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BOOK APPOINTMENT

119 J&K Schools Function With Zero Students



Agencies
Srinagar: Despite closing of hundreds of public schools owing to low or zero student enrolment, at least 119 government-run schools are still functioning with zero student enrolment—thus raising a question on the functioning of the department. The updated official

figures reveal that in Jammu and Kashmir 119 schools were functioning in the region with no student enrolled in the institution. According to details, at least 238 teachers were posted or deployed in the schools wherein no student was enrolled. The official data further states that Jammu | [More on P6](#)

6 AT LEAST 238 TEACHERS were posted or deployed in the schools wherein no student was enrolled.

45 DAYS OF MYSTERY

HM Shah Orders Inter-Ministerial Probe In Rajouri Deaths

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has ordered the constitution of an inter-ministerial team to visit a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district to ascertain the causes of deaths in three incidents in the past six weeks. The team will be headed by a senior Union home ministry officer and consist of experts from the ministries of health and family welfare, agriculture, chemicals and fertilisers, and water resources, according to an official statement. The team will also be assisted by experts from the animal husbandry, food safety and



forensic science labs. The central team will proceed on Sunday and, in collaboration with the local administration, also work on providing immediate relief as well as taking precautionary measures to prevent such incidents in the future, according to the statement. Experts from some of the most reputable institutions in the country have been arranged to | [More on P6](#)

Fear And Grief Grips Rajouri Village

Fear and grief writ large on their faces, people in this remote mountain village of Rajouri district are stunned by a series of mysterious deaths which happened one after another over

the past 45 days. A local said their fear of death was never so high, not even during the covid pandemic, or when the militancy was at its peak. The authorities have ruled out the | [More on P6](#)

LG Expresses Gratitude To Shah

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has expressed heartfelt gratitude to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for constituting an Inter-Ministerial Team to investigate the mysterious deaths in Rajouri district. The move comes amid growing concerns and widespread fear in the affected village, where a series of unexplained fatalities have been reported over the past 45 days. "Grateful to Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji for constituting an Inter-Ministerial Team to ascertain causes of deaths in | [More on P6](#)

Mughal Road Closed Till Further Orders
Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities have ordered complete closure of Mughal road till further orders and a formal notification in this regard has been issued by District Magistrate Poonch. As already reported, vehicular movement on Mughal road was suspended from the last twenty-one days due to severe slippery conditions and authorities were expecting restoration of road after improvement in surface condition of road. Officials however stated that amid bad weather conditions during the last 48 hours, fresh snowfall has taken place on the road and slippery conditions have increased further making it impossible to restore this road for several weeks. | [More on P6](#)

THE ROAD WILL NOW REMAIN CLOSED TILL the end of this winter season and it will be restored only in upcoming summers," officials stated.

PM Distributes 65 Lakh Svamitva Property Cards

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme, and said it will bolster economic activities and help in poverty alleviation. The prime minister virtually addressed the event and also interacted with some beneficiaries. He also said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance". The property cards are being distributed to beneficiaries across more than 50,000 villages in 10 states — Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and two Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Modi said the scheme will help people get loans | [More on P6](#)

HC Puts Shifa Hospital's Suspension In 'Abeyance'

Orders Finalizing Disciplinary Enquiry

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has "kept in abeyance" an order suspending the empanelment of Shifa Hospital for allegedly violating guidelines issued by the National Health Authority (NHA). However, a bench of Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani asked the authorities to finalize the disciplinary enquiry in connection with the show cause notice (bearing No. SHA/ABPM/JAY/JK/2024-25/8124-25 dated 18.12.2024) issued to the hospital with the direction that it shall afford a fresh opportunity of two weeks to submit a reply in the interest of natural justice. The court passed the order after hearing counsel for the hospital as well as the government.

In his plea, the advocate for the hospital submitted that the show cause notice dated 18 December 2024 as well as the suspension order dated 11 January 2025 are bad in law for having been issued in brazen violation of the principles of natural justice as well as the relevant scheme i.e. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, and the Rules/Guidelines framed under the same. He also contended that the hospital has been rendering the patient care facilities to the best possible extent and the allegations against the Hospital are unverified and unproved as the hospital has been condemned unheard in the matter. On the other hand, government counsel argued that the authorities have been receiving repeated complaints against the hospital in respect of receipt of | [More on P6](#)



Illegal Riverbed Mining In Sukhnag River NGT Summons DC Budgam, Orders To Stop Mining

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Joint Committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding destruction of Sukhnag river in its preliminary findings and observations has said that illegal Riverbed Mining has been taking place in Sukhnag. Based on the findings of the said committee



the National Green Tribunal -NGT has summoned the Deputy Commissioner | [More on P6](#)

J&K's New Transport Policy In Offing

Draft Submitted for Review

Agencies

Srinagar: Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan Saturday said the draft of the new Transport Policy of J&K focusing on improved road safety and transportation infrastructure has been submitted to the administrative department for review. Speaking at an event commemorating National Road Safety Week, Mahajan said the discussions on the draft will precede any decisions or implementation. "I have learned that my predecessors sent a draft to the Administrative Department, and there will be a discussion on it. The future course will be based on that," he said. The Transport Commissioner stressed the importance of a safer | [More on P6](#)

E-Rickshaw Fare Set At Rs 10/km, Meters Mandated

Jammu and Kashmir Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan said on Saturday that the fare for electric rickshaws has been fixed at 10 per kilometer per passenger, up to a maximum distance of 6 kilometers. | [More on P6](#)

JKP Declares Reward For Capture Of 4 Terrorists

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released pictures of four active terrorists in Kishtwar district and announced a reward of Rs 5 lakh each to anyone providing credible information on them. Pictures of Saifullah, Farman, Adil and another terrorist,

believed to be Basha, were made public through a poster in both Urdu and English. "General public is requested to share any information regarding the individuals shown in the photographs, identified as four terrorists. A reward of Rs 5 lakh for each terrorist will be given to anyone providing credible information about | [More on P6](#)



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OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT (ICDS) SINGHPORA

Subject: Provisional Selection List of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) of Poshan Project Singhpora- inviting of objections (PUBLIC NOTICE)

Publication of Provisional Merit List (Annexure A) and the Provisional Select List (Annexure B) for invitation of objection if any for the engagement of sangini (AWW) to AWC Khan Mohalla CR Khan Ward No.05 Panchayat Halqa Mirchimar advertised vide communication No:CDPO/Sing/Estt/2024/140-51 Dated 27-07-2024 and published in Local Newspapers by the Department of Information, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir.The objections if any should reach the office of CDPO Singhpora Mission Poshan within 10 days positively, failing which no objections if any shall be entertained.

ANNEXURE-A

Provisional Merit list of candidates who have applied for the Post of Sangini (AWW) against the location of AWC Khan Mohalla Mirchimar Ward 05

Table with columns: S No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/ W/o, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Qualification, Marks in 10+2, %age, Total Merit. Includes candidate Shabnum Rashid.

ANNEXURE-B

Provisional Selection List of AWW (Sanginis) for AWC Khan Mohalla Mirchimar Panch ward No. 05 Panchayat Halqa Mirchimar

Table with columns: S No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/ W/o, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Qualification, Marks in 10+2, %age, Total Merit. Includes candidate Shabnum Rashid.

No: CDPO/ICDS/Sing/Estt/2024/ 562

Dated:16-01-2025

Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project (ICDS)Singhpore

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT (ICDS) SINGHPORA

Subject: Provisional Selection List of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) of Poshan Project Singhpora- inviting of objections (PUBLIC NOTICE)

Publication of Provisional Merit List (Annexure A) and the Provisional Select List (Annexure B) for invitation of objection if any for the engagement of sangini (AWW) to AWC Baghwan Mohalla KP SERI Ward No.01 Panchayat Halqa KP SERI advertised vide communication No:CDPO/Sing/Estt/2024/140-51 Dated 27-07-2024 and published in Local Newspapers by the Department of Information, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir. The objections if any should reach the office of CDPO Singhpora Mission Poshan within 10 days positively, failing which no objections if any shall be entertained.

ANNEXURE-A

Provisional Merit list of candidates who have applied for the Post of Sangini (AWW) against the location of AWC Baghwan Mohalla KP Seri Ward 01

Table with columns: S No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/ W/o, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Qualification, Marks in 10+2, %age, Total Merit. Includes candidates Barooja Akther, Rubeena Bano, Maheena Jan, Nighat Ashraf, Nusrat Ahad.

ANNEXURE-B

Provisional Selection List of AWW (Sanginis) for AWC Baghwan Mohalla KP SERI Panch ward No. 01 Panchayat Halqa KP SERI

Table with columns: S No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/ W/o, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Qualification, Marks in 10+2, %age, Total Merit. Includes candidate Rubeena Bano.

No: CDPO/ICDS/Sing/Estt/2024/ 564

Dated:16-01-2025

Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project (ICDS)Singhpore

E-Mail: cdpoicdssinghpura13@gmail.com

Government of Jammu and Kashmir (UT) OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT (ICDS) SINGHPORA

Subject: Provisional Selection List of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) of Poshan Project Singhpora- inviting of objections (PUBLIC NOTICE)

Publication of Provisional Merit List (Annexure A) and the Provisional Select List (Annexure B) for invitation of objection if any for the engagement of sangini (AWW) to AWC Duslipora A Ward No.03 Panchayat Halqa Duslipora advertised vide communication No: Office No. CDPO/POSHAN/ADV/2023/620-29 Dated:01-01-2024 and published in Local Newspapers by the Department of Information, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir.The objections if any should reach the office of CDPO Singhpora Mission Poshan within 10 days positively, failing which no objections if any shall be entertained.

