assistance. They should refrain from viewing their unemployed children as a burden. Often, young men face this stigma once they reach a certain age without earning money. With unemployment at its peak, parents must be a source of support rather than adding pressure for employment.

There Are Plenty More Fish in the Sea: Key Considerations for the Youth

A few years ago, while pursuing my BCA, I was impressed by how students from foreign countries balanced work with their studies. I thought that securing a job alongside my education would be a great accomplishment. But when I explored the job market, I discovered that opportunities were scarce. The few jobs that were available required previous experience. After a while, I found my purpose, which led me down a very different path. I am no longer worried about unemployment in my life as my plans are distinct. This experience of not getting the job could help you grow and prepare for better chances later on. There could be a more suitable opportunity or a new route opening up for you soon. Young people often expect too much at the start of their careers and are not willing to start from the bottom. It can be discouraging for them to spend a lot on education, only to end up with a small salary or no job. But they have closed themselves off from new possibilities and stopped considering other areas. There are self-employed individuals who make significantly more than some people with formal education. It is better to keep working towards your dreams, stay persistent, and take on any small job temporarily to support yourself. Success takes time and does not come instantly. I have seen carpenters, plumbers, and masons earning more than some people with formal education. Even having a small-scale business that keeps you busy is far better than being unemployed with nothing to do. It is true that an empty mind is the devil's workshop. Indeed, something is better than nothing.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The writer is from Srinagar and is currently pursuing an MBA at the Iqbal Institute of Technology and Management in Hyderabad. She can be reached at uzmahaneef418@gmail.com



Did you know?

Building a Legacy: The Shift from Consumption to Education in Real Estate Investment in Kashmir

Irshad Mushtaq

The past two decades have brought transformative changes to the real estate market in Kashmir, especially in land values. Prices have surged from 5 to 10 lacs to astonishing figures of 1.5 to 2.5 Crores today. This dramatic increase—15 to 25 times appreciation over 20 years—highlights the lucrative potential of real estate investment in the region, showcasing a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15 to 20%.

However, the landscape contrasts sharply when it comes to constructing homes. Two decades ago, building a house would cost about 40 lacs. In today's market, that same construction has risen to around 1.20 Crores—an increase of only 2.5 - 3 times. This striking disparity emphasizes a crucial understanding: while land tends to appreciate significantly, constructed properties do not exhibit the same return on investment.

Despite these insights, many individuals find themselves ensnared by a painful reality: considerable resources are often spent on cars—depreciable assets that yield minimal returns. This misallocation can adversely affect our financial well-being and bear heavy emotional implications, especially concerning the future of our children.

To remedy this disparity, we must embrace a transformative change in our financial priorities. Rather than obsessively acquiring possessions, we should focus on investing in our most important asset—education. By directing our finances toward skill development, we not only safeguard our financial futures but also empower the next generation with essential tools for success.

While the dream of building a beautiful, comfortable home is a natural aspiration, it is vital to align such dreams with our actual financial circumstances. We must avoid incurring debt that could become a burdensome obligation. Acquiring assets through loans—particularly when interest rates eclipse earnings—can establish a detrimental cycle of financial hardship.

Effective financial management necessitates education and sound advice from trusted professionals. It is critical to consult advisors who prioritize clients' best interests over pure profit, guiding us toward informed decisions that promote financial autonomy.

Let us resolve to provide our children with the wisdom of prudent financial practices and a legacy grounded in education, rather than material accumulation. By investing in their professional development, we equip them to navigate the complexities of the evolving financial landscape.

This intentional shift can reshape lives and create opportunities for success that extend beyond conventional educational frameworks. Together, we can forge a future rich in knowledge, skills, and possibilities for generations to come.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of MI Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at miscurities@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.



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

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

Stray Dog Attacks

India records the world's largest number of stray dog attacks, accounting for 36% of rabies deaths globally. A law created in 2001 prevents the killing of stray dogs, which has resulted in an increase in their numbers.

The journalism maxim, "If a dog bites a man, it is not news, but if a man bites a dog, it is," has taken an ugly turn as dog-biting incidents have risen dramatically. Stray dog attacks and maulings of children have become so regular in Kashmir nowadays that even well-

built adults fear leaving the house for bread in the morning, often preferring to go to the Kashmiri kandur (baker) in groups. These attacks are fueling anger among citizens. The latest attack on January 6, 2025, in Budgam left 15 injured, one of them critically.

Many politicians have promised to open stray dog shelters, but housing these canines in shelters may exacerbate the problem by making them more aggressive. Their natural habitat is the streets. To mitigate this issue or at least reduce its severity,

the following steps seem to be immediate remedies:

1. Activate Resident Welfare Associations to work with feeders so that stray dogs and humans can coexist.
2. Demarcate feeding zones.
3. Dispose of remnants properly.
4. Activate Animal Birth Control (ABC) drives and implement sterilization in its true sense.
5. Do not capture and release them in villages, where they

6. Start sterilization on a war footing.
7. Do not hate stray dogs. They are animals. They do not think like humans, nor do they have logic or operate with conscience. When pushed to starvation, they will view everything as food.

Muntashir Kifayat
kifayatsir555@gmail.com

Modernised Scarecrows On the Rise

Mudasir Ali

We all might know about scarecrows. They are famous and peculiar in Kashmir, specially designed to scare away birds and protect crops. Shreds of old clothes, hats, and sticks are used to create them. Scarecrows are usually placed in the central position of fields to scare off birds. This traditional tool is employed by farmers to prevent flocks of birds from attacking their crops, especially during seed germination. Birds are confused by the scarecrows. Their physical appearance makes them look like a man standing in the field to scare them away. Initially, the birds were frightened by the scarecrows and often flew over the fields without picking up even a single grain. Farmers used this traditional technique seriously and were committed to keeping the birds away using scarecrows.

However, these deceptive tools have become less effective and no longer deter the birds. The scarecrows themselves are disguised to resemble men. Over time, birds have learned new behavioral skills and intelligence to counter the scarecrows erected in crop fields. This learned behavior developed in birds through constant experimentation. They started testing the scarecrows by visiting the fields in large flocks and observing them. After rigorous experiments, they found the scarecrows were motionless and couldn't harm or kill any of their fellow birds. This led them to gradually train themselves to recognize and counter the deceptive tactic. Their behavior has evolved to help them identify duplicates.

This teaches us a moral lesson: "You can deceive once, but not all the time." In today's age of science and technology, there has been a paradigm shift across society, revolutionizing it with advanced science and research that largely benefits humankind. Despite this progress, technology has brought various challenges



that keep us on edge. The issue of distinguishing between original and duplicate entities has become a complex puzzle in the digital age.

The above illustration about scarecrows has not been fully unraveled with practical insight. Let's now examine the other side of this practice by correlating it with the present dynamics of so-called "modernized scarecrows." They are numerous, sharing whatever message they feel is important, often speaking in a melodious way to inspire. However, it is sheer ignorance to listen to them blindly. We must examine whether they are truly "modernized scarecrows" or just people with the beauty and charisma to influence the young generation. Do they aim to bring a wise revolution to Kashmir or are they leading us into a labyrinth? Don't our scholars preach to us, referencing the Quran and

Sunnah in their Friday sermons? Why aren't we able to recognize the false faces of these "modernized scarecrows"? Were our past sages ignorant then? Think about such questions carefully. Self-awareness is more important than anything else.

Throughout history, great minds who enlightened people more than these self-styled speakers have been widely celebrated. Books are filled with wise thoughts penned by great philosophers. A well-known influential saint of Kashmir, Sheikh-ul-Alam, shared his insights through poetry. His crafted verses offer profound wisdom, relevant to present circumstances.

Modesty is in peril, which may lead to significant devastation for our young generation in the near future. Some spread falsehoods openly on social media, while others seek likes and



Modernity does not teach us to indulge in vulgarity or shameful acts; rather, it is an era of enlightenment that can shape our minds. Yet, the imprints of the dark age still linger in the face of modernization. I am shocked to see educated individuals following those on social media whose sole purpose is to spread nonsense

views to increase their popularity. A layperson may be unable to judge the true character of these so-called "legends," giving them likes and comments without discerning the truth. Some may seem well-intentioned but also occasionally speak nonsense. We often trust the words more than the person. However, I still don't fully understand the meaningful definition of "legend." We may rush to follow pages that have no positive role in our lives. True purpose always reflects in positive actions that lead us along the right path. Modernity does not teach us to indulge in vulgarity or shameful acts; rather, it is an era of enlightenment that can shape our minds. Yet, the imprints of the dark age still linger in the face of modernization. I am shocked to see educated individuals following those on social media whose sole purpose is to spread nonsense.

Let me clarify the true meaning of the word "legend." A legend is a person who has earned accolades and achieved much through hard work, contributing significantly to various fields for the betterment of humankind. "Facebook legends" are individuals who share photos and posts solely to attract views and attention. Every profession or pursuit requires a true sense of ethics, which reflects a person's worth and dignity. How can we teach our children the difference between good and bad? This is a pressing question for all of us. Every day, social media is flooded with absurdity. In conclusion, we find that ignorance spreads much faster than knowledge and wisdom. Eventually, the truth will come to light, distinguishing the original from the duplicate.

The ships are full of crews who pretend to navigate fairly, but this is not true. We must keep our eyes open and use our "compass" to identify the deflections.

Tailpiece:

Let's take a pledge to share good posts, ethics, and lessons, and abstain from spreading falsehoods and trash. Social media is a vast platform, but unfortunately, it has been hijacked by "modernized scarecrows." They try hard to defile the innocent environment with their disdainful remarks. We should act like wise birds, who have learned from their experiments with scarecrows. It is high time we paid less attention to them and more to what society truly needs for progress. As citizens, we must play an active role in guiding others. Great minds, intellectuals, and scholars have contributed far more to society than anyone else. Their vision is broader and more focused on the upliftment of society. Let's not allow ourselves to be pulled into the quagmire by accepting the self-made theories of "modernized scarecrows."

The author is a writer. Views expressed are personal

Complaints Can Solve Problems

Nadav Klein

Nobody likes negative people—curmudgeons who can't seem to do anything but complain. Therefore, the logical advice is to avoid negativity in our lives: Reframe bad things in a positive way, see the silver lining, compare our current situation to the worst-case scenario, and practice gratitude even for the smallest things in life.

These are indeed great steps to take. However, we may have short-changed negativity a bit.

Overwhelming negativity at the first inkling of trouble can indeed be paralyzing. But there is something very useful that negativity can give us, if only we know how to use it.

Why We Can Be So Negative

We humans are so attuned to negativity that this phenomenon has been termed "negativity bias" or "negativity dominance." This potentially evolved as a survival mechanism—it is better to be overly cautious and miss out on opportunities than overly risky and die at the paws of a predator.

Indeed, research finds that negative events and stimuli affect us more strongly than their positive counterparts. We notice negative changes more quickly than positive changes. We are a lot more bothered if others view us negatively than we feel good when others view us positively.

In my own classroom of business students and executives, I find this consistently: I show a slide full of frowny emojis with one smiley emoji among them, followed by a slide full of smiley emojis with one frowny hiding among them. Invariably, learners find the frowny much more quickly than the smiley. Negative stuff pops out more than positive stuff.

All this amounts to virtually

all of us being very good complainers. Can this ever be a good thing?

Complaining, Usefully

Believe it or not, the answer is decidedly yes.

Consider a problem that might be vexing you. As a straightforward example, take the goal of being a successful contributor to Psychology Today. Most people will approach this goal by thinking about things they should be doing to achieve it and trying to prioritize among them. This is not a bad approach, but here is an alternative that can be even better.

Consider the following: What if we take the opposite goal—that is, instead of thinking about how to be a successful contributor, we think about how to be a total failure?

It may sound odd, but stay with me. What does it take to ensure failure? Because negativity comes so naturally to us, most of us can easily come up with features of failed writers:

- Write new articles irregularly and infrequently
- Do not scrutinize your ideas; instead, pick ideas to write about even if they are boring or irrelevant to your audience
- Use trite phrases and an unengaging style
- Do very little research so that your claims are never backed up
- Entertain little to no feedback from your audience

We could go on to list additional items. But the point is that it is much easier for most of us to come up with features of failed contributors than features of successful ones.

What Happens When We Invent the Complaint?



Now, for the magic. Let's flip each of the items:

- Write new articles regularly and frequently
- Scrutinize your ideas thoroughly; pick only ideas that are interesting and relevant to your audience (this requires getting to know your audience, too!)
- Focus on writing in an engaging manner
- Do your research so that every important claim is backed up
- Seek out feedback from your audience to see what works and what doesn't; then, focus your efforts on

what works to continuously improve your writing

The result is a list of clear steps required for success. But beyond turning the negative into the positive, there are three advantages to this inversion method compared to a straightforward problem-solving approach.

First, for most people, it is easier to start with negatives because doing so uses the negativity bias to our advantage, as opposed to letting it act to our detriment. Second, because it is easier to come up with negatives, once we flip them into positives we tend to have a more comprehensive

list than if we had started with positives. Third, the list we end up with is likely to be more creative than we had started with positives.

The Inversion Method in Practice

This isn't just a method I invented to make a point. It has been useful in various applied fields.

The aviation industry, for instance, routinely practices the inversion method. They rigorously analyze past accidents and complaints and work with regulators to anticipate and hopefully prevent future failures. Similarly, cities plagued by traffic conges-

tion often start by asking what exacerbates gridlock. Industrial engineers ask what would make a factory or machine unsafe. After starting with the negatives, people in these professions invert them into positive actionable steps.