ANNEXURE A

Table with columns: S No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/ W/o, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Qualification, Marks in 10+2, %age, Total Merit. Includes candidates Suriya Bano, Ruqiyah Amin, Arshida Bano, Shabnum Mushtaq, Arsheeda Mushtaq.

ANNEXURE-B

Table with columns: S No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/ W/o, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Qualification, Marks in 10+2, %age, Total Merit. Includes candidate Suriya Bano.

No: CDPO/ICDS/Sing/Estt/2024/ 563

Dated:16-01-2024

Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project (ICDS)Singhpore

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT (ICDS) SINGHPORA

Subject: Provisional Selection List of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) of Poshan Project Singhpora- inviting of objections (PUBLIC NOTICE)

Publication of Provisional Merit List (Annexure A) and the Provisional Select List (Annexure B) for invitation of objection if any for the engagement of sangini (AWW) to AWC MALPORA Ward No.01 Panchayat Halqa Hanjiwera Payeen A advertised vide communication No: Office No. CDPO/poshan/Adv/2023/620-29 Dated:01-01-2024 and published in Local Newspapers by the Department of Information, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir.The objections if any should reach the office of CDPO Singhpora Mission Poshan within 10 days positively, failing which no objections if any shall be entertained.

ANNEXURE A

Table with columns: S No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/ W/o, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Qualification, Marks in 10+2, %age, Total Merit. Includes candidates Bilkees Ibrahim, Afroza Ali, Firoza Ali, Kounsara, Fatima Maqsood, Shaista Ali.

ANNEXURE B

Table with columns: S No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/ W/o, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Qualification, Marks in 10+2, %age, Total Merit. Includes candidate Fatima Maqsood.

No: CDPO/ICDS/Sing/Estt/2024/ 565

Dated:16-12-2024

Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project (ICDS)Singhpore

DIPK-10969/24 dated: 18-01-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD JIBRAN IBN REYAZ S/O REYAZ AHMAD NAJAR R/O FATHGARH Tehsil BARAMULLA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 10/11/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

fko

Executive Magistrate 1st Class kreeri

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Groom Up Kashmir Tour And Travels Situated at Qazmi Complex Gulmarg Road Magam Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Arif Majeed S/O Ab Majeed Parrey R/O Bun Makhama intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Groom Up Kashmir Tour And Travels Situated at Qazmi Complex Gulmarg Road Magam Budgam 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: dtregl23@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

I have applied for the issuance of Death Certificate of my Husband namely Gulla Mir S/o Munwer Mir R/o Awoora Pahalgam who died on 7-8-20. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the BDO Pahalgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Sharifa Akhter W/o Late Gulla Mir R/o Awoora Pahalgam amko

Public Notice

I have lost my Provisional certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Girls Higher Secondary Institute Magam Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Samiya Bashir D/o Bashir Ahmad Khan Class 12th Roll No: 32403243 FKO

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my aadhar card bearing no 230817679171 as Shaheena while my correct name is Mubeena which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned Adhaar Centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. MUBEENA jvd

Public Notice

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 297175949090 from Showkat Manzoor To Aqib Manzoor .If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned Adhaar Centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. AQIB MANZOOR jvd

TOURISM DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DODHPATHRI DEV. AUTHORITY

Out-sourcing of "Operation Management" 02 Nos double bedroom Igloo huts and 02 Nos of single bedroom wooden huts on "As Is Where Is Basis" at Dodhpathri (hutment 1st) with single room of Chowkidar quarter at hutment area, J&K for a period of 03+ 02 years through GeM Portal.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e - bids are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing the "Operation Management "of 02 Nos double bedroom Igloo huts and 02 Nos of single bedroom wooden huts at Dodhpathri (hutment 1st), with single room of chowkidar quarter for a period of 03 + 02years through GeM Portal. The details are as under:-

Table with columns: S.No, Particulars, Date/Amount, Remarks. Includes PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date, PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date, PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date & Time, EMD Start Date, EMD End Date, EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR, Bid Submission/Auction Start Date, Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time, Reserve Bid Amount for 02 Nos double bedroom igloo huts and 02 Nos of single bedroom wooden huts.

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM PORTAL)

- 1. The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC)/Police Station or alternatively copy of a valid Passport.
2. The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.
3. The interested bidder can download the bidding document from the online GeM Portal.
4. Before submission of bids on GeM Portal, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
5. The bidder shall have to upload self-attested CST Registration Certificate on the name and title of bid.
6. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted on GeM Portal.
7. The bidder (before submitting the bids for wooden huts and igloo huts) shall have to upload Certificate of Registration for Hotel or Restaurant if any duly issued by the Tourism Department under J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act and / or Relevant qualification (Degree / Diploma / Certificate course) in the hospitality sector and / or having experience in the Hospitality sector with documentary proof be uploaded.

DIPK-NB-3212/24 dated: 18-01-2025

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer Dodhpathri Dev. Authority

Youth Set Up Free Islamic Book Stall

Agencies

Srinagar: As the afternoon began, the atmosphere around the historical clock tower (Ghanta Ghar) turned pious with a group of young and energetic youth gaining attention opposite the clock tower with their unique stall, and a burqa-clad girl holding a poster that read, "Free Knowledge For Akhirat."

Standing on one side of the road, Hinna Manzoor, a resident of Karan Nagar Srinagar, and one of the girls from the group, said she is a scholar herself and is memorizing the Qur'an.

She added that her aim in setting up such a stall and distributing Qur'an and free Islamic books is to spread religion among all.

On the other side of the road and opposite the famous clock tower of Srinagar, a free Qur'an and Islamic books distribution stall was set up by a group of girls and boys from Srinagar.

Among the stall holders, the girls were burqa-clad, and one was holding a banner with the words "Free Knowledge for Akhirat" written on it.

One of the girls in the group, introducing herself as Hinna Manzoor, said the aim of setting up such a stall in Lal Chowk Srinagar is to spread "Islam



KO Photo Abid bhat

Public Smokers Face Police Action At Lal Chowk

Agencies

Srinagar: With police action underway, Lal Chowk was highly charged with energy as the Srinagar police continued its drive against individuals found smoking in public places.

The Saturday afternoon in the commercial hub Lal Chowk witnessed a police crackdown on smoking in public places and its violators.

The anti-smoking drive was initiated by the Srinagar police in and around the commercial hub of Lal Chowk and was conducted under the supervision of the Kothi Bagh Police Station.

The drive was conducted at several locations, including the Clock Tower, MA Road, TRC Srinagar, Pratap Park Srinagar, and other areas, and was carried out by the concerned Kothi Bagh police station.

The Station House Officer (SHO) Kothi Bagh, Manzoor Ahmad, speaking on the sidelines of the anti-smoking drive, said that the drive is being conducted in the heart of Lal Chowk, Srinagar,

under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). The COTPA, 2003, is an Act of the "Parliament of India," enacted to prohibit advertisements and regulate the trade, production, supply, and distribution of cigarettes and other tobacco products in India.

The drive was carried out in and around the commercial hub of Lal Chowk. Locals, pedestrians, and tourists found violating the law were also fined.

A local shopper of Lal Chowk Srinagar, as speaking regarding this drive said, a lot of custom-

Fire Engulfs Residential Building In Batamaloo

Agencies

Srinagar: An upper portion of a four-story residential house was engulfed in flames in SD Colony, Batamaloo area of Srinagar late Saturday evening, officials said.

An official said that Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) teams rushed

to the spot and managed to douse the fire, preventing it from spreading to nearby structures.

The upper wooden portion of 4 story residential house was damaged, official said.

No casualties or injuries have been reported in the incident. (JKNS)

Police Seeks Public Support In Eradicating Drug Menace

Agencies

Srinagar: The district Police Srinagar Saturday appealed for public cooperation to tackle the growing drug menace in the city.

The police sought help to build a united front against drug dealers and peddlers to make neighborhoods safer and drug-free, while promising the anonymity of information providers.

Srinagar police shared that residents of Srinagar are encouraged to share any confidential information related to drug-related activities.

"The District Police has set up a dedicated helpline for this purpose, available daily from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM," the details read. It also mentioned that for any information, citizens can contact the police via Call/WhatsApp at 9596770550. The police assured that the identity of those sharing information will remain strictly confidential.

"Together, we can make a difference and protect future generations from the devastating effects of drugs," the District Police Srinagar emphasized in a statement. This initiative seeks to engage the community in creating a healthier, safer society for all.

Moreover, Asim Khan, a local

resident, speaking on the issue, said the drug problem has been growing rapidly in our neighborhood. "I believe with the police and the public working together, we can bring an end to this menace. We need to stand united to protect our children and youth," he said.