Delegation as a Booster

One particularly effective way of enhancing the inversion method is through delegation. Delegation can significantly enhance the effectiveness of the inversion method by distributing problem-solving efforts across diverse perspectives.

When we assign specific aspects of a problem to different team members, friends, and acquaintances, they can tap into a wider range of expertise and creativity. One group, for instance, might explore worst-case scenarios while another can identify potential solutions.

Delegation not only lightens the cognitive load on specific individuals but also fosters a collaborative environment where innovative ideas can emerge. We don't have to do it alone; through effective delegation, we can accelerate the transition from identifying problems to inverting them into positive steps to implementing solutions.

A Final Thought

A common response when someone asks you how you are doing is to say, "I can't complain." Of course, we in fact can complain—easily. In everyday conversation, it can be a chore to talk to someone who constantly complains. However, in business, our penchant for complaining can paradoxically help us solve vexing problems so long as we use it appropriately.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Gaza ceasefire goes into effect on Sunday. Israel says details in flux, Qatari PM

Doha, Jan 15: Qatar's prime minister on Wednesday announced a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas that will pause the devastating 15-month war in Gaza and clear the way for dozens of Israeli hostages to go home.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani announced the agreement in the Qatari capital of Doha, the site of weeks of painstaking negotiations. He said the deal would go into effect on Sunday.

Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire deal to pause the devastating war in the Gaza Strip, multiple officials announced on Wednesday, raising the possibility of winding down the deadliest and most destructive fighting between the bitter enemies.

The deal, coming after weeks of painstaking negotiations in the Qatari capital, promises the release of dozens of hostages held

by Hamas in phases, the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israel and would allow hundreds of thousands of people displaced in Gaza to return to what remains of their homes.

It also would flood badly needed humanitarian aid into a territory ravaged by 15 months of war.

Three officials from the US and one from Hamas confirmed that a deal had been reached, while the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said final details were still being ironed out. All three US officials and the Hamas official requested anonymity to discuss the contours of the deal before the official announcement by mediators in Doha.

Netanyahu's office said in a statement that it hoped "details will be finalised tonight".

An Israeli official familiar with the talks said those details centre on confirming the list of

Palestinian prisoners, currently serving lengthy sentences for deadly attacks on Israelis, who are to be freed as part of the deal. Any agreement must be approved by Netanyahu's Cabinet.

Once official, the deal is expected to deliver an initial six-week halt to fighting that is to be accompanied by the opening of negotiations on ending the war altogether.

Over six weeks, 33 of the nearly 100 hostages are to be reunited with their loved ones after months in captivity with no contact with the outside world, though it's unclear if all are alive.

It remained unclear exactly when and how many displaced Palestinians would be able to return to what remains of their homes and whether the agreement would lead to a complete end to the war and the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza — key Hamas demands for

releasing the remaining captives.

Many longer-term questions about postwar Gaza remain, including who will rule the territory or oversee the daunting task of reconstruction after a brutal conflict that has destabilised the broader Middle East and sparked worldwide protests.

Hamas triggered the war with its October 7, 2023, cross-border attack, which killed some 1,200 Israelis and took 250 others hostage. Israel responded with a fierce offensive that has killed over 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, displaced an estimated 90 per cent of Gaza's population and sparked a humanitarian crisis.

More than 100 hostages were freed from Gaza in a week-long truce in November 2023.

The US, along with Egypt and Qatar, have brokered months of indirect talks between the bitter enemies that finally culminated

in this latest deal. It comes after Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah agreed to a ceasefire in November, after more than a year of conflict linked to the war in the Gaza.

Israel responded with a brutal air and ground offensive that has killed over 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials. They do not distinguish between civilians and militants but say women and children make up more than half of those killed.

UN and international relief organisations estimate that some 90 per cent of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced, often multiple times. They say tens of thousands of homes have been destroyed and hospitals are barely functioning.

Experts have warned that famine may be underway in northern Gaza, where Israel launched a major offensive in early October, displacing tens of

thousands of residents.

"The best day in my life and the life of the Gaza people," Abed Radwan, a Palestinian father of three, said of the ceasefire deal. "Thank God. Thank God."

Radwan, who has been displaced from the town of Beit Lahiya for over a year and shelters in Gaza City, said he hopes to return and to rebuild his home. As he spoke to AP by phone, his voice was overshadowed by the celebrations of fellow Gazans.

"People are crying here. They don't believe it's true," he said.

In Israel, hundreds of demonstrators gathered outside Israel's military headquarters in Tel Aviv, calling for a deal to be completed. Many held posters of hostages held by Hamas, others hoisted candles in the air.

As the deal was announced, some people were unaware that it had gone through. Sharon

Lifschitz, whose father Oded is being held in Gaza, told the AP by phone she was stunned and grateful but won't believe it until she sees all the hostages come home.

"I'm so desperate to see them if by some miracle my father has survived," she said.

US President Joe Biden, who has provided crucial military aid to Israel but expressed exasperation over civilian deaths, announced the outline of the three-phase ceasefire agreement on May 31. The agreement eventually agreed to followed that framework.

He said the first phase would last for six weeks and include a "full and complete ceasefire", a withdrawal of Israeli forces from densely populated areas of Gaza and the release of a number of hostages, including women, older adults and wounded people, in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

CRS Greenlights

section was the most difficult to construct owing to the geology of the area.

A 48-km section from Banihal to Sangaldan was commissioned in February 2024 and the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section received CRS authorisation on July 1. Katra to Reasi is the final leg that has been constructed, and has now received the CRS approval.

The Banihal-Katra section contains 97 km of tunnels and 7 km of bridges. "The toughest challenge in the project was to give foundation support to the world's highest arch bridge (359 metres) on the Chenab River. It was achieved by a rock-bolting method using 30,000 tonnes of steel. The other main challenge was to build India's first cable-stayed bridge on the Anji River. The two other bridges on the section are Reasi and Bakhal bridges.

The longest tunnel in this section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project is 12.77 km long. Officials said cameras have been placed every 50 metres in tunnels to keep an eye on operational safety. The Railways has also built 215 km of roads in the region to access the project sites.

Police Sets Up

14 people -- a man and his four children, a woman and her three children and a man and his four grandchildren -- died under suspicious circumstances.

Deputy Superintendent of Police of Kandi Vikram Sarmahal, SHO of Kandi Abrar Khan, SHO of women police station in Rajouri Sushma Thakur, Inspector Rajeev Kumar, Sub-Inspector Pankaj Sharma and Assistant Sub-inspector Pawan Sharma have been included as members of the SIT, the order stated.

The SIT also included experts from the Forensic Medicine and Toxicology Department, Microbiology Department, Paediatrics Department and the Pathology Department.

According to the order, the SIT in charge will also use the service of experts from food safety, agriculture, Jal Shakti (Public Health Engineering) Departments and experts of the FSL team, Jammu, for investigation.

The team has been directed to share the progress of the investigation with the district police office on a weekly basis.

No Mysterious Disease

Since December 7, 14 people, including 11 children from three related families in Badhaal village, have died due to which people in the area are in utmost shock and have been demanding probes.

Sakina said that despite the negative test results, these deaths remain a major concern and efforts are on to investigate the matter at the earliest.

She said authorities are now focusing on a thorough investigation to determine the cause as the angle of virus and infection along with other diseases have been ruled out by experts.

The minister said the health department screened 3,500 villagers door-to-door after five initial deaths. "Samples were analysed at top institutions, including ICMR Pune, NCDC Delhi, DRDE Gwalior and PGI-Chandigarh. Water and food samples were also tested, yielding no evidence of contamination," she said.

Sakina said the deaths have been confined to three related families living in close proximity. "If the cause had been a communicable disease, it would have spread widely," she said.

When asked about reports of neurotoxins in some of the deceased, she said a definitive conclusion awaits as the investigation is going on.

She said police and district administration would expedite their probe into the unexplained fatalities. "I am in touch with health authorities along with district administration who have been asked to expedite the investigation process so that necessary steps can be taken at the earliest", she said, adding, "The deaths are a tragic mystery, but we are committed to uncovering the truth."

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

Residents of Badhaal are increasingly worried over 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.

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-year-old Mohammad Yusuf, a relative of the affected family, died at GMC Rajouri, and on Tuesday, a six-year-old girl succumbed.

Meanwhile, J&K Police have constituted an 11-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the mysterious deaths that have been reported in the Badhaal area of Rajouri district in the last 45 days. The team will be headed by Superintendent of Police (Operations), Budhal, Wajahat Hussain.

The members of the SIT include Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Kandi, station house officers (SHOs) of police station Kandi and women's police station Rajouri, officials and experts from forensic medicine and toxicology, microbiology, paediatrics and pathology departments.

According to the order, the team will utilise the expertise of professionals from the food safety, agriculture, and Jal Shakti departments, as well as the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Jammu. "The team will make all sincere efforts to work out the inquest proceedings to its logical conclusion at the earliest," it said.

Peaceful Elections,

were awarded the Sena Medal (gallantry) posthumously for their bravery in counter-terrorism operations. He paid tribute to their sacrifice in serving the nation. (KNO)

Weather To Remain

across Kashmir today with Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K recording a minimum temperature of 11.0 degree Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded 7.5 degree Celsius while Qazigund recorded a day temperature of 10.8 degree Celsius. Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded 11.3 degree Celsius while Kokernag recorded a maximum temperature of 7.6 degree Celsius

2 MPs Elected

Section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956 (25 of 1956) as amended by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Act, 2012 (37 of 2012), the Central Government hereby notifies Shri Jugal Kishore and Shri Rajkumar Raot, elected by the members of Lok Sabha to serve as Members of the Institute Body of All India Institute Of Medical Sciences, Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu," reads the notification.

While Jugal Kishore Sharma belongs to BJP, Rajkumar Raot is founder of Bharat Adivasi Party.

According to the Ministry's notification, the term of office of members shall be governed by the provisions contained in Section 6 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956.

As per AIIMS Act- 1956, three members of parliament of whom two shall be elected from among themselves by the members of the House of the People and one from among themselves by the members of the Council of States. (KNO)

Adopt Urban-planning

authorising development, the urban governance agencies concerned shall keep sufficient land for the development of infrastructure, wide roads, parks, open spaces and other amenities, and the remaining land would be returned to the landowners, which they would share proportionately among themselves, an official spokesperson said.

The benefits of land pooling for various stakeholders would be that the value of the land would increase for the landowners and better infrastructure would be created as compared to the irregular land plots pooled by the landowners developing that land parcel.

This would help create infrastructure as a sustainable alternative to conventional land-acquisition methods, the spokesperson said.

He said the scheme will create a win-win situation for both the government and various stakeholders, including individual landowners and real-estate developers.

The meeting also delved into the TDR policy, focusing on its broad contours, objectives and mechanisms. The potential use of TDR for heritage properties, ensuring their preservation while enabling urban growth, was also discussed.

Under the TDR scheme, for a piece of land surrendered by the landowner or a developer free of cost for public purposes, such as road widening, public passage, conservation, heritage and other infrastructure development, shall be granted a non-financial compensation

in the form of a TDR certificate, specifying the built-up area (BUA) or floor area ratio (FAR) given to the landowner or developer, which he can utilise in the remaining part of his property or build elsewhere and even monetise by selling TDR to any other developer or user in receiving areas, the spokesperson said.

He said this would allow developers to build over and above the permissible FAR for land surrendered in congested areas.

The concept of TOD was also discussed, with an emphasis on its objectives to promote sustainable urban mobility and ensure planned development around public transport stations. The stipulations of TOD would facilitate compact, walkable urban spaces around transit hubs.

Separate discussions were also held on proposed services under Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) for municipalities and urban local bodies across Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides, the meeting discussed management of waste-disposal facilities, cleaning of roads, drains and water bodies following the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the spokesperson said.

Municipalities Asked

in smaller towns in the Union Territory, they said. Chairing a meeting of the housing and urban development department (H&UDD), Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo asked for comprehensive and component-wise waste management plans for both the municipal corporations -- Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) -- and other municipalities.

The meeting was convened to take stock of measures being taken up to build capacity of different urban local bodies (ULBs) in the processing of solid and liquid waste on scientific lines, an official spokesperson said.

Dulloo directed the municipal commissioners of SMC and JMC to formulate scientific plans for both cities for treating the solid and liquid waste generated daily by the households.

He instructed them to prepare a projection based on future population and the expected waste from them, the J&K government spokesperson said.

Dulloo also advised them to make simultaneous plans for the treatment of legacy waste in order to clear the sites of this untreated garbage.

He asked them to identify feasible locations for the establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) for solid waste, compost units or bio-CNG plants for liquid waste and dumping sites for inert waste.

"This task requires all seriousness and dedication on the part of the department to fully rid our cities and towns of untreated waste and garbage," the chief secretary said, asking the officers to use their writ to act against the violators as per laws in force.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, said facilities for both solid and liquid waste treatment are being created all over J&K in addition to inviting tenders for treatment of legacy waste on scientific lines.

SC Dismisses

said that the UT itself invited the High Court's observations because of its contentions.

The ASG raised concerns that such matters should be dealt with administratively, not judicially. He argued, "If on the judicial side, whatever we say is binding, we can't move forward." He informed the Court that 156 posts have already been created.

According to live law, the ASG also objected to the High Court's observation, stating, "The government can't run with these observations." He criticized the UT administration for failing to act on the High Court Registry's 2014 proposal to create 334 posts across various categories, even after the Court's February 2023 order highlighted the urgent need for additional staffing. While the UT administration eventually sanctioned 24 posts in May 2023 after significant delays, the broader recommendation remained pending.