Sahil, another local, said it is encouraging to see the police reaching out for our support. "I have witnessed firsthand how drugs destroy families. I hope people come forward and help put an end to this issue that has been harming our community for too long," he said—(KNO)

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
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- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
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- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR

18 Rajab
1446

FAJR: 6:08
ZUHR: 12:38
ASR: 4:09
Magrib: 5:52
ISHA: 7:16

This Day In History

- 379 - Theodosius installed as co-emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire
- 1419 - French city of Rouen surrenders to Henry V in Hundred Years War
- 1493 - France cedes Roussillon & Cerdagne to Spain by treaty of Barcelona
- 1511 - Italian city Mirandola surrenders to the French Republic. Establishes British rule in South Africa.
- 1795 - Democratic revolution in Amsterdam ends oligarchy
- 1806 - United Kingdom re-occupies the Cape of Good Hope following victory in the Battle of Blaauwberg over French vassal, the Batavian Republic.
- 1808 Louis Napoleon signs 1st Dutch aviation law
- 1812 - Peninsular War: After a ten day siege, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, orders British soldiers of the Light and third divisions to storm Ciudad Rodrigo
- 1883 - The first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, begins service at Roselle, New Jersey.
- 1885 - Battle of Abu Klea, Sudan, between the British Desert Column and Mahdist forces: 76 British and 1,100 Mahdists killed
- 1899 - Anglo-Egyptian Sudan forms
- 1903 - 1st regular transatlantic radio broadcast between US & England
- 1922 - Geological survey says US oil supply would be depleted in 20 years
- 1927 - British government decides to send troops to China
- 1938 - General Motors begins mass production of diesel engines
- 1941 - British offensive in Eritrea
- 1941 - British troops occupies Kassalaf, Sudan
- 1942 - Japanese forces invade Burma
- 1943 - 1st Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins
- 1957 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test
- 1960 - Eisenhower & Premier Kishi sign US-Japanese Security pact
- 1966 - Indira Gandhi elected India's 4th Prime Minister.

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_1_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	(ii) S&T work in connection with Provision of IBS between Shri Mata vaishno devi katra and Chakanwahal (single line) of Jammu Division.	Tender closing Date Time	06/02/2025 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Corrigendum of Tender	16/01/2025 11:53
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(iii) 10069436.86	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	23/01/2025		
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(iii) 200400.00	Period of Completion	(ii) 06 Months		

Tender Notice No: 433_Sig_JAT_1_24_25 Date: - 16/01/2025
Closing Date/Time: 06/02/2025 15:00

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of HANIYA FAROOQ D/O FAROOQ AHMAD MIR R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 09/03 /2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

fko Executive Magistrate 1st Class kreeri

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: - Application of Manzoor Ahmad Ganaie S/o Abdul Rashid Ganaie R/o Authoora. Reshipora for 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 115000/= (One Lakh and Fifteen 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	Manzoor Ahmad Ganaie	Self	26	Labour	
2	Nisara Begum	Mother	59	Housewife	
3	Zamrooda Bano	Sister	30	Housewife	
4	Rayees Ahmad Ganaie	Brother	20	Student	
5	Mehvish Rasheed	Sister	17	Student	
6	Adnan Rasheed	Brother	14	Student	

It is further submitted that Manzoor Ahmad Ganaie S/o Abdul Rashid Ganaie is labour by profession and is sole earning hand in the said family. The applicant needs income Dependent certificate for Marriage Assistance in favour of his sister Zamrooda Bano and siblings namely Rayees Ahmad Ganaie, Mehvish Rasheed and Adnan Rasheed for scholarship purpose.

The applicant has applied for issuance of Income Dependent certificate. As such the instant matter is published through newspaper, if anyone is having any kind of objection, He/she may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice. After passing of Stipulated time of 7 Days), No objections will be entertained.

fko Naib Tehsildar

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT URI
Email-id: cdpoicdsuri14@gmail.com

Subject: Extension of Advertisement Notice.

Due to poor response of the advertisement notice No:-02-CDPO URI OF 2025, Dated:-02-01-2025 for submission of application forms for the post of Anganwadi Helpers of below mentioned locations is hereby extended up to **25-01-2025**. Applications on prescribed proforma are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards/Municipal Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas/Municipal Wards, for the engagement of **Sahayikas (AWHs)** for the Anganwadi Centre of POSHAN Project Uri on "**Honorarium basis**". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of undersigned i.e. the Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Uri near Toll Post Lagama by or before: **25-01-2025** against proper receipt.

S.No	District	Project	Name of Panchayat	Vacancy of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers)	
				Panch/MC Ward No.	Name of Anganwadi Centre
01			M. C Uri	09	Begh Mohalla Uri
02			Mohara	03	Bathar Mohara
03			Madanan	04	Korali
04	Baramulla	URI	Gohalan	06	Chotti Gohalan
05			Bugna	07	Khan Mohalla Bugna
06			Muqampeeran	05	Ahanger Mohalla Kathal
07			M. C Uri	10	Jamia Mohalla Uri Town

Further the terms and conditions as laid down in the earlier advertisement notice published in Newspaper **Kashmir Monitor, Roshni and Ilhaaq on 03-01-2025** shall remain same.

DIPK-11018/24
dated: 18-01-2025

Sd/-
Child Dev. Project Officer
Poshan Uri

No:-CDPO/POSHAN/Adv/2024/ 793-804

From KO Archives

Police Detect 150 Fake Finance Companies In J&K

Rajinder Singh

Jammu: The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir police has detected 150 fake finance companies operating in the state allegedly without any registration from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These have defrauded gullible depositors to the tune of Rs 80 crore. Cases have been registered against 40 such allegedly fake companies, mostly in Jammu involving over 200 accused.

Disclosing this to Kashmir Observer, the inspector general of police, crime and railways, Masood Chaudhary, said over 99 per cent of the companies were fake and had defrauded people mostly from rural areas in the name of higher interest on their deposits. Most of these operators are believed to have gone abroad along with their families while some of them have declared themselves bankrupt and closed down their companies.

Chaudhary said the cases were registered on receipt of complaints from the affected people. A special team of senior police officials, headed by the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, crime and railways, Prem Kumar, has been constituted to investigate the cases. He said some of the accused have been apprehended while some more were likely to be arrested shortly.

In the absence of more stringent laws, Chaudhary said, police were finding it difficult to intervene in the matter. It can take action only after a formal complaint is received. Some of the accused had defrauded the depositors to the tune of Rs 10 crore to Rs 15 crore. He said some special teams had been rushed to places like Mumbai and other major cities across the country to apprehend the culprits.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 19 JANUARY, 2001)

Synchronizing elections may exacerbate governance disruptions during the electoral period. Government resources, which should be allocated to public service delivery, often get diverted toward election-related activities. A unified election cycle would intensify this diversion, potentially hampering developmental initiatives and public welfare programs



One Nation One Election

Federalism in Jeopardy

Ummar Jamal

On December 17, 2024, the Lok Sabha witnessed a significant legislative move with the introduction of two key bills: the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws Amendment Bill, 2024. In a division vote, 269 members supported the bill's introduction, while 196 opposed it. These bills seek to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipal bodies, and panchayats within 100 days of general elections, as recommended by a High-Level Committee (HLC).

The opposition voiced strong reservations, labeling the initiative an "assault" on the Basic Structure of the Constitution. Following which, Union Ministers Amit Shah and Arjun Ram Meghwal had suggested referring the bills to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for scrutiny. The JPC will have 90 days to review the bills however, it may request for an extension.

Historical Context of Simultaneous Elections in India

India's tryst with simultaneous elections is not new. The country's first general elections, held between October 25, 1951, and February 21, 1952, marked the initiation of a unified electoral process, wherein Lok Sabha and state assembly elections were conducted simultaneously. The elections were conducted over a span of 100 days, reflecting the logistical complexity of managing a nation as vast and diverse as India.

However, the model faced challenges early on. The reorganization

of states and the premature dissolution of many state assemblies disrupted the synchronicity of elections. Although efforts were made to sustain this system, with simultaneous elections held in 1957, 1962, and 1967, the dissolution of the Lok Sabha in 1970 and subsequent state-level disruptions led to the eventual fragmentation of this practice. By 1971, the unified electoral process had given way to staggered elections, driven by internal and external political complexities.

The Push for 'One Nation, One Election' under Modi

After a protracted hiatus, the idea of simultaneous elections has re-emerged in contemporary Indian politics, particularly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his 2019 Independence Day address, PM Modi highlighted the growing support for this initiative, drawing parallels with the successful implementation of the Goods

and Services Tax (GST), branded as 'one nation, one tax.' He reiterated the need for synchronized elections during discussions with political leaders in June 2019 and emphasized its relevance during his address to the All India Presiding Officers in November 2020.

According to PM Modi, the frequent cycle of elections hampers governance by imposing recurring administrative and financial burdens. As per him, the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections often delays developmental projects, leading to escalated costs. In January 2022, Modi reaffirmed his support for 'One Nation, One Election,' arguing that a unified electoral system could streamline governance and reduce the disruptions caused by perpetual election cycles.

Federalism in jeopardy

India's federal structure is characterized by its rich diversity, encompassing a multitude of political,

cultural, and linguistic landscapes. Each state has its unique set of priorities and issues, often addressed more effectively by regional parties. A synchronized electoral process risks marginalizing these regional voices, as national-level narratives may overshadow state-specific concerns. This could lead to a homogenized political discourse, undermining the pluralistic ethos of Indian democracy.