Ultimately, the Court clarified that the High Court observations shall be seen as tentative. Briefly put, the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court is seized of a writ petition, filed in 2017, which originally sought monetary benefits for High Court employees. Over time, the case evolved into a broader discussion about the critical need for additional staff to address the growing requirements of the judiciary.

The High Court strength increased from 14 to 17 judges in 2021, and subsequently to 25. However, the UT administration repeatedly failed to act on recommendations from the High Court's Registry, which in 2014 proposed creating 334 posts across various categories. The matter gained urgency with a February

2023 order from the Court, which pointed the acute need for staff and infrastructure. Although the UT administration eventually sanctioned 24 posts in May 2023 after significant delays, the broader recommendation for 334 posts remained in limbo.

Taking serious note, the High Court, vide order dated November 12, 2024, highlighted that recommendations from the High Court or the Chief Justice concerning post creation are binding on the government, leaving no room for discretion. It held that the financial implications must be borne by the consolidated fund of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Criticizing the UT administration's approach as laggardly and casual, the Court noted that compliance reports filed in a phased manner lacked specificity or urgency. Frowning over the UT government's attempt to compare the requirements of the J&K High Court with other High Courts like Himachal Pradesh and Allahabad, the bench pointed out unique logistical challenges faced by the J&K High Court, such as maintaining dual establishments at Srinagar and Jammu, unlike other High Courts with single or primary benches.

Warning that any future attempts by the government to assess judicial staffing requirements would invite contempt proceedings, the Court observed,

"This High Court shall understand and accommodate the UT if the question is restricted only to the issue of finances. But we would take very serious note henceforth, if committees are made to sit and ascertain and assess the requirement of this Court. If it is ever so done again, this Court shall exercise its powers to initiate proceedings of contempt against those officers for their indiscretion."

The case was listed before the High Court on January 25 for further review. Aggrieved by the order, the J&K government approached the Supreme Court.

95% Jobs In

Union Territory is granted Assembly," he said, adding that they also demanded constitution of the separate Public Service Examination (PSC) for Ladakh or empowering Jammu & Kashmir Public Services Commission (PSC) to conduct job tests for gazetted posts.

He said that MHA representatives made it clear that domicile certificates wouldn't be applicable to land and other rights.(KNO)

Religious Scholars

was streamed live, and soon clips went viral, sparking outrage among both Shia and Sunni communities. Widespread calls for the arrest of those responsible emerged as social media filled with posts that further intensified tensions.

Late at night, the Srinagar Police tweeted from their official X account, stating, "Srinagar police have taken cognizance of the derogatory sectarian remarks made by certain individuals, who are currently being questioned at the police station. Appropriate legal action will be taken in accordance with the law. Over the past few months, it has been observed that some individuals with malicious intentions have been engaging in sectarian slander on social media, attempting to create division. Legal action, following due process, will be taken against all offenders, and anyone sharing or forwarding such derogatory content against any sect will face strict action under the full force of the law."

Meanwhile, ulama from both the Shia and Sunni communities came forward to condemn the act.

Grand Mufti Nasirul Islam, Shia clerics Aga Syed Hadi and Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari were first to denounce the perpetrators.

"These individuals do not represent the Shia community. Nobody, whether Shia or Sunni, has the right to target each other's revered figures. This goes against the tenets of our faith. Such acts are either carried out by individuals motivated by money or by those seeking cheap fame on social media. The top Shia clergy from both Iraq and Iran have prohibited the use of any offensive language against the Khulafa-e-Rashideen," Aga Hadi stated.

Nasir-ul-Islam, Grand Mufti of Kashmir, said in his video message, "Using hateful comments against the Khulafa-e-Rashideen is unacceptable and has hurt the sentiments of the people. Some miscreants want to create discord among communities. I condemn this heinous act and urge the authorities to lodge FIRs against these miscreants attempting to divide the community."

Maulana Masroor Ansari, a prominent Shia cleric, remarked, "In recent days, a few individuals obviously with ulterior motives have attempted to incite sectarianism and spread misleading content on social media, thereby

trying to harm our unity. These actions are highly condemnable, and their sole purpose is to weaken our brotherhood. I appeal to all religious scholars, social activists and the general public to maintain unity and brotherhood within their ranks and thwart the evil designs of such miscreants. Be cautious of inflammatory content circulating on social media and verify any rumors before believing them."

"I firmly denounce the offensive language employed by certain poets towards the sacred beliefs of Ahl-e-Sunnah wal Jamaat. Such unacceptable incidents must not recur. Freedom of expression does not mean violating the sacred beliefs of any community. Comprehensive and decisive measures should be implemented against these individuals by law enforcement agencies," Dr. Sameer Siddiqui, a noted Sunni scholar from South Kashmir, wrote on his X account.

Aga Syed Mujtaba, well-known Shia leader and deputy of Agha Syed Hassan Al Musawi, also said, "I condemn this act. It has hurt the sentiments of our Sunni brothers. There are some individuals who wish to disturb our unity. We must refrain from such practices and focus only on promoting voices of unity."

Meanwhile police have arrested the individuals involved in the incident. Srinagar Police tweeted on their official X account, "Six miscreants have been charged under Sections 126 & 170 of the BNSS and have been detained at Central Jail, Srinagar, for inciting sectarian unrest through derogatory remarks.

The public is hereby warned that any individual found engaging in similar unlawful activities, including posting or sharing sectarian content with the intent to create division or disturb public harmony, will meet the same fate. WE ARE WATCHING."

6 Detained

remarks," Srinagar Police said in a post on its X handle.

It also warned the public that any individual found engaging in similar unlawful activities, including posting or sharing sectarian content with the intent to create division or disturb public harmony, will meet the same fate.

"WE ARE WATCHING," it added. Last night, taking cognizance of the inflammatory remarks in a purported video, police detained some persons for questioning.

"Srinagar police has taken cognizance of derogatory sectarian remarks made by certain individuals, who are currently being questioned at the police station," Srinagar Police posted on its X handle late last night.

They said appropriate legal action will be taken in accordance with the law.

"Over the past few months, it has been observed that some individuals with malicious intentions have been engaging in sectarian slander on social media, attempting to create division. Legal action, following due process, will be taken against all offenders, and anyone sharing or forwarding such derogatory content against any sect will face strict action under the full force of the law," it added.

Art 370 Abrogation

Nearly 2.80 crore tourists, mostly from Gujarat, have visited Kashmir and returned safely without facing any issues, he said, adding that this transformation was the result of PM Modi's hardworking, sensitive and alert leadership.

"Under the PM's leadership, India became the fifth largest economy in the world, and it is certain we will reach the third spot in 2027. And, we are working towards making India the number one country by 2047 and God will definitely help us in our endeavour," said Shah, Lok Sabha MP from Gandhinagar.

He inaugurated 19 projects and laid foundation stone for eight projects, including one for converting the existing road connecting Sanand town with Kalol into a six-lane highway.

"There was a time during the Congress rule when village sarpanches had to struggle to get a small grant of Rs 5,000 from the government. Today, under the BJP rule, works worth crores of rupees are carried out without causing any hardship to sarpanchs," he added.

He thanked the people of the region for making the BJP victorious in all seven assembly segments, including Sanand and Kalol, which are part of the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency. People of the country chose the BJP because of Modi's commitment to fulfilling promises, such as the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said.

"No one believed that a Ram temple would be built in Ayodhya. But today, Ram Lalla is sitting in that grand temple. It is PM Modi who has uprooted Naxalism and terrorism from the country," said Shah.

Employees To Protest Regularization Of 61,000 Daily Wagers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Frustrated with the delay in the release of 3% Dearness Allowance (DA) for over seven months and demanding the regularization of daily wagers, the Employees Joint Consultative Committee (EJCC) is set to hold protest demonstrations in both Jammu and Srinagar.

Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the EJCC, outlined the key issues prompting the protests. These include the pending 3% DA since July 2024, unresolved house rent allowance matters, and amendments made by the previous government to SRO 43, which they believe should be restored to its original 1996 form under the Farooq Abdullah-led government.

"Additionally, we have urged the government to regularize 61,000 daily wagers. Before the elections, political leaders, including Omar Abdullah, promised that employee-related issues would be resolved immediately after the polls. Unfortunately, it seems the gov-

ernment is not serious about addressing these concerns. This protest aims to ensure our voices are heard," Khan said.

The protest, initially planned for January 13, was postponed due to the Prime Minister's visit to inaugurate the Sonamarg Tunnel. As per employee leaders, the demonstration has now been rescheduled for January 16 in both Srinagar and Jammu.

"The protest was originally planned at the Srinagar Press Colony and in Jammu. However, given the Prime Minister's visit to Jammu and Kashmir on January 13, our core group decided it would be inappropriate to hold the protest on the same day. Therefore, the event has been moved to January 16," Khan said.

He further noted that during this phase, the protest will be led by EJCC leaders in both regions, without involving general employees at this stage. "If the government does not take notice of our concerns after this demonstration, we will decide on the next course of action," the EJCC Chairman said—(KNO)

PDL, TDL Workers Protest Over Seniority List

Agencies

GANDERBAL: Permanent Daily Labour (PDL) and Temporary Daily Labour (TDL) workers staged a protest in Ganderbal on Wednesday, urging the administration to address their long-pending demands.

The workers have been demanding the immediate release of the seniority list and regularization of their services.

One of the protesting employees said, "The aim of our protest is to seek regularization of our services and the release of the seniority list. We have decided to extend our protest until 4:00 PM tomorrow. None

of us will report to duty, from Gurez to Ganderbal, until our demands are addressed. We urge the administration to take immediate action to resolve our issues. If not, we will further extend our strike."

Another worker added, "We have been working tirelessly under harsh conditions for years, but the administration has not yet acknowledged our contributions. All we want is justice—fair treatment and recognition for the hard work we've put in over the years."

The workers also emphasized that they deserve better treatment after years of service under challenging conditions—(KNO)

'Smart City Work Was Shady From Day One': Salman

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) leader and MLA Salman Sagar strongly criticized the Srinagar Smart City project, calling its execution "shady and shabby" from the start. His remarks come in response to the recent Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) raids on Smart City officials.



"From day one, we could see the poor quality of work in the Srinagar Smart City project. Today, our concerns have turned out to be true," Sagar said while reacting to the raids.

He recalled how his party was among the first to raise concerns about the Smart Street project. "We had already pointed out the flaws and even held a press conference against it. The work was done hastily, and the time frame given for such large-scale infrastructure projects, including roads and buildings, was unrealistic. Now, we are witnessing the results as the poor-quality construction is being exposed," he stated.

Sagar further said that the lack of proper planning has led to the

present situation. "Unfortunately, what we predicted has come true. Those in power have been making the same promises for five years without delivering results. However, we are confident that the more they talk, the better we will perform. We believe in letting our work speak for itself."

He acknowledged that mistakes can happen in large projects but stressed that better execution was necessary. "We will not ask them to remain silent; instead, we will continue doing our work. When we go to the people after five years, we will present a strong progress report with logical explanations and tangible achievements," he asserted.

Sagar highlighted that the National Conference envisions a well-planned satellite town as part of its development strategy. "This town will cater to the people of Srinagar and Jammu. There is no ambiguity in our stance—the government and our party are committed to ensuring better infrastructure for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added. (KNS)

Police recovers Rs 5.50 Lakhs In Bandipora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in Bandipora received multiple complaints from the general public regarding various financial frauds, missing and stolen mobile phones and other social media crimes.

Acting on these complaints, police achieved a significant breakthrough by recovering an amount of Rs 5.50 Lakhs from the fraudsters accounts and the same was refunded to victims Bank Accounts after completion of all legal formalities, a police spokesman said.

Moreover, 19 missing and stolen smartphones worth Rs 3 lakhs were also recovered and handed over to their owners after completion of necessary legal formalities.

Recipients expressed their gratitude & appreciated police

efforts in recovering their hard earned money and mobile phones.

Police advised the general public to use their mobile phones and other electronic media gadgets with precaution in order to safeguard themselves from cyber related frauds and crimes. If anyone becomes the victim of any Cyber related crime /Fraud he should immediately register a complaint on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal www.cybercrime.gov.in or Call Toll Free No.1930 or nearest police unit /Cyber Crime Unit DPO Bandipora. Also citizens should report missing/stolen mobile phones on CEIR Portal www.ceir.gov.in, dedicated online Portal on lost/stolen mobile phones by (Dept. of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications GOI).

Div Com Assesses Progress On Parihaspora Water Supply Scheme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting Wednesday to evaluate the progress of the Parihaspora Water Supply Scheme, aimed at providing safe drinking water to the local population.

During the meeting, Div Com expressed dissatisfaction with the PHE and KPDCCL officials for failing to meet the established deadlines for the scheme's operational readiness.

He urged the relevant KPDCCL officers to accelerate efforts to supply electricity to the lift pump and filtration plant of the Parihaspora Water Supply Scheme without further delay. In addition to officials from



PHE Baramulla, STP Ganderbal, KPDCCL Baramulla, and the District Administrations of Baramulla and Ganderbal, local public representatives also attended the meeting.

The public representatives expressed their appreciation to the Divisional Commissioner for his swift action and concern to addressing their longstanding issue.

Sinthan-Kishtwar Road Opened For LMVS

Observer News Service

KOKERNAG: Authorities have successfully managed to reopen Sinthan-Kishtwar road for Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) fitted with anti-skid chains, in record time, despite the harsh winter conditions.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Kokernag in an order stated the road is open only for "chain-linked tare light motor vehicles" as reported by the graduate engineer of NHIDCL.

As per the advisory, the vehicles will be allowed to move between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, provided weather remains clear. Traffic Police and SHO Larnoo have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the timings and seize any vehicle violating the directive.