One of the primary criticisms of 'One Nation, One Election' is the potential for centralizing power at the national level. By aligning state and national elections, the influence of state governments in shaping localized policies could diminish. This centralization might erode the autonomy of state governments, challenging the principles of federalism and democratic decentralization enshrined in the Constitution.

Challenges and Concerns

Conducting simultaneous elections across a country as vast as In-

dia poses significant logistical challenges. The Election Commission would require an extensive overhaul of its infrastructure, including the procurement of additional electronic voting machines (EVMs) and the expansion of polling stations. Ensuring adequate security and administrative support during such a large-scale electoral exercise would strain existing resources and necessitate substantial financial investment.

The experience of Indonesia's unified elections in 2019 serves as a cautionary tale. Voters faced long lists of candidates, leading to higher rates of ballot errors and voter fatigue. A similar scenario in India could confuse voters, diminishing the quality of electoral participation and potentially suppressing turnout.

Synchronizing elections may exacerbate governance disruptions during the electoral period. Government resources, which should be allocated to public service delivery, often get diverted toward election-related activities. A unified election cycle would intensify this diversion, potentially hampering developmental initiatives and public welfare programs.

Moreover, political parties may manipulate the timing of state elections to coincide with favorable national cycles, prioritizing political strategy over governance and local issues. This could undermine the democratic principle of accountability, shifting the focus from performance-based governance to election-driven politics.

Tail piece:

The proposition of "One Nation, One Election" is politically impractical, administratively complex, and constitutionally unsound. Politically, it assumes consensus among diverse political parties with varying regional and ideological interests, but regional political parties have discarded this idea. They view simultaneous elections as undermining their local agendas and electoral prominence.

Administratively, managing logistics for conducting Lok Sabha and state assembly elections together across 28 states and 8 Union Territories is a colossal challenge. Issues like varying electoral terms, dissolution of assemblies, and election preparedness at different levels further complicate the proposition.

Constitutionally, the idea undermines the federal structure enshrined in the Constitution by diluting state autonomy over legislative timelines. Altering assembly tenures or dissolving legislatures prematurely strikes at the heart of federalism.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The Author is a columnist and National President of J&K Students Association. He tweets at ummar_jamal and can be reached at ummarjamal968@gmail.com

Social Media as It Should Be

If our traditional media landscape featured only a couple of outlets that each flouted the public interest, we would not think twice about using every available tool to foster media pluralism. There is no reason to accept in social media and search what we would not tolerate in legacy media

Robin Berjon

Mathematician Cathy O'Neil once said that an algorithm is nothing more than someone's opinion embedded in code. When we speak of "the algorithms" that power Facebook, X, TikTok, YouTube, or Google Search, we are really talking about choices made by their owners about what information we, as users, should see. In these cases, "algorithm" is just a fancy name for an editorial line. Each outlet has a process of sourcing, filtering, and ranking information that is structurally identical to the editorial work carried out in media – except that it is largely automated.

This automated editorial process, far more than its analog counterpart, is concentrated in the hands of billionaires and monopolies. Moreover, it has contributed to a well-documented list of social ills, including large-scale disinformation, political polarization and extremism, negative mental-health impacts, and the defunding of journalism. Worse, social-media moguls are now doubling down, seizing the opportunity of a regulation-free operating environment under Donald Trump to roll back content-moderation programs.

But regulation alone is not enough, as Europe has discovered. If our traditional media landscape featured only a couple of outlets that each flouted the public interest, we would not think twice about using every available tool to foster media pluralism. There is no reason to accept in social media and search what we would not tolerate in legacy media.

Fortunately, alternatives are emerging.

Bluesky, a younger social-media platform that recently surpassed 26 million users, was built for pluralism: anyone can create a feed based on any algorithm they choose, and anyone can subscribe to it. For users, this opens many different windows onto the world, and people can also choose their sources of content moderation to fit their preferences. Bluesky does not use your data to profile you for advertisers, and if you decide you no longer like the platform, you can move your data and followers to another provider without any disruption.

Bluesky's potential does not stop there. The product is based on an open protocol, which means anyone can build on top of the underlying technology to create their own feeds or even entirely new social applications. While Bluesky created a Twitter-like microblogging app on this protocol, the same infrastructure can be used to run alternatives to Instagram or TikTok, or to create totally novel services – all without users having to create new accounts.

In this emerging digital world, known as "the ATmosphere" (so named for the underlying AT Protocol), people have begun creating social apps for everything from recipe sharing and book reviews to long-form blogging. And owing to the diversity of feeds and tools that enable communities or third parties to collaborate on content moderation, it will be much harder for harassment and disinformation campaigns to gain traction.

One can compare an open protocol to public roads and related infrastructure. They follow certain parameters but permit a great variety of creative uses. The road network can convey freight or

tourists, and be used by cars, buses, or trucks. We might decide collectively to give more of it to public transportation, and it generally requires only minimal adjustments to accommodate electric cars, bikes, and even vehicles that had not been invented when most of it was built, such as electric scooters.

An open protocol that is operated as public infrastructure has comparable properties: our feeds are free to encompass any number of topics, reflecting any number of opinions. We can tap into social-media channels specialized for knitting, bird watching, or book piles, or for more general news consumption. We can decide how our posts may or may not be used to train AI models, and we can ensure that the protocol is collectively governed, rather than being at the mercy of some billionaire's dictatorial whims. Nobody wants to drive on a road where the fast lane is reserved for Cybertrucks and the far right.

"Open social media," as it is known, provides the opportunity to realize the internet's original promise: user agency, not billionaire control. It is also a key component of national security. Many countries are now grappling with the reality that their critical digital infrastructure – social, search, commerce, advertising, browsers, operating systems, and more – is subordinated to foreign, increasingly hostile, corporations.

But even open protocols can become subject to corporate capture and manipulation. Bluesky itself will certainly have to contend with the usual forms of pressure from venture capitalists. As its CTO, Paul Frazee, points out, every profit-driven social-media company "is a future adversary" of its own

users, since it will come under pressure to prioritize profits over users' welfare. "That's why we did this whole thing, so other apps could replace us if/when it happens."

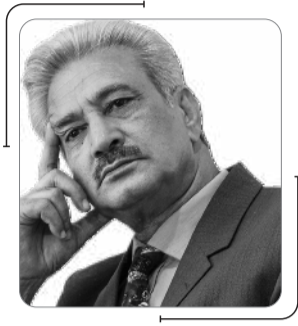
Infrastructure may be privately provided, but it can be properly governed only by its stakeholders – openly and democratically. For this reason, we must all set our minds on building institutions that can govern a new, truly social digital infrastructure. That is why I have joined other technology and governance experts to launch the Atlas Project, a foundation whose mission is to establish open, independent social-media governance, and to foster a rich ecosystem of new applications on top of the shared "AT Protocol." Our goal is to become a countervailing force that can durably support social media operated in the public interest. Our launch is accompanied by the release of an open letter signed by high-profile Bluesky users such as the actor Mark Ruffalo and renowned figures in technology and academia such as Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales and Shoshana Zuboff.

There is nothing esoteric about our digital predicaments. Despite the technology industry's claims, social media is media, and it should be held to the same standards we expect from traditional outlets. Digital infrastructure is infrastructure, and it should be governed in the public interest.

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

LAMA-DANCE-DRAMA

— in the context of Ancient Theatre



S. Sarwar Malik
(sarwar.ms@gmail.com)

Surely the contribution of Jayadeva; the 18th century singer-poet [- who authored Geet-Govinda; the opera cum ballet on the love-tale of lord Krishna & cowherd maidens], can't be denied but prior to 7th century, great dramatists existed in India. Kalidasa and Bhavabuti, for example; to name only few. The former contributed plays like *Abhinjana-Shukuntala*; inspired by a story in the Mahabharata and the latter created *Mahavira-charita*; as well as *utter-Rama-Charita*; both based on the epic Ramayana. Ultimately *Natya-Shastra* came up in this land of ours.

It is this treatise that laid all chief elements like dance, music, characterisation, acting, gestures, costuming, dramatic construction, theatrical practices, stage-craft, architecture etc.

Ancient Indian theatre was performed in temples by priests wherein classification, viz *Nayika*, *Nayak*, *Vidushaka* (-jester), *Sutradhaar* (-stage-manager cum narrator), is believed to have existed. In later stages, under royal patronage, drama developed as professional actors polished their acting skills (-*abhinaya*). By 7th century and surely before 10th century Great Theatre developed fully in India. After a lull, Indian theatre is again said to have been enriched, from 14th century to 18th century, by the folk theatre of India e.g. *Bhavai* of Gujrat, *kuti-yattam* *Jatra* of Bengal, *kathakali* of Kerala & *Swang* of Haryana/ UP and *Yakshagana* (-puppet show) of Karnataka. I can sense readers are, just like me, reminded of the *Baad* *Paetherr* of Kashmir; while the fallen-curtain of my eye-lids conjures the faces of M.L. Kemmu & Subhan Bhagat (...and few others); the known figures of our folk theatre.

Indian theatre, both Sanskrit and Prakrit dated back to BC; of course initially, in rudimentary forms like earliest dialogue-hymns, that later flowered in the shape of Dance-Dramas-cum Story-recitation; encompassing dramatic

narration, dance and music with featured textual, dramatic effects later.