This is the first time the road has been cleared for traffic so quickly; in previous years, the highway remained closed for several months after snowfall. The reopening is particularly pivotal as the highway has become vital to the region's



booming tourism industry. "A large number of youths rely on roadside stalls and small businesses around Daksum and Sinthan Top, making it a lifeline for them. When the road is closed, business comes to a halt, and people suffer. This quick action has restored hopes," said an official.

Local vendor Reyaz Ahmad, who runs a stall at Daksum during the peak tourist season, praised the authorities for their timely efforts in reopening the road. "Opening the road in this harsh winter

period is a wonderful achievement. We are hopeful that we can soon resume our work and support our families," he said.

SDM Kokernag, Suheel Ahmad Lone, speaking to KNO, said, "Our primary aim was to boost tourism in the area, and we worked tirelessly to clear the road as quickly as possible. The road leads to popular tourist spots like Daksum and Sinthan Top, so its reopening is crucial for the local economy. We have successfully completed the clearance of the first snowfall."

CBC Regional Office Jammu Conducts Review Meeting Of Department's Performance

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu conducted a review meeting of the department's financial and physical performance for the current financial year in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh regions.

The meeting was convened by Director CBC, J&K and Ladakh Gulam Abbas at the CBC Regional Office in Jammu, with the participation of key officials, including Deputy Director CBC, Ayushi Puri; Senior Accounts Officer, Ashwani Kumar Gupta; Administrative Officer, O. P. Maurya and other staff members.

During the meeting, it was reported that CBC has successfully organized a significant portion of the targeted Integrated Communication and Outreach Programs (ICOPs) in the region. Out of the total goal of 3 big, 6 medium, 16 small, and 24 mini ICOPs, the department has already conducted 1 big, 2 medium, 9 small, and 19 mini ICOPs, achieving approximately 65% of the target. Additionally, CBC is set to organize seven more Mini ICOPs in the region, including 3 in Kashmir, 2 in Udhampur and 1 each in Rajouri and Poonch.

The Director commended the field units for their achievement, especially given the



challenges posed by the model code of conduct that came into effect twice in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Deputy Director, Ayushi Puri, highlighted the department's efforts, including the deployment of additional teams to cover the Ladakh region and organizing publicity programs in remote and border areas such as Turtuk, Kargil and Tangste.

In Jammu, CBC successfully organized several ICOPs in various regions, including Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Akhnoor, Nowshera, Channi Prat, Rajouri, Doda, Padder, and Poonch. A notable event was the Jhiri Mela (Marh), a publicity program held over eight days that empowered thousands of people through the dissemination of key information.

It was informed in the meet-

ing that CBC also contributed significantly during the Amarnath Yatra by coordinating with local administration to organize theme-based cultural programs at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu. The cultural troupes of the department, along with registered groups, performed approximately 228 theme-based programs, showcasing centrally sponsored schemes and highlighting the rich art and culture of Jammu & Kashmir.

Another key achievement highlighted was the performance of Private Registered Troupes (PRTs) from the J&K region at the prestigious International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

The newly appointed Administrative Officer, O. P. Maurya, was also welcomed to the CBC team on the occasion.

DC Srinagar Holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp At Khimber



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its endeavour to bring Administration to the door steps of the people particularly living in outskirts of the District, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp here at Khimber as part of public outreach programme to address public issues and listen to developmental demands of the local people.

Besides the Members of the District Development Council, a large number of people from Khimber and adjoining areas in North Tehsil of the District were part of the Public Grievance Redressal Camp.

Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Chief Horticulture Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, District Social Welfare Officer, District Mineral Officer, Engineers of R&B, PHE, PDD, Tehsildar North, BMO Hazratbal, Lead Bank Manager and other District Officers were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, local DDC members and people of the area, projected various issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner and other development related matters.

The DC after giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, issued on the spot instructions for their time bound redressal. He assured people that all other genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned authorities on priority.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said the purpose of holding such grievance redressal Camps is to take appraisal of local issues from the general public for their time bound redressal. He said such programmes also guide the Administration to plan developmental interventions for the public good and reach to the doorstep of the people instead of them visiting the DC Office or other Government Offices.

During the Public Grievance Redressal Camp, ACD Srinagar highlighted various Schemes of the Rural Development Department particularly, PMAY-Gramin. Similarly, Engineers of KPDCCL also highlighted the benefits of PM Surya Char Muft Bijli scheme and urged people to install Rooftop Solar plants under the scheme.

Later, the DC inspected progress on construction of Syedpora Bridge being constructed at a cost of Rs 3.40 crore over Maloori Nallah connecting Danihama, Chatterhama, Ahal, Khimber with Darbagh, Harwan, Dara, Theed, Muftibagh and other villages.

It was informed that over 60% works have been completed on the project and shall be completed by August 2025.

The DC also took stock of the works on construction of approach road for Steel Grid bridge Danihama.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned executing agencies to accelerate the pace of works on the projects of public importance so that people residing in adjoining habitations are benefitted.

Lal Chowk Traders Delegation Calls On SMC Commissioner



Agencies

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Central Lal Chowk Traders Federation led by its Vice President Imtiyaz Ahmad called on Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Owais Ahmad and apprised him about the issues faced by the shopkeepers in the area.

Accompanied by President of Masjid Noor, Court Road, Lal Chowk, the delegation apprised the Commissioner about the menace of stray dogs in the area who have caused fear among the residents and visitors. Additionally, they also took up the issue of providing better street lighting in the area.

The traders apprised the Commissioner SMC about current inadequate street lights which affects both residents and the businesses around.

During the meeting, both representatives apprised the Commissioner of the growing menace of stray dogs in the Lal

Chowk area, which has been causing safety concerns for residents and visitors.

They also raised the need for improved street lighting in the area, highlighting the risks posed by inadequate illumination, especially after dark.

The Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the delegation, acknowledging the seriousness of the concerns raised. He assured the representatives that prompt and necessary action would be taken to address both issues.

"We, as traders of Lal Chowk, would like to express our appreciation for the Commissioner's people-friendly approach. His willingness to listen to our concerns and provide assurances of timely action has instilled confidence in the local community. We look forward to seeing positive changes in the near future," the delegation said in a statement.

They also appreciated the prompt action by the SMC in clearing snow from roads during recent snowfall.(KNS)

ED Attaches Property Worth Rs 2.25 Crore In Delhi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate Srinagar has attached an immovable property worth over Rs 2 crore under the provisions of PMLA.

In a post on X, the probe agency, stated that the property belongs to shareholders and

owners of M/s Manoj Ji and co private limited.

"ED, Srinagar has provisionally attached immovable property situated at Delhi having worth of Rs. 2.25 Crore and related to the shareholders and owners of M/s Manoj Ji & Co. Pvt. Ltd. under the provisions of PMLA, 2002," it said.



PCB Hopeful Rohit Will Attend Champions Trophy Opening In Karachi

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: The opening ceremony of the Champions Trophy will be held either on February 16 or 17 and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is confident that India captain Rohit Sharma will be in attendance at the event.