It has to be accepted that music, dance and drama had gained popularity in India during 11-14 centuries AD. Thus the existence of Theatre- Enclosures, *Natak Mandapa*, in Hindu Temples that served as an important adjunct -used as a community-centre as well as place of worship, proves that theatre- tradition in India existed, almost, from antiquity. Some writers state that in THE INDIAN MYTHOLOGICAL PLAYS of rural India 'Ritualistic -Worship' or 'Obeisance (*Ranga-Puja*), 'Introductory Verses, Music & Dance' (*Purva Ranga*) was performed prior to the main performance, in front of the 'Holy Altar'. Masks- made of papier-mache, wood, clay etc were also used often. Imagine the performance proceeding at a leisurely pace.... music, dance and gestures accompanying....with interlude by 'Clown' (*Vidushaka*).

In the whole Himalayan area rich traditions of Monastery Dramas are said to have evolved.

Tibet had its share of formalised folk dance among sedentary agriculturists. Folk tales about legendary cum historical heroes and Buddhist Canonical Literature of Tibet could be the source of *ache-lhamo*; The Morality Plays of Tibet in which masks were used. Patron saint, also known as 'Mad Yogi', Thongton Gyalpo is said to have realised, through his Tibetan Opera style (*Lhamo*), that dramatised religious teachings had greater influence. The **Buddhist Jatakas** (written from 6th to 2nd century BC), also called 'The Birth Stories', are morally instructive stories in whose dramatisation main characters, often, are 'animals'. The *Natas* that are said to be mentioned in Jataka Books were wandering ministerial. Later, tropes associated with village monasteries performed in the plays when gradually the dictum 'forbidding music & dance (for entertainment) to monks' was diluted by time.

Out of many great figures of the Buddhist world, the one that I would like to mention here is: *Asvaghosha*, [-probably of 1st century AD; -- considered as the greatest expounder cum systematiser of The Mahayana School of Buddhism (*Teg-pa-Chenpo*); who was the first proponent of the 'Shuniya Theory' (*Stongpa-nyid*) and rendered commentaries of the *Mahayana* scriptures], is said to have written, around 1st Century AD, Lyrical Poems, out of which the Tibetan lyrical dramatic pieces, > Poesy, is



said to have evolved. Nonetheless one should be open to the idea that Indian & Tibetan theatre might have been mutually benefited.

Now let us move to the wider canvas.

It is true, centuries before the birth of Lord Christ, the theatre of Athens; revolving round GREEK MYTHOLOGY was played in open-air-theatres wherein costumes, voice, gestures and masks, etc were employed, and in which genres like tragedy, comedy, satyr existed. In Greek theatre not only one hears about great playwrights like *Aeschylus* (-Prometheus Bound), *Sophocles* (-The Oedipus Trilogy), *Euripedes* (-Hercules) etc but quite interestingly it is said in the city of Dionysia (Athens), during the Dionysiac spring festival, rituals performed were accompanied by chorus, music & dance; and metrical spoken words were employed in the Phallic-songs. Above all, ponder on the name of the Roman god of theatre, *Dionysos*.

Roman theatre too has a history of its own and it is said we owe pantomime to Romans. It is of great interest to me that in ROMAN MYTHOLOGY the chief -god Jupiter, Lord of Heaven & Earth, sky & thunder, (*Brahaspati* in Sanskrit ; biggest planet in our solar system), is said to have figured in some post-

plague- pacification- ritualistic Roman plays. Anyway, forcing my thoughts back to Athens, dear readers, it is contended that the Greeks influenced Roman as well as Hellenistic theatre. Some EXAGGERATEDLY OPINE , THOUGH UNPROVEN, THAT GREEKS, around Alexander's time, even contributed towards ancient Indian theatre. Yet it is apt to remember that around 315BC King Chandra Gupta droved out Seleukus(- the Greek ruler of Indus province); married his sister, whereby was born, Ashoka Vardhana Piyadasi [- the great propagator of Buddhism; whose empire included Kashmir as well. Around 150 BC Kashmir came under the rule of Greek Meander, who, it is believed, became a Buddhist; coins of Meander exist in SPS Museum of Srinagar, if my memory serves me right]. True, the role of Greek theatre in modern theatre round the globe cannot be denied; including in British India of post-1860; as well as 20th century theatre.

Ladakh is the living repository of a form of Buddhism, popularly called *Lamaism* and it is a land of living, soaring monasteries, *Gompas*. As is well known the Prince of Sakya tribe of the mini-republic of Kapilvastu (-now in Nepal), Lord Siddhartha Gautama Buddha; (named by some as 'Yuna

Thundop'), attained *Pari-nirvana* at *Bodhi Gaya*, India, in 6th century BC and bequeathed the world a 'religion', called Buddhism; that over the time came to be known as *Lamaism* in Tibet/Ladakh.

It is also well known that as per the census of 2011 Buddhists of Ladakh and Kargil together constitute 40% of the total population of this erstwhile province of J&K ; 1.09 lakhs out of 2.7lakhs persons.

LAMA DANCE DRAMAS PERFORMED IN THE GOMPAS of Ladakh, chiefly on different festival days, are, almost in their entirety an import from Tibet but in all probability it must have originated in the Pre-Buddhist-Devil-Dancing-Cult of *Bon-chos* and Chinese opera may have exerted some influence but undeniably the structure of the **Tibetan-Dance-Drama** according to many writers is said to be of **Indian origin**; the benediction at the beginning of the play, before the Buddhist Altar; the dance of the 'Six Singers of Good Wishes' (-*bkra-shis-zhol-pa*) wearing the mask of the hunter (*rngon-pa*). But the make up, the formalised gestures and the 'minor' parts seem closer to Chinese Opera.

In The Dance-Dramas-of -Ladakh that are called *Jel-bagkh* or *cham*, the order of appearance of the characters, the steps and gestures, together with the passages in ritual text; corresponding to

the successive phases of mime, are laid down in the dance script called *cham-yig*.

The Buddhist Priests/ Monks *Lamas* reserve to themselves the exclusive right to act in these mystery plays; masquerading in quaint attire, with dramatic display and droll **masked dances in the Gompas** -complex/courtyard.

The *Lama Dance Dramas*, presented for the edification of the faithful, is the sacred drama of **religious nature**; illustrating in adapted form, the famous Buddhist Birth Stories i.e ' Buddha's previous lives as animals in which he practised COMPASSION; *karuna*; *Snyingrje*, (- « such as the Visvantara and Sudhana Jatakas»)- tales about former lives of saints; about the triumph of **Gurus** like Padma-Sambhava; killing of enemies like *Langdharma* (-devil with horn; historic enemy of Buddhists), stories of Black-Hat-Dancers (*zhwanags*) with aprons of bones & brocades; portrayal of **demons & devils and deities** encountered within the 'intermediate state between death and next life' (*bar-do*) or on the way to heaven'. The characters are identifiable by their **masks** e.g. Stag (*Sa-ba*), Lion (*Sen-ge*), Tiger (*tschan*) or by peculiar clothes like Skeleton Clothes of The Graveyard Ghoul (*Tur*). Storyline of the plays, chiefly, is the victory of good over evil.

But Pre-Buddhist fables also figure.

These masked dances are artistic creations, masterpieces of production and choreography. In masks where the grotesque or terrifying may seem expressionistic to us, we only have to deal with the codified iconography which has settled the actual appearance of the figures of the pantheon once and for all.

To conclude let me reiterate an interesting information: Experts say, that the early reflection of complete drama, is evident in NAGANANDA; the most acclaimed five act play of 7th century, attributed to King Harsha Vardhana (- ruled from 606-648 AD) , belongs to Buddhist tradition; and is based on an enlightening Buddhist legend; with invocation to Lord Buddha, is said to be in Sanskrit language.

The contributor is a penman and columnist, who has spent some years in the pursuit of Ladakh-studies. In Sept 2024, his poetry collection, titled CRIES OF THE THORN BIRD, was published

Fireside Unity

Winter Tradition in My Village, Gadole

Bashir Ahmad Dar

Nestled in the lap of gigantic mountains, crisscrossed by a gentle nallah at the front and served by a 14-foot-wide macadamized road, my village, Gadole, is situated 12 kilometers from the Tehsil headquarters in Kokernag and 40 kilometers from the district headquarters in Anantnag. The village comprises two distinct sections: Gadole Payeen (Bon Gadole), characterized by densely packed houses and apple orchards, and Gadole Bala (Her Gadole), marked by sparse and unplanned housing.

According to the 2011 census, the village spans 690.8 hectares, with 1,612 houses built on the land. Although the number of houses has increased significantly since then, the village remains home to 12,540 inhabitants, known for their simplicity, honesty, and authenticity.

While modernization has undoubtedly impacted local culture, I firmly believe that certain traditional aspects continue to thrive. One such enduring custom is the evening gathering around a roadside fire, where locals come together to share stories and warmth from a humble tin fire pot.

Every year, with the onset

of winter and snowfall, the men of our village gather at the Herm-adda, near the erstwhile upper bus stop, to warm up and socialize. As the cold reaches its peak and work slows down, they congregate in the evenings, huddling around



Thus, the humble tin pot transcends its practical purpose to become a powerful symbol of unity and togetherness for our villagers. Its warm flames foster a sense of synergy and harmony, bridging gaps and healing rifts. Even those who may have been at odds just moments before find themselves reunited, as if their differences had never existed



a fire burning in a tin pot.

Though the fire ignites in the tin pot with the onset of Chilla-kalan, the preparation for the tin fire and congregation begins much earlier, in late November or early December. First, fuel is collected and hoarded at a previously selected place. Care is taken to ensure that the fuel remains dry and protected from moisture.

The fuel for the fire is creatively sourced from discarded

materials, including scrapped paper sheets, tattered remnants of worn-out clothes, fabric scraps from tailors, dried leaves, straw, and dried twigs and branches. Once the necessary amount of fuel is gathered, a tin pot approximately 3 feet in height, 2 feet in length, and 2 feet in width is carefully chosen and modified to suit the occasion. The tin pot is then stored away with the fuel.

When it finally snows and the branches of trees sag under its weight, the cold intensifies. The world looks white, serene, and silent. People are caged inside the beautiful white bars. The water freezes and turns into gigantic white sugar cubes, which are slippery like the skin of fish. Paths become dangerous pistes. As the evening chill intensifies and the mercury plummets, the local male folk converge

at the designated gathering spot. The tin pot and fuel are brought forth, lit, and ignited, casting a warm glow over the assembly. The rising smoke dances and serves as a beacon, inviting stragglers to join the gathering.

As the fire crackles, flames dance, and embers glow, the attendees lose themselves in the warmth and camaraderie. Time loses its weight. The surroundings reek of fire, flames, smoke, warmth, love, and laughter. The members, as listless as lumps of dough, become mesmerized. Their faces glow as they engage in lively discussions. Diverse themes emerge and engage the congregation, ranging from politics, religion, science, and farming to spring, love, wars, orchards, books, and folklore. Conversations flow effortlessly, and the relaxed atmosphere encourages open sharing of thoughts.

Attendees speak their hearts out, sharing their deepest joys and sorrows. They seek help, offer support, and extend helping hands to one another. This fosters an unshakable sense of oneness and weaves them together in a tapestry of empathy, sympathy, and unity.

Meanwhile, the younger folk in the crowd secretly whisper about the latest Bollywood

releases, while mentioning a Hollywood movie is considered shameful. People here are so simple that, to them, every English movie contains some explicit content. Jokes can be cracked, but they must remain polite and respectful. Lewd humor is strictly forbidden, and uttering such jokes may lead to ostracism from the gathering. This directly fosters a refined culture of healthy values and good principles.

Thus, the humble tin pot transcends its practical purpose to become a powerful symbol of unity and togetherness for our villagers. Its warm flames foster a sense of synergy and harmony, bridging gaps and healing rifts. Even those who may have been at odds just moments before find themselves reunited, as if their differences had never existed. The tin pot's magic lies in its ability to bring people together, reminding us that community and social connection are the greatest warmth of all.

May the fire of the tin pot continue to burn bright, and may it serve as a beacon of unity and harmony for generations to come.

The author is a teacher and can be reached at darbashir1234321@gmail.com

Centre to hold meeting with protesting farmers on Feb 14; Dallewal takes medical aid

Chandigarh, Jan 18 : The Centre will hold a meeting with Punjab's protesting farmers on February 14 in Chandigarh to discuss their demands, thus ending a stalemate over the resumption of a dialogue with the agitators, who have been demanding a legal guarantee on the MSP for crops.

Following the announcement of the proposed meeting, farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, whose fast-unto-death entered the 54th day on Saturday, agreed to take medical aid.

However, he will not end his indefinite fast till a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP) for crops is given, said farmer leader Sukhjot Singh Hardejhande.

Later, pictures showing Dallewal taking medical aid with an intravenous drip were released by the farmers.

The breakthrough came after a delegation of officials from the Union agriculture ministry, led by Joint Secretary Priya Ranjan, met Dallewal and held a meeting with the representatives of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and KMM Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), which are spearheading the agitation

for the last 11 months. Following the announcement of the meeting on February 14, farmer leaders appealed to Dallewal to take medical aid so that he can participate in the proposed deliberations.

The Centre's delegation also urged Dallewal to take medical aid so that he can participate in the proposed meeting, which will take place at the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration at Chandigarh at 5 pm on February 14.

Talking to reporters at the Khanauri protest site, Ranjan said a high-level delegation was sent by the Centre, keeping in mind the deteriorating health of Dallewal.

"We enquired about his health and held a meeting with the representatives (of the protesting farmer bodies)," he said. Ranjan said the meeting will be held in Chandigarh on February 14.

"We urged him (Dallewal) to break his fast and take medical aid, so that he can participate in the meeting," he said.

A letter addressed to Dallewal, SKM (Non-Political) and KMM read: "This is in continuation of the previous meeting with the



leaders of SKM (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), which was held on February 15, 2024 at Chandigarh.

"A meeting with the ministers of the government of India and the Punjab government regarding the demands of the farmers' unions has been convened on February 14, 2025 (5 pm) at the

Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration Punjab (MGSIPA), Sector-26, Chandigarh. You are cordially invited to the meeting, please attend at the scheduled time.

We hope that Dallewal will soon end his fast, recover and join the discussion," said the letter written by Ranjan.

Four rounds of meetings had taken place between Union ministers and the protesting farmers on February 8, 12, 15 and 18 last year, but the talks remained inconclusive.

Earlier in the day, the farmers protesting at the Khanauri and Shambhu border points between Punjab and Haryana said

they have received a proposal from the central government which they will discuss.

The Centre's delegation held meetings with the representatives of both the forums.

A Punjab government team led by retired additional director general of police Jaskaran Singh and former deputy inspector general of police Narinder Bhargava, who were holding discussions with the farmer leaders, was also present.

According to farmer leader Abhimanyu Kohar, officials have said February 14 has been fixed for the meeting as Assembly polls are due in Delhi and the Model Code of Conduct will be in force in the capital till February 9.

When the Model Code of Conduct is in force, no government can make any announcement, Kohar said.

Sharing details about Dallewal's health, Kohar said the farmer leader was unable to take water and had been vomiting. Doctors have warned that anything could happen to Dallewal, he added.

Before agreeing to take medical aid, Dallewal had asked the farmer leaders to take consent

from the 121 farmers who were also on an indefinite fast.

A few days ago, a group of 111 farmers and later, 10 more farmers sat on a fast-unto-death in solidarity with Dallewal.

Dallewal, who is the convener of the SKM (Non-Political), has been on the indefinite hunger strike at the Khanauri border point since November 26 last year in support of various demands, including a legal guarantee on the MSP for crops.

Farmers had said Dallewal had not eaten anything since November 26 last year and was just surviving on water.

Farmer leaders on Thursday said Dallewal has lost about 20-kg weight during his fast-unto-death.

The weight of Dallewal has reduced to 66.4 kg now from 86.9 kg, when he began the indefinite fast.

Farmers, under the banner of the SKM (Non-Political) and KMM, have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points since February 13 last year, after security forces did not allow them to march to Delhi to press for their various demands, including a legal guarantee on the MSP for their crops.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

T19 J&K Schools

and Kashmir was facing the Pupil Teacher Ratio of 1:16 against the prescribed norms of 1:30.

It also states that on an average at least seven teachers were posted or deployed in schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite repeated attempts, Project Director Jammu and Kashmir Samagra Shiksha was not available to comment on the issue.

In 2024, it was reported that over 4400 government run schools were closed owing to 'zero or extremely low' enrollment of students.

In July-2024, it was said that there were a total of 23,117 government run schools in Jammu and Kashmir out of which 4394 have been deleted from the UDISE data.

An official had said that the count of overall public schools in Jammu and Kashmir reduced because "There were some government schools that were having zero or extremely low students enrollment. Those schools were merged with the nearby public schools."

The official figures previously had revealed that the primary schools category of government schools was hit badly wherein the count of overall public schools in Jammu and Kashmir reduced by nearly 30 percent.

According to the official figures a total of 12,977 government primary schools were functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. However, after the merger, only 8966 primary schools are functional.

Similarly, 392 government middle schools, three high schools and one higher secondary were deleted from the UDISE Plus list.

Stating the statistics of private and other schools, the official figures had previously revealed that there were a total of 5688 such educational institutes out of which only 5555 schools were functional as of now.

Overall, Jammu and Kashmir used to have 28,805 government and private schools. However, as per the official figures, the count had reduced to 24,279 schools.

Previously, the School Education Department had said that it had identified more than 1200 such government schools that were having low enrollment of students.

It had said that such schools would likely be merged in accordance to the catchment and feasibility of the students.

In April-2022, School Education Department had said that it was all set to merge 720 government-run-schools of Jammu and Kashmir having an inadequate student enrollment. (KNO)

HM Shah Orders

manage the situation and understand the causes of the deaths.

At least 16 people have died of a mysterious illness in the Budhal village of Rajouri district in the past 45 days.

People complained of fever, pain, nausea and loss of consciousness before dying within days of their admission to hospitals. A girl continues to remain critical.

Earlier, a Jammu and Kashmir government spokesperson said investigations and samples empirically indicated that the incidents were not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin and that there is no public health angle.

Fear And Griev

possibility of any communicable disease behind the deaths.

A newly formed special investigation team of police has rounded up over 60 people for questioning as part of its investigation after autopsy reports by CSIR-IITR revealed the presence of neurotoxins.

On Friday, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting here to discuss the situation in Badhaal village of Kotranka sub-division and directed health and police departments to expedite investigations.

Located about 55km from Rajouri district headquarters, the villagers are gripped by fear and want the mystery to be resolved already.

People complained of fever, pain, nausea and loss of consciousness before dying within days of their admission to the hospitals. A girl alone was able to buck the trend and withstand the condition for days. Her condition though continues to be critical.

According to a doctor, the MRI scan of the patients revealed oedema in the brain, a condition where fluid builds up in the brain tissue.

"It is a big challenge for all of us ... I appeal to the people that if anyone has any clue, please come forward and help in the ongoing investigations," National Conference leader and local Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Javid Iqbal Choudhary said.

A new graveyard has come up in the village on agricultural land belonging to Mohammad Aslam, who lost five children and his maternal uncle and aunt, who adopted him, between January 12 and 17.

While Yasmeena Jan, the sole surviving daughter of Aslam remains in critical condition, no other villagers have reported illness, further compounding the mystery.

Aslam's brother-in-law Fazal Hussain and his four children were the first to die under suspicious circumstances in the village on December 7. They were initially believed to have perished to food poisoning for the family had attended a wedding just before.

The pregnant wife of Mohd Rafiq, a cousin of Aslam, and her three children died on December 12.

"The government responded to the situation in a very sensitive manner, leaving nothing to chance. Health teams from within and outside J&K were mobilised and all the villagers were screened within the shortest possible time," Choudhary said.

He said the chief minister has been monitoring the situation since day one.

"The meeting chaired by the chief minister was informed that a total of 68 people have been rounded up for questioning by the SIT," he said, expressing hope that everything will become clear once the probe is complete.

A grieving Aslam did not rule out a "conspiracy" against his family.

"Hundreds of people had a feast but only Hussain and his children died first. A few days later my cousin's wife and children passed away and then death reached my doorstep. How is it that only our family perished like this?" he said, adding that his family had meals at Hussain's house where a special prayer meeting was held to mark the 40th day since the deaths.

He said fear has gripped the villagers to such an extent that many avoided meeting him when he was grief-stricken.

Zaheer Ahmad Gorski, a local social activist, said the villagers are yet to come to terms with the unexplained deaths. "A new graveyard has to be prepared ... It is a testing time for the whole village."

Zahid Shah, a relative of Aslam, said he has full faith in the administration and the police.

"This type of fear was not there even when militancy was at its peak or during the COVID-19 pandemic. People are not coming forward even to dig the grave for the dead," Nazim Din, another relative, said.

Earlier, a government spokesperson said investigations and samples empirically indicate that the incidents were not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin and that there is no public health angle.

"All samples taken from the victims and the villagers have tested negative for any viral or bacteriological aetiology. The tests were conducted on different samples in some of the most reputed labs in the country.

The toxicological analysis conducted by CSIR-IITR has detected toxins in multiple biological specimens.

The chief minister said the administration is treating the situation with the highest priority.

"The health and safety of our people remain our top priority. The government is fully committed to resolving this crisis and ensuring justice for the affected families," Omar earlier said. (Inputs From Agencies)

LG Expresses

Rajouri district. Experts from well-known institutions will thoroughly examine the causative factors and also suggest preventive measures," Sinha posted on X.

Mughal Road Closed

Keeping in view this situation, officials stated, District Magistrate has ordered closure of road till further orders.

A detailed report regarding road conditions,

especially difficulties to restore traffic due to frost was submitted before district magistrate by Traffic Police.

PM Distributes

and benefits from other government schemes.

"Around 2.24 crore beneficiaries in villages will now have SVAMITVA property cards after 65 lakh cards are distributed today," the prime minister said.

"Property rights are a major challenge across the world. Years ago, the United Nations had held a study, which revealed people did not have legal documents for property rights in several countries. The UN has said property rights are important for poverty alleviation," he said.

Modi said an eminent economist had opined that property in villages is a "dead capital" because people cannot do anything with it, and it can't help increase their income.

"India was also impacted by this challenge. People in villages have property worth lakhs of crores (of rupees), but they did not have papers for it. There were disputes, properties were snatched, and even banks did not provide loans over it," he said.

The prime minister emphasized that no sensitive government could leave its villagers in such distress.

"Previous governments should have taken steps to do something about it but nothing much was done," he said.

Modi said Dalits, backward classes and tribals were the worst affected by this.

Elaborating on the SVAMITVA Yojana, he said it involved mapping houses and lands in villages using drones and providing legal documents for residential properties to villagers. He added that the benefits of this scheme are now visible.

"India has over six lakh villages, with drone surveys completed in nearly half of them," Modi said.

He highlighted that after receiving legal documents, lakhs of people had taken loans from banks based on their properties and started small businesses in their villages.

"After getting legal property rights, lakhs of people have taken loan. They have used this money to start their businesses. Many of these are farmers, for whom this property cards is a guarantee to financial security," he said.

Modi said that once property cards are issued in all villages, the scheme will unlock economic activities worth over Rs 100 lakh crore. He emphasized the substantial capital that will be added to the country's economy.

Noting that earlier, land disputes were common for farmers and obtaining land documents is challenging, often requiring multiple visits to offices and leading to corruption, the prime minister said that land records are being digitized to deal with these issues.

Highlighting that SVAMITVA and Bhuaadhaar are foundational systems for village development, he said that Bhuaadhaar provides a unique identity to land, with around 23 crore Bhuaadhaar numbers issued, making it easy to identify land plots.

"Over the past seven-eight years, approximately 98 per cent of land records have been digitized, and most land maps are now digitally available," Modi added.

Later, in a post on X, the prime minister said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance".

Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lalan, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj P Singh Baghel and Ministry of Panchayati Raj Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj were also present at the event.

It was attended virtually by several chief ministers, Union ministers and state ministers.

Events are also being organised in over 230 districts for physical distribution of property cards. It is expected that around 13 Union ministers will physically join from designated locations from across the country to oversee regional distribution ceremonies of property cards.

The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme was launched in 2020 to enhance the economic progress of rural India by providing 'Record of Rights' to households

owning houses in inhabited areas in villages through the latest drone technology for surveying.

The scheme also helps facilitate monetization of properties and enabling institutional credit through bank loans; reducing property-related disputes; facilitating better assessment of properties and property tax in rural areas and enabling comprehensive village-level planning.

HC Puts Shifa

out of pocket money from the patients covered under the scheme and whose cases have been entertained and processed by the hospital.

He contended that the authorities have acted in the matter strictly in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines of the Scheme especially relating to Hospital Empanelment and De-Empanelment. He totally denied that the authorities have proceeded under the old redundant rules.

He said that Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is a social welfare policy of the Government of India, which has been highly hailed by the public at large as pertaining to the Health & Family Welfare of all the citizens of the country. He contended that the empanelled Hospitals playing fraud with such Social Welfare Scheme, do not deserve any lenient view and need to be strictly dealt with under law.

"In the meantime, subject to any vacation or modification upon the consideration of objections/arguments and till next date of hearing before the bench, operation of the suspension order bearing No. 03 SHA, J&K of 2025 dated 11.01.2025 is kept in abeyance," the court said. "However, the respondents (authorities) shall proceed with and finalize the disciplinary enquiry in connection whereof the impugned show cause notice bearing No. SHA/ABPMJAY/ JK/2024-25/8124-25 dated 18.12.2024 has already been issued to the petitioner-hospital with the direction that respondents shall afford fresh opportunity of two weeks to the petitioner-hospital to submit its reply to the same, in the interest of natural justice." The case has been listed on February 7.

NGT Summons

Budgam & ordered that no illegal mining should take place in the river.

The members of the NGTs constituted committee that comprised of senior officers of Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change- MoEF, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), JK Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) & Director Fisheries J&K Govt had visited the site in Sail and Kangripora villages in Beerwah on December 26th 2024 along with local SDM, Tehsilard, Sub Divisional Police Officer-SDPO & SHO. The petitioner in the case Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat and local residents were also present on the occasion. The Joint Committee-JC later on submitted the report to NGT on January 13th and matter was listed for hearing on January 15th 2025.

The Joint Committee's preliminary findings submitted in NGT reads, "During the site inspection by the Joint Committee, it has been found that illegal mining has taken place in the Sukhnag River. Due to diversion/ disruption of water supply caused by the mining/illegal extraction of minor minerals and boulders, the trout fish farms of Peerzada have suffered losses. The mining activities and extraction of boulders from the Sukhnag river, has affected the water sources and resulted in the increased turbidity and decrease in water level."

The Geology and Mining Department has issued 163 STPs to the executing agencies, viz. PWD (R&B), PMGSY, NHAI, SE Hydraulic, NBCC, on the authorization of Deputy Commissioner, Budgam and Executive Engineer Flood Spill Division Narbal during the year 2020-2024 for the purpose of developmental projects. The area upon which the Sukhnag nallah flows in Beerwah Sub Division of District Budgam is a state land recorded in the revenue record. It is recorded in the occupation of the state.

Advocate Saurabh Shamra, petitioner of the counsel Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat told NGT that under the garb of disposal permits the loot and plunder has been taking place in Sukhnag for the last more than 3 years.

The NGT three member bench of Justice Prakash Shrivastava (Chairperson) Sudhir Agarwal (Judicial Member) and Dr. A. Senthil Vel (Expert Member) in its order on January 15th 2025 said :

"Since neither the Respondents No. 2 (DC Budgam) is represented nor the reply on his behalf has been filed, therefore, we direct Respondent No. 2 (DC Budgam) to appear virtually on the next date of hearing. Respondent No. 2 (DC Budgam) is also directed to ensure that no illegal sand and boulder mining in the area concerned takes place without requisite permission, environmental clearance and without complying with the other norms till the next date of hearing. It will be open to the learned Counsel for the applicant to file a response to the report of the Joint Committee within four weeks."

Petitioner in the case Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat has appreciated the NGTs order and the preliminary findings of the Joint committee & demanded imposition of environmental compensation on accused contractors and govt officers / departments

"I appreciate the way the Joint Committee reported the loot and plunder taking place in Sukhnag. NGTs intervention is also appreciated. I wish the Govt had acted 3 years back when the damage was not much. What all I had been saying for the last more than 3 years has proven to be correct and the JC report is self explanatory. I will push for payment of Environmental Compensation -EC by the company involved in illegal mining along with Govt Departments / officers who have allowed this illegal work under the garb of disposal permits and short term permits which are all vague and illegal," said Dr Raja Muzaffar.

The case has now been listed for hearing on April 29th 2025 in the National Green Tribunal. **JKP Declares**

them," according to the poster.

The identity of the informer will be kept confidential.

Kishtwar and other districts were rocked by terror attacks last year as Pakistan-based terrorist handlers continued their efforts to spread militancy to peaceful areas of the Jammu region.

J&K's New Transport

driving environment to reduce accidents and ensure adherence to traffic laws.

He called for strict enforcement of regulations, warning that violations such as failure to wear seat belts or helmets, as well as reckless driving, would attract penalties, including license cancellations and vehicle seizures.

He also issued a stern warning against dangerous behaviours like stunt driving, particularly when they threaten public safety.

Mahajan said the transport subsidy scheme aimed at replacing vehicles over 15 years old offers financial assistance of upto Rs 5 lakh or 16 per cent of the cost of a new vehicle, whichever is lower.

"We have received around 35 applications in Kashmir and 100 in Jammu under this scheme. Vehicle owners must complete scrapping procedures, including chassis cutting, and obtain certification from the Motor Vehicle Department," he explained.

E-Rickshaw Fare

Additionally he said that meters have been made mandatory for all other auto-rickshaws. Mahajan while talking to reporters, warned that strict action would be taken against drivers overcharging passengers or operating without proper permits.

Highlighting the importance of road safety, the Commissioner stressed that drivers play a critical role in preventing accidents. "Road safety is the primary responsibility of the driver," he said, urging drivers to avoid violations like speeding and not wearing helmets.

On the issue of driving licenses, he acknowledged delays in issuance but assured that a new tender for license printing is nearly complete, and licenses will soon be delivered by post. Meanwhile, drivers were encouraged to use the Digilocker app for digital access to their licenses.

The Commissioner also urged citizens to follow designated routes, emphasizing that measures are in place to ensure public safety.

Real Kashmir Take On SC Bengaluru In Sunday's I-League Clash

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC is gearing up to face Sporting Club Bengaluru in an I-League match on Sunday at TRC Ground here. The match is scheduled to kick off at 1:00 PM.

Speaking at a pre-match press conference on Saturday, RKFC head coach Ishfaq Ahmad expressed confidence in his team's ability to secure a positive result.

"Sporting Club Bengaluru has a strong side, but we hope our boys will perform well and claim three points from this game," Ahmad said.

Reflecting on their previous encounter against Sreenidi Deccan FC, where the Snow Leopards played with only 10 men after a red card incident,



he praised his team's resilience.

"Despite the setback, the players showed exceptional spirit and managed a draw. I hope they bring the same determination on Sunday," he added.

Addressing Real Kashmir's struggle to win away games, Ishfaq admitted it remains a challenge.

"We have been dominating possession in away matches but

have failed to convert chances into goals. We have worked on this aspect, and I am hopeful for improved results in the upcoming games," he stated.

The coach also highlighted

the club's commitment to promoting local talent from across Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the importance of providing young players with opportunities.

Real Kashmir defender Mohammad Hammad, speaking during the press conference, pointed out the need for better football infrastructure in Kashmir.

"Kashmir has immense potential, but we lack adequate infrastructure to support the game's growth," Hammad said, urging fans to come out in large numbers to support the team on Sunday.

Sporting Club Bengaluru head coach Chintia Chandrashekhar Rao and player Carlos Lomba also addressed the press, highlighting their preparations for the match.

Short TAKES

Rohit To Play In Mumbai's Ranji Trophy Match v J&K

Ending speculations over his Ranji Trophy participation, India Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma confirmed he will take part in the country's top-flight red-ball competition. Rohit will be part of Mumbai's playing XI for the game against J&K that starts from January 23.

"I will (play)," Rohit said on Saturday when quizzed over his participation.

Rohit, one of India's finest batters of modern era, last played a Ranji match in November 2015.

He though explained that the reason behind India players not regularly featuring in domestic cricket is because of them needing time to recover from the packed international calendar.

The development comes after Rohit came under heavy criticism for his poor run with the bat during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Bumrah Picked For CT But Fitness Will Decide Availability

Premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah was on Saturday named in India's squad for the Champions Trophy with his availability depending on fitness, and talented opener Yashasvi Jaiswal expectedly received the nod from the selectors, who also brought back Mohammed Shami in the national fold.

Bumrah had suffered back spasms during the recent Sydney Test against Australia and did not bowl on the final day at SCG.

But the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel went ahead and included the 31-year-old in the squads that will do duty in the home ODIs against England and in the marquee ICC event, starting February 19.

India Squad for Champions Trophy and England ODIs: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill (vc), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Harshit Rana (only for England series).

India, England Arrive In Kolkata For T20I Series Opener

The world champions, Team India, and the visiting England squad arrived in batches on Saturday evening ahead of their series-opening T20I here on Wednesday.

With a slight nip in the air, cricket fever is set to grip Kolkata once again as the iconic Eden Gardens prepares to host its first T20 International in nearly three years.

Beginning with the Eden T20I, the two teams will fight it out in a full white ball series, consisting five T20Is and three ODIs, which will serve as a crucial warm-up for the Champions Trophy, slated to begin on February 19 in Pakistan and Dubai.

The Jos Buttler-led rest of the England squad, which had been training in Dubai, arrived later in the evening.

Later in the evening, captain Suryakumar Yadav landed along with Tilak Varma, who shared a photo of the duo sitting together on the flight in his Instagram story.

Two-Day District Anantnag Carrom Championship Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Anantnag Carrom Championship concluded on a high note at the Multi-Purpose Indoor Stadium in Bijbehara, Anantnag. Organised by the District Anantnag Carrom Association under the aegis of the J&K Carrom Association and sponsored by the J&K Sports Council, the event was held as part of the "My Youth My Pride" initiative.

The two-day event fea-

tured exciting competitions across Cadet, Junior and Senior categories for boys and girls, drawing an enthusiastic response from participants and spectators alike.

Results:

Cadet Girls

Winner: Hadeeqa Fatima
Runner-Up: Zoya Showkat
3rd Place: Kulsum Jan

Cadet Boys

Winner: Luqman Bilal
Runner-Up: M. Hayaan Shah

3rd Place: Basit Fayaz

Junior Girls

Winner: Ishra Javiad
Runner-Up: Mahi Mohiddin
3rd Place: Insha Malik

Junior Boys

Winner: Zeshan Gulzar
Runner-Up: Danish Nisar
3rd Place: Salik Imtiyaz

Senior Women

Winner: Anzalna Rafiq
Runner-Up: Kazima
3rd Place: Tabasum

Senior Men

Winner: Umar Farooq
Runner-Up: Amir Suhail
3rd Place: Umer Saleem

The closing ceremony was graced by Mohammad Shafi, Manager of the Multi-Purpose Indoor Stadium, Bijbehara, who served as the chief guest. He distributed medals, certificates, and prizes to the winners, runners-up, and third-place holders, commending their exceptional performances.

Kashmir Snowboarder Wins Silver At European Championship



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Zubair Ahmed Lone, a resident of Qazipora Tangmarg, has won the silver medal at the Federation International Skiing Alpine Snowboarding Championships in Serbia, competing against athletes from several countries.

Zubair, who has represented India in prestigious events like European Cups, NorAm Cups and FIS races, competing in countries like the United States, Canada, and others, said that despite his successes, his journey has been far from easy.

Snowboarding since 2007, he said, initially he was not happy with his results, as he often finishes between

20th and 40th positions.

"Now, securing second place is such an amazing feeling. I have been waiting for this for a very long time," he said.

With the recent success boosting his confidence, Lone said that he prepares for upcoming competitions.

"My immediate focus is on qualifying for the World Cup races and World Championships in March, aiming to secure the required 50 points to compete, as he has already earned 40 points."

Training in the U.S. for the past few years, Zubair has a decorated career possessing several gold, silver and bronze medals at national competitions, including gold in the second edition of Khelo India. (KNO)



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OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

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