The PCB source also said that it is awaiting communication from the ICC on the schedule of the customary captains' photo-shoot and the pre-event press conference.

The eight-team tournament will get underway on February 19 in Karachi. However, India will play all their matches in Dubai, starting with the clash against Bangladesh on February 20, after refusing to travel to Pakistan owing to security concerns.



The source said PCB has procured all relevant clearances from its government to promptly issue visas to all captains, players and team officials who will come here for pre-tournament events.

"This obviously includes Ro-

hit or any other Indian team player or official or board official," he added.

Another source confirmed to PTI that the PCB has made it clear to the ICC that the opening ceremony, featuring all teams and their captains, will

take place in Pakistan.

"This is in line with the usual protocols and since the opening match is on 19th the opening ceremony can be expected either on the 16th or 17th," the source added.

He said the schedule of the opening ceremony would depend on the warm-up matches list.

The source said that recently three Indian nationals, who were a part of the ICC delegation which came to Pakistan, were promptly issued visas once the world body sent their names to the PCB.

PCB Name Saim Ayub In CT Provisional Squad

Pakistan selectors have decided to include opener Saim Ayub, who is recuperating from a right ankle injury, in the pro-

visional squad for the Champions Trophy beginning next month.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has not disclosed the squad officially but it contains most of the premier stars such as Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Nasim Shah, Fakhar Zaman and Shadab Khan.

An insider said the selectors included Saim as they feel even if he is not recovered in time to play the ICC showpiece he can be replaced by another player.

Changes to the preliminary squad can be made until February 13.

Saim is presently in London on PCB expenses and final reports of the examination done by two high-profile orthopaedic sports surgeons are awaited.

Short TAKES

Gambhir Blames Sarfaraz For Dressing Room Leaks: Report

Team India's campaign in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 series was overshadowed by controversies, with dressing room conversations finding their way into the media.

Head Coach Gautam Gambhir addressed the issue at a press conference before the final Test against Australia, calling for accountability and discretion.

According to reports, Gambhir was furious after the team's defeat in the fourth Test, delivering a stern warning to the players. He reportedly told them to follow his instructions or risk being benched.

Now a report by News 24 claims that Gambhir accused young batter Sarfaraz Khan of leaking dressing room conversations to the media.

Sarfaraz, who did not feature in any of the five Tests against Australia, was reportedly mentioned by Gambhir during a review meeting with Board of Control for Cricket in India officials. Captain Rohit Sharma and Chief Selector Ajit Agarkar were present at the meeting. Observers find it difficult to believe that Sarfaraz would risk his budding career by leaking sensitive information.

Novak Djokovic Surpasses Roger Federer's Grand Slam Record

Novak Djokovic has surpassed Roger Federer's record for the most Grand Slam appearances, marking another significant achievement in his career. Djokovic's consistency in competing at the highest level has enabled him to make more Grand Slam appearances than any other male player in history.

Djokovic played his 430th Grand Slam match at the Australian Open on Wednesday, when he registered a hard-fought win over Portuguese qualifier Jaime Faria in the second round.

Djokovic improved to 379-51 for his career at major tournaments, a .881 winning percentage, by defeating 21-year-old Portuguese qualifier Jaime Faria 6-1, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-2 in a match briefly interrupted by light rain before Rod Laver Arena's retractable roof was shut.

Draws Order Of The Day As City, Liverpool, Chelsea Held

Manchester City threw away a two-goal lead as Brentford's Yoane Wissa and Christian Norgaard scored late goals to earn the hosts a 2-2 draw in a Premier League thriller on Tuesday.

After suffering six league defeats in November and December, City bounced back with a draw against Everton and wins over Leicester City and West Ham United, but Tuesday's late collapse brought their short-lived revival to an abrupt halt.

The point leaves them sixth on 35, 12 adrift of leaders Liverpool. Liverpool substitute Diogo Jota's second-half header earned the visitors a battling 1-1 draw with surprise Premier League title rivals Nottingham Forest.

Chelsea captain Reece James rescued a point for his side with a 95th-minute free kick to snatch a 2-2 draw at home to Bournemouth in the Premier League on Tuesday.

Champions Trophy Tickets To Cost Lowly INR 310 In Pakistan



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The PCB has earmarked the starting prices for Champions Trophy tickets at PKR 1000 which is as cheap as Rs 310 in Indian currency, as per an internal document of the cricket board in possession of PTI.

The document, however, does not include suggested ticket prices for the matches in Dubai chosen as a neutral venue to host India's matches and perhaps even a semi-final and final if Rohit Shar-

ma's men qualified for these knockout games.

The list in possession of PTI revealed that PCB has kept the lowest priced ticket for the General Enclosure at 1000 Pakistani rupees for all matches in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi.

But for the Pakistan and Bangladesh match in Rawalpindi the general enclosure fee has been increased to 2000 PKR (INR 620) and for the semi-final to PKR 2,500 (INR 776).

The PCB has also kept VVIP

tickets for all games at 12,000 PKR (INR 3726) but for the semi-finals it is 25,000 (INR 7764) for this same enclosure.

The premium enclosure tickets are priced at PKR 3,500 (INR 1086) for the matches in Karachi, 5000 (INR 1550) for the match in Lahore and 7000 (INR 2170) for Pakistan's match against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi.

The PCB plans to keep VIP enclosure prices to PKR 7000 for Karachi, 7,500 for Lahore 12,500 for the Bangladesh match.

Star-Studded Line-Up For LIV Golf's India Debut



Press Trust of India

GURUGRAM: As many as 15 LIV Golf League stars and nine winners from the Asian Tour's 2024 season will be teeing it up at the USD 2 million International Series India beginning here on January 30.

Reigning Major winner Bryson DeChambeau, who had top-six finishes in three of the four Majors in 2024, including a win at the US Open, heads a stellar lineup in the tournament.

Six of the top 20 from last year's LIV Golf League will be in the field as India becomes the latest country to host the International Series.

DeChambeau (8) is joined by Crushers GC team-mates Paul Casey

(11) and Anirban Lahiri (16) while Mexico's Carlos Ortiz of Torque GC (13) will line up alongside his skipper Joaquin Niemann (2), and compatriot Abraham Ancer (12) of Fireballs GC.

Other confirmations include Mito Pereira and Sebastian Munoz, which make it a clean sweep of Torque GC players, while Harold Varner III of 4Aces GC brings his mercurial talent to the iconic Gary Player-designed course at the award-winning DLF Golf and Country Club.

Eight of the 10 Indian professionals confirmed have won on the Asian Tour. They are Bhullar (11), Lahiri (7), Jeev Milkha Singh (6), SSP Chawrasia (6), Sharma (2), Rashid Khan (2), Rahil Gangjee (2) and Ajeetesh Sandhu (1)

28th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®



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

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world.

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

VISIT

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

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR