

Kashmir Convener



Outsourcing Manipur To
HM Shah Abdication Of Prime
Ministerial Responsibility:
Cong Slams Modi

P:02



SC asks Delhi police
to reply on Tahir
Hussain's plea for
interim bail

P:02



Rahul Gandhi Unwell,
Unlikely To Take Part In
Gandhi Bharat Event,
Says Congress

P:02



Rajouri deaths: Will uncover truth, CM Omar

● Inter-ministerial team collects samples



Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR : As the inter-ministerial team continued investigations into the mysterious deaths of 17 persons at Budhal village in Rajouri District, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah arrived in the hamlet on

Tuesday and reiterated the government's commitment to uncover the truth behind the tragedy. An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the inter ministerial team, constituted by the Union

>>SEE ON P-7

CM Omar Abdullah Visits Budhal

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited Budhal village and met the members of three affected families that witnessed 17 deaths, including 13 children, between December 7, 2024 and January 19, 2025. The



victims belonged to three related families. Accompanied by Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, Omar expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and assured residents of a transparent investigation. He pledged the government's commitment to uncover the truth.

>>SEE ON P-7

Security beefed up across J&K ahead of R-Day



Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: Ahead of Republic Day celebrations authorities have beefed up the security across Jammu and Kashmir. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi, while talking to the

reporters here said that the multi-tier security arrangements have been put in place to ensure "disruption free" Republic Day celebrations.

This year's Republic Day will be the first following

>>SEE ON P-7

R-Day entry free for all: Div Com Bidhuri

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Tuesday extended an open invitation to the public to attend the Republic Day celebrations in Srinagar.

Bidhuri, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), while talking to reporters here, said, "The Republic Day is the function of people. Entry is free for all. No passes are required. Anyone can come and be a part of the event."

Referring to the enthusiasm shown by people during the last year's Republic Day function held at Bakshi Stadium here,

Div Com Bidhuri said, "Preparations have been to ensure that spirits of participants remain high."

He said that seating arrangements, LED screens, and refreshments have been arranged to ensure a comfortable experience for the public. "The arrangements are good, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone to participate in the Republic Day celebrations," he said.

The Div Com also visited Bakshi Stadium to assess the arrangements for the Republic Day celebrations. During this visit, he inspected the availability of drinking water

>>SEE ON P-7

CS for enforcing stringent containment measures

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today held a meeting of the Divisional and District administrations along with Health experts and Police Department to take assessment of the measures taken so far to identify the real causes behind the mysterious



deaths reported from village Badhal in district

Rajouri here. The meeting besides Secretary Health & Medical Education Department was attended by ADGP, Jammu; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DIG, Rajouri-Poonch Range; DC, Rajouri; SP, Rajouri; Principal, GMC, Jammu; Principal, GMC, Rajouri; Director, Health Services, Jammu besides some experts from the national health institutions.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned from Health and Police Departments to take stringent containment measures in consultation with the Divisional administration to ensure that there is no further loss of any life. He advised the concerned

>>SEE ON P-7

Doctors' profession noble, meant to serve ailing people: Minister Itoo



KC NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Government Medical College, Kathua and presided over the induction ceremony of the first batch of students of Bachelors of

Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS).

MLA Kathua, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Principal Government Medical College, Kathua, Dr. Surinder K. Attri, Registrar J&K Homeopathy Board and Nodal Officer Government Homeopathy Medical College Kathua, Dr. B.R.

Dubb, heads of different specialities, medical professionals, senior officers and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo congratulated the first batch of 63 students of BHMS and their parents present there. She said that the institution will help in producing the able medical faculties to serve the local population and help in improving the healthcare facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister highlighted that this is the first Government Homeopathy Medical College in North India. She added that the profession of doctors is a noble vocation as

>>SEE ON P-7

HUDD launches "Swachhtantra" - a pre-Republic Day Swachhata campaign



KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) begins a series of Swachhta (cleanliness) activities from today to 24th January

2025 with a central theme "Swachhtantra – Gantantra Ki Shaan, Swachhta Se Bane Mahaan" under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, 2.0 to create a clean environment for celebrations of 76th Republic Day.

The ambitious cleanliness initiative was launched here today by Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur.

Speaking during the launch, the Commissioner Secretary detailed the objectives of the cleanliness initiative. She said that the campaign has been designed to promote cleanliness as a fundamental aspect of development, engage citizens of J&K in community based Swachhta initiatives (Jan Andolan) and utilise Republic Day as a platform to unite citizens in the shared pursuit of a healthier, cleaner Jammu & Kashmir. She advised the Executive Officers

>>SEE ON P-7

Illegal drugs transported via courier company seized in Srinagar



KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday said that in an operation against illegal drug trafficking, Srinagar Police in Karan Nagar have successfully seized a large consignment of illegal drugs being transported through a courier service.

The operation took place at the premises of Shree Maruti

>>SEE ON P-7

3000 Solar Agricultural Pumps Installed In J&K: Satish Sharma

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAIPUR: Minister for FCS &CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology, Information Technology, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma said that under PMKUSUM scheme, J&K had a target of installation of 5000 solar agricultural pumps, of which, 3000 stands installed as on date.

He made these remarks during his address at Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

"Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential for harnessing solar, hydro and other renewable energy sources in Jammu and Kashmir", he stated.



Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi; MoS, Shripad Yesso Naik; Chief Minister Rajasthan, Bhajanlal Sharma; concerned

Ministers hailing from Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan along with senior officers were present in the workshop.

The workshop was aimed to foster collaboration, address challenges and explore actionable solutions in advancing India's renewable energy agenda.

During his address, Satish Sharma acknowledged the unwavering commitment of the Union Ministry towards fostering new and renewable energy initiatives across the country.

Highlighting the progress/achievements made in Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister said that J&K is uniquely positioned

>>SEE ON P-7

Second Meeting Of JPC On Simultaneous Polls On Jan 31

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEWDELHI: The second meeting of the joint parliamentary committee examining the two bills for simultaneous elections will be held on January 31, according to schedule posted on the Lok Sabha website.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill were introduced in Lok Sabha during the recent Winter Session and referred to the committee.



According to the Lok Sabha website, procedure and modalities for examination of the amendment bills will be discussed at the upcoming

meeting. The panel had held its first meeting on January 8, where representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice

(Legislative Department) briefed the members.

A robust exchange of contesting views had marked the first meeting of the parliamentary panel with opposition members criticising the concept as an attack on the basic fabric of the Constitution and federalism, and BJP MPs hailing it as reflective of popular opinion. All MPs were given a trolley carrying over 18,000 pages, including one volume of the Ram Nath Kovind

>>SEE ON P-7

SC asks Delhi police to reply on Tahir Hussain’s plea for interim bail

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Delhi police to respond to a plea filed by former councillor and Delhi riots accused Tahir Hussain who has sought interim bail to campaign for the upcoming Delhi assembly polls.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Ahsanuddin Amanullah asked the Delhi police counsel to come prepared and argue the matter on the next hearing.

“Suppose, tentatively, we feel persuaded that he makes out a case for regular bail, then why not we should give at least interim?” said the bench.

It went on, “If we are satisfied at this stage on merits that some case is made out then why not interim? He is in jail for 4 years 10 months. He is only an instigator and very same allegation of instigation is in nine cases in which he has been granted bail. You can’t shut your eyes to that.”

The hearing was posted on January 22. Senior advocate Siddharth Aggarwal, appearing for Hussain, submitted the former councillor was in custody for 4.10 years and inciting a mob during the 2020 Delhi riots was the only allegation against him.

The top court was informed that Hussain faced FIRs in 11 cases and was granted bail in nine matters.

He was arrested in the case on March



16, 2020.

The court was further informed that charges were framed after three years of Hussain's custody and 115 witnesses were cited by the prosecution, of which only 22 have been examined.

The main accused have already been granted regular bail, he added.

Referring to the chargesheet, the top court noted his presence and said, “Your involvement is very much there.”

“We have to consider it, time for interim bail is expiring,” it said. All such persons should be barred from contesting elections, the top court remarked hearing the case recently. The Delhi High Court on January 14 granted custody parole to Hussain to file

nomination papers from the Mustafabad constituency on an AIMIM ticket.

It, however, refused his plea for interim bail from January 14 to February 9 to fight the polls, saying the gravity of allegations against Hussain, being the main perpetrator in the violence, resulting in the death of several persons, could not be overlooked.

The high court said about 11 FIRs were registered against him in connection with the riots and he was admittedly in custody in a related money laundering case and UAPA case. The senior counsel counsel appearing for Hussain argued fighting elections was a complicated process, which required him to not only file his nomination by January 17 but also open

a bank account and campaign.

Maintaining that contesting elections was not a fundamental right, the police had alleged that Hussain who was the “main conspirator” and “funder” of the February 2020 riots could complete formalities and fight polls on custody parole.

Violence broke out in northeast Delhi on February 24, 2020, leaving 53 dead and several injured.

According to the prosecution, on February 26, 2020, complainant Ravinder Kumar informed the Dayalpur Police Station that his son Ankit Sharma, posted in the Intelligence Bureau, was missing since February 25, 2020. Sharma's mortal remains were reportedly recovered from Khajuri Khas nullah in the riot-affected area and his body bore 51 injuries.

Hussain, in the bail plea, said he spent 4.9 years in jail and though the trial started in the case, only 20 of the 114 prosecution witnesses were examined so far.

Pleading he had suffered a long incarceration, Hussain said the fact that several witnesses were still left to be examined meant the trial wouldn't be over soon.

The co-accused, his plea said, allegedly involved in the riotous mob and committing the offence of murder were granted bail by the high court.

Rahul Gandhi Unwell, Unlikely To Take Part In Gandhi Bharat Event, Says Congress

BENGALURU: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is unlikely to take part in the Gandhi Bharat event on Tuesday at Belagavi as he is unwell, sources in the ruling party said.

While Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara told PTI Videos in Belagavi that the entire leadership of the Congress party will take part in the function, which is set to commence soon, sources here said that Rahul Gandhi was unwell and hence, he is likely to skip the function.

Mallikarjun Kharge, Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior Congress functionaries are expected to take part in the event at the district headquarter town of Belagavi bordering Maharashtra. According to the Congress sources, a statue of Mahatma

Gandhi is set to be unveiled at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha and a public meeting has also been scheduled to be held at

however, postponed due to the demise of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Themed as 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim,



the CPED grounds.

The Gandhi Bharat event, to commemorate the centenary of the lone Congress session presided by Mahatma Gandhi at Belagavi in 1924, was originally scheduled to be held on December 27, last year. It was,

Jai Samvidhan', the Congress event would reiterate the party's commitment to Gandhian ideology and the Constitution. Elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of the arrival of the VIPs in the city.

Outsourcing Manipur To HM Shah Abdication Of Prime Ministerial Responsibility: Cong Slams Modi



NEW DELHI: In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress on Tuesday said “outsourcing

” Manipur to Union Home Minister Amit Shah is an abdication of prime ministerial responsibility which has proved disastrous and reiterated the demand that the PM visit the violence-hit state.

The opposition party’s attack came after PM Modi greeted the people of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur on their statehood day on Tuesday.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications

Jairam Ramesh said, “The formerly non-biological – and now suddenly human – Prime Minister has just sent greetings to the people of Manipur on their Statehood Day through social media.

Yet, he has stubbornly refused to visit Manipur even briefly ever since its agony began on May 3, 2023.”

“He has gone all over the world but has not found the time nor the inclination to reach out to the people of the state in Imphal and other places,” he said.

Modi has stubbornly refused to meet MLAs of his own party in the state and has not had a one-on-one

meeting with the CM, nor has he met with MPs, political leaders, and civil society organisations of the state, Ramesh said.

“His Statehood Day greetings are hollow and reflect his hypocrisy – which knows no limits,” the Congress leader said.

“The Congress demands that he visit Manipur immediately. This is the very least he can do to show his concern if he has any.

Outsourcing Manipur to the Union Home Minister is an abdication of Prime Ministerial responsibility and has proved disastrous,” Ramesh said.

The Congress last week said that Modi has found time, inclination and energy to go all over the world but has not found it necessary to reach out to the distressed people in the northeastern state.

The party has been attacking the prime minister for not visiting Manipur besides slamming the Centre for its handling of the situation in the ethnic strife-torn northeastern state.

More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

Congress believes in ‘Gandhi’s Hindutva’ says CM Siddaramaiah

BELAGAVI (KARNATAKA): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said Mahatma Gandhi was a diehard Hindu and the Congress believes in “Gandhi’s Hindutva”.

BJP always projected Mahatma Gandhi as ‘anti-Hindu’ but one must understand that it



is 100 per cent false, Siddaramaiah said at the inauguration of Mahatma Gandhi’s statue in front of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, top Congress functionaries such as K C Venugopal, Randeep Singh Surjewala Congress ministers, MPs and legislators participated in the event.

The event was organised to commemorate the centenary of the lone Congress session in which Mahatma Gandhi had chaired as the Congress president way back in 1924.

BJP manifesto ‘dangerous’, will stop free education in govt schools: Arvind Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday described the BJP’s election manifesto as “dangerous for the country”.

He alleged that the party plans to shut free education in government schools and dismantle free health services, including the Mohalla Clinics, if voted to power.

In a press conference, Kejriwal accused the BJP of revealing its



“true intentions” in the manifesto and warned voters against supporting the party.

“If the BJP comes to power, they will stop free education, end free health facilities and make it difficult for the poor to survive in Delhi. This is a direct attack on the welfare of the common man,” he said.

Kejriwal further appealed to people not to vote for the BJP, claiming that their policies would jeopardise the future of the country and adversely impact the lives of Delhi’s poor.

“The BJP’s Sankalp Patra is a blueprint for closing government schools and Mohalla Clinics, which have been a lifeline for many,” he added.



सत्यमेव जयते


Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

R&B DIVISION BUDGAM

Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111

E-mail:- xennrbdivbud@gmail.com, Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

R&B DIVISION KASHMIR

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No:-90-MDB of 2024-25/10635-50 DATED:- 20-01-2025

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

| S. No | Name of Work | Adv. Cost | Cost of T/Doc. | Earnest money CDR/FDR / BG | Time of Completion on (days) | Class of Contract or | Major Head of account | Project Authority |
|-------|---|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Development of Imambara (Baituz Zehra) Abadpora Budgam by way of Finishing items. | Rs.8.00 lacs | Rs.300/- | Rs.16000/- | 30 days | DEE/ CEE | Capex Budget 2023-24 | Tourism Department |

Position of AAA = Accorded

Position of TS = Accorded

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

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 20/01/2025 |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 20/01/2025 |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | 20/01/2025 |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 29/01/2025 upto 4.00 P.M |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Bids | 30/01/2025 at 11.00A.M in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Budgam |
| 6. | Submission of Performance Security (PS) | Within 7 days of receipt of LOI. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG which shall subsequently release 2% CDR |

No: EE/MDB/NIT/ 10635-50

DATED:-21- 01-2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

(R&B) Division Budgam

DIPK-11063/24

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

(R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION KASHMIR, ENGINEERING COMPLEX SRINAGARRAJBAGH.

Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No.F1/165/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/8413-21 DATED:17-01-2025.

For and on behalf of The Government of J&K(U/T)e-tenders(In Double cover system)are Invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

| Sl. No. | Name of Work | Estimated. Cost (In Lacs) | Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.) | 2% Earnest Money (In Rs.) | Time of Completion in (Calendar Days) | Class of Contract | Major Head of Account | Remarks |
|---------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 01 | Construction of New Degree college Building at Larnoo Phase 1 st By way of internal electrification | Rs. 75.26/- Lacs | Rs. 1600/= | Rs. 150520/= | Linked with progress of civil work | "AAY" Class Electrical | Higher Education | Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by Higher Education Department civil secretariat J&K Srinagar vide order No.237-JKHEJ of 2021 Dated:-29-07-2021 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 17-01-2025 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 18-01-2025 from 11.00 AM |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 18-01-2025 from 11.00 AM |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 29-01-2025 upto 04.00 PM |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 30-01-2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh. |
| 6 | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online) | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed. |

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

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir J&K Civil Secretariat/Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-65 dated 07-06-20 which reads as under:-

Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (1-1) after opening of financial bids.

1. The Cost of Tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

1.1. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @ 5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG after issuance of Letter of Acceptance which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. The EMD @ 2% of successful bidder will be released only after the submission of 5% performance Security deposit.

1.2. The bidder who so ever participate the e-tenders floated by this office will submit Additional Performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG in case the bidder has Submitted the below Percentage Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 70% completion of work:-

| S. No. | % age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on account of Low Rate. | Additional Performance security to be Deposited on quoted bid by |
|--------|---|--|
| 1. | Upto and including 15% | NIL |
| 2. | Greater than 15% upto& including 20% | 5% |
| 3. | Greater than 20% upto& including 25% | 10% |
| 4. | Greater than 25% upto& including 30% | 15% |
| 5. | Greater than 30% below | 20% |

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar. (Tender receiving authority).

2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

3. The Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender without any Prior Notice to the Bidders.

4. **The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.**

5. **The earnest money may be forfeited if:-**

a. Any bidder/ tendered with draws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5. Bidders must insure to upload can need copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

8.1. **Price escalation and Taxes:-**The percentage quoted by the bidder entirely in **Indian Rupees** and the percentage rates quoted shall be deemed to include **price escalation** and **all taxes** upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

9. Bidders are advised to use "**My Documents**" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to stores much documents as are required.

10. **In case of CRF and any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding document shall be followed.**

11. **Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.**

12. **Instructions to Bidder (ITB)**

12.1. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-

a. **All the bidders shall upload the Scanned copy of the Latest Enlistment/Registration Contractor License duly renewed upto 31-12-2024. However Allotment shall be only issued after Submission of Latest Enlistment Registration Card License duly renewed for the current year.**

b. **Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration/No.certificate with return clearance certificate(Form GST-3B) for the month of November 2024or Quarter July to September or latest (2024-25).**

c. **Scanned copy of PAN card.(As reflected in GST Read/GST Form-3B).**

d. **Scanned copy of valid contact number/E-mail id.**

e. **All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Tender document cost) (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) by debit to M.H.0059 in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir (Tender inviting authority). Mentioning NIT No./S.No/Name of the work/Name of the division as per Annexure I**

f. **Scanned copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/Pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir. (Tender Inviting Authority), dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date). However, contractor already participated in previous NIT of this work which has been cancelled due to poor response can submit the same EMD for this NIT as well.**

g. **The successful bidder shall submit the scanned copy of Latest renewed JKPWDOMS Contractor card valid for the current year before issuance of contract allotment.**

h. **The successful bidder has to execute the agreement and subsequently submit the same to this office within same day after issuance of formal allotment order for commencement of work as per the terms and condition laid.**

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

13.1 The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its

No.ERB/8413-21

DATED:-21-01-2025

Sd/=Executive Engineer,

(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir

DIPK-11088/24

Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh

ARTO Bandipora Under Fire Over Repeated Delays in Driving Tests

Locals accuse officials of negligence, rude behaviour

BANDIPORA: The residents of Bandipora are growing increasingly frustrated with the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Bandipora as driving tests have been repeatedly postponed for over a month.

Since late December 2024, no driving tests have been conducted, and the scheduled tests have now been deferred for the fifth time this week, sparking widespread resentment among the aspirants.

Locals have expressed anger over the continuous delays, citing disruptions to their plans and accusing the ARTO office of negligence. Besides this, locals said they have not been guided properly by the officials in the ARTO office as they have rude behaviour with the visitors and don't give satisfactory answers.

"I planned to travel to Delhi after completing my driving test in December, but the repeated rescheduling has thrown my plans into disarray," said a frustrated local resident who studies in New Delhi. "I had to return to Delhi now and most probably will miss the test entirely due to the inefficiency of the ARTO officials and district



administration in general"

Visitors to the ARTO office also complained about the rude behaviour of staff and the lack of accountability. "Before planning to return to

university in Delhi, I tried to contact the ARTO office but officials in the office were so rude as if I had committed a blasphemous act by inquiring about the delay in the driving test," he added.

"When we visit to inquire about the test schedule, the officials either ignore our concerns or give vague responses. Their attitude shows

no regard for public inconvenience. They get irritated by asking questions as if they are not accountable to the public," another resident said.

Locals urged the Deputy Commissioner to conduct a workshop for the officials so that they are sensitized and taught how to deal with people in office. "A special session needs to be conducted for officials and officers of ARTO Office for behavioural change and to teach them how to deal with the public politely," urged the aspirants.

Several other visitors also confirmed the allegations of rude behaviour by ARTO officials. "Few Weeks ago, I was told my approved driving license couldn't be printed due to a lack of cartridges and PVC material. However, my friend received his license the same day. I am convinced that he got it after paying extra money to get the DL but to me they lied," he alleged.

Another person from Bandipora said that when he visited the concerned dealing assistant in the ARTO office regarding the printing of my vehicle documents, the concerned official sur-

prisingly said he didn't have papers available in the office.

"Later I came to know that the same had been dispatched for 10 days and the dealing assistant failed to give a satisfactory answer to my query," he added.

In response to allegations, the ARTO Bandipora attributed the delays to the absence of a Driving Inspector, which has rendered the office unable to conduct tests. "Our inspector was transferred recently and no new replacement has been sent to the office that has forced us to postpone the tests"

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, denied receiving complaints about the issue but assured action. "I will look into the matter to ensure the problems are resolved promptly," he told Kashmir Convener.

The ongoing delays and allegations of malpractice have prompted residents to demand immediate intervention from higher authorities to address the inefficiency and restore the ARTO office's accountability.

Republic Day-2025 celebration arrangements finalized at Handwara

KUPWARA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, District Programme Officer ICDS Kupwara, Hakeem Tanveer today convened a meeting of all concerned officers here, to finalize the arrangements for smooth and hassle free celebration of Republic Day 2025.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on the arrangements made for the celebration of the national event.

Officers present gave details of their preparations with regard to the smooth celebration of Republic Day.

The meeting was informed that the function will start with Shahna-ivadan at 8:05 AM, while the National Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest at 10:05 AM.

The meeting was further informed that the main function of Republic Day will be held at District Police Lines (DPL) Kulangam Handwara, where National Flag will be unfurled and the VIP will take salute at the March past comprising the contingents of paramilitary forces, JKP, JKAP, CRPF, IRPF, BSF, SSB, Home Guards, NCC cadets and school children.

The DPO Kupwara asked all officers to work with coordination and ensure proper arrangements on ground for successful conduct of the event.

It was given out in the meeting that smooth power and water supply shall be made available at the venue, for which concerned officers were given directions on spot.

Likewise, BMO Chogal was directed to keep ambulances available at the venue, Medical Superintendent DH Handwara was asked to ensure first aid and availability of doctors at the venue, Municipality Handwara was asked to maintain proper coordination and cleanliness at the venue and Town area.

Other arrangements were also reviewed which included refreshment, reception of chief guest, transport, fire and emergency services, cultural programmes, deployment of Magistrates, distribution of invitation cards, selection of officers/officials for recognition of their extraordinary services.

The DPO asked concerned officers to ensure proper exhibition of schemes through Tableaux to showcase developmental activities of their respective departments and government schemes. He said all efforts shall be made to make the National function more attractive and informative.

The DPO directed the concerned officers to maintain proper protocol in seating arrangements. He also asked officers to ensure their presence including staff in the Republic Day functions and ensure Flag hoisting in their respective offices.

The meeting was attended by sub district level civil and police officers.



Doctors at DH Bandipora Perform LCS Surgery on Rare Uterine Condition

BANDIPORA: In a significant medical achievement, doctors at District Hospital Bandipora has successfully performed a complex Lower Segment Caesarean Section (LSCS) on a patient diagnosed with uterus didelphys, a rare and challenging uterine condition.

This is the first time such a procedure has been carried out at the hospital, marking a historic moment in local healthcare.

The procedure was particularly complicated due to the patient's previous history of an LSCS, but the hospital's medical team managed to safely deliver both the mother and her baby.

The successful surgery team was led by Dr. Yasmeen Gul, Consultant Gynaecologist who was assisted by Dr. Saleem Altaf, Consultant Anaesthetist; Dr. Firdous Ahmad, DGO; and Hilal Ahmad, OT Technician.

Medical Superintendent Dr. Masarat Iqbal expressed his pride in the team's performance. "This achievement underscores our hospital's commitment to offering top-quality healthcare services, even in the most challenging circumstances," said Dr. Iqbal.

"Successfully saving both lives in such a complex case showcases the high level of expertise and dedication within our team."

He said this rare surgery not only sets a new standard for medical care in Bandipora but also strengthens the hospital's reputation as a leader in advanced healthcare services.



Republic Day Arrangements Finalized At Bandipora

BANDIPORA: To ensure smooth and successful celebration of Republic Day 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Tuesday convened a meeting of officers from various departments at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing and finalizing the arrangements for the celebration of the national event.

The meeting discussed threadbare various aspects of the preparations, including flag unfurling, parade activities, cultural performances, and other logistical arrangements.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Huson Shawl, briefed the chair regarding the measures and plans in place by different departments to ensure the successful conduct of the event.

It was informed that, at the sub-divisional level, Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) will unfurl the National Flag while at tehsil level, the concerned tehsildars will preside over Republic Day functions.

Similarly at block level, the Block Development Officers (BDOs) will lead the celebrations besides all district officers whose offices are located outside the Mini Secretariat have been directed to organize flag unfurling ceremonies in their respective offices.

It was given out that the Republic Day parade at S.K Stadium Bandipora will feature contingents from Jammu and Kashmir Executive Police, Armed Police, Indian Reserve Police (IRP), District Police Women Battalion, Fire and Emergency Services, National Cadet Corps (NCC), Home Guards/SDRF, Special Police Officers (SPOs) and students from various schools.

The meeting was informed that the event will include vibrant cultural performances by students from local schools, highlighting India's rich heritage, diversity, and patriotic spirit. The DC also took stock of the ongoing rehearsal activities and directed all departments to ensure flawless execution.

Qadri emphasized strict adherence to timelines and called for inter-departmental coordination to address any gaps in the preparations. The DC also reviewed other logistical arrangements, including seating, Public Address system, power backup, and security. Special attention was given to crowd management and ensuring smooth access for attendees.

He urged the public, and all stakeholders to actively participate in the Republic Day celebrations, emphasizing the importance of fostering unity, patriotism, and respect for the country's sovereignty.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt; ACR, ACD, Commanding Officer CRPF 3rd Battalion, CPO, DIO, DySP, District Officers of various Departments and other concerned.



Member National Commission for Minorities Rouble Nagi interacts with minority Community in Baramulla

Baramulla: Recently appointed member of the National Commission for Minorities, Rouble Nagi, visited north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday, where she interacted with various minority groups.

During the meeting with several groups, including Kashmiri Pandits, Brahmins, Christians, and Sikh communities, prominent social activist Rouble Nagi patiently listened to their issues and sufferings.

On the occasion, she assured them that she would address all genuine issues for the upliftment of minority communities and work towards their better future.

Rouble Nagi expressed that it was truly rewarding to interact with minorities and

listen to their concerns. Many of the issues they shared were related to their daily lives. However, she emphasized that there is a gap within the government setup that needs to be addressed, and she vowed to make every effort in addressing these issues.

She stated that numerous schemes are forthcoming for the people, but if these schemes are not implemented, they will not be beneficial. She pledged to play a crucial role in ensuring that these schemes reach every individual, especially the minority communities.

She said that although she has been working with minority groups for over 20 years, this is the first time she is actively engaged with the Sikh community. She assured them that she would not let them down in raising their issues and addressing their sufferings, as this community has consistently stood strong in Kashmir despite challenging situations.

She further added, stating that we are all Indians living in India, and it is our collective responsibility to work together, unify, and protect one another.

Meanwhile, Sikh youth leader Amanjeet Singh extended his gratitude to Rouble Nagi and thanked her for her willingness to listen attentively to their issues and sufferings.



DC Bandipora Inspects Drug De-Addiction Centre, Ensures Support for Rehabilitation Efforts

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri Tuesday paid a surprise visit to the District Drug De-Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre (DDAC), Bandipora to take stock of the facilities and services at DDAC.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the staff and conducted a thorough review of the facilities and services available at the centre. "Particular attention was paid to the heating arrangements at the facility, keeping in view the harsh winter conditions, to ensure the comfort and well-being of the patients," officials told The Kashmir Convener.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the staff to make every possible effort to support the recovery and rehabilitation of individuals affected by drug addiction.

He assured the centre of the District Administration's all possible unwavering support and coordination in their mission to eradicate the scourge of drug abuse from community and fostering a healthier, drug-free environment.

He said the Deputy Commissioner lauded the commendable efforts of the staff and the implementing agency, the J&K Students Welfare Mission (JKSWM), for ensuring the smooth functioning and efficient operations of the DDAC.

Recognizing the critical role of the centre in combating the drug menace, he emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest standards in service delivery.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Mr. Zaffar Shawl, JKAS, along with other sectoral officers during his visit.

According to the spokesperson Qadri reiterated the administration's commitment to empowering the



J&K Water Testing Employees Demand Regularization, Express Resentment Over Cabinet's Inaction

SRINAGAR: The Chairman of the All J&K Water Testing Laboratories Staff Association, Mohsin Atta Bhat, has expressed strong resentment over the recent Cabinet meeting's failure to address the regularization of contractual employees.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, Bhat stated that water testing employees, many of whom have served for decades on meager salaries, are eagerly awaiting regularization, a commitment outlined in the National Conference (NC) manifesto.

He highlighted that these employees had been recruited through proper procedures and have consistently provided dedicated service while maintaining high qualifications.

"The most pressing issue is the regularization of temporary and contractual employees, particularly those who have crossed the upper age limit and are struggling to make ends meet," Bhat said.

Drawing a comparison to the NC-Congress regime's previous term, where contractual and contingent employees were regularized under the Special Provision Act 2010 (SRO 255), he questioned why the same provision was not being extended to J&K's contractual employees who were recruited through proper selection procedures.

He further added that water testing employees were appointed according to central government guidelines, which include provisions for regularization and honorarium. However, he noted, the government has adhered strictly to recruitment and monitoring guidelines but ignored the provisions for regularization and honorarium, which he described as a grave injustice.

Bhat also pointed out that in 2023, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Jal Shakti Department had recommended a 50% honorarium increase for these employees, which is still pending approval from the Finance Department, causing severe hardships for the staff.

He appealed to the Additional Chief Secretary (Jal Shakti Department) to intervene and push for the approval of the honorarium file with the Finance Department on a priority basis. Furthermore, Mr. Bhat urged the trade union leaders of J&K to prioritize this issue before government authorities, emphasizing that if their legitimate demands remain unmet, they will be forced to take to the streets in protest.

Lastly Bhat appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to convene a special Cabinet meeting to discuss and recommend the regularization of contractual employees, particularly water testing employees, in fulfillment of the NC party manifesto.



Negligence or what: On the negligence of fire safety



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The tragic fire at a hospital in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, which claimed the lives of 11 newborns, highlights the failure of fire safety measures in India's public institutions. Despite the National Building Code (NBC) and Fire Safety and Prevention Rules, many hospitals do not comply with these regulations. This highlights the urgent need for better fire safety enforcement and significant upgradation of infrastructure to prevent future loss of lives. Challenges in ensuring fire safety in public institutions Fire safety implementation is flawed. Corruption and lack of proper monitoring in obtaining fire no objection certificates (NOCs) cause many hospitals to fail to comply with prescribed fire safety rules. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), many hospitals bypass regulatory checks, resulting in unsafe structures that do not meet fire safety standards.

Inadequate infrastructure and planning: Improper planning and poor construction often result in fire hazards in public institutions, especially hospitals. The Kolkata AMRI Hospital fire incident (2011) exposed serious flaws in structural planning, such as blocked escape routes and inadequate fire exits, which contributed to a large number of deaths. Lack of awareness and training, such as medical staff and fire safety personnel, are often not adequately trained in fire prevention, emergency evacuation, or firefighting techniques. A fire at a COVID-19 facility in Mumbai (2020) revealed a lack of preparedness, with hospital staff unable to handle fire emergencies due to inadequate training and awareness. Many hospitals, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, lack the financial resources to upgrade fire safety infrastructure or purchase adequate firefighting equipment. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI) report recorded over 7,500 fire accidents in 2022, resulting in 7,435 deaths, reflecting the dire consequences of poor enforcement.

Many hospitals lack dedicated evacuation routes, fire retardant materials, and other necessary infrastructure to guard against fire hazards. The Uphar Cinema fire (1997), which killed 59 people, was aggravated by inadequate exit points, highlighting the need for robust evacuation planning as prescribed by the NBC and NDMA guidelines. Variations in the implementation of fire safety standards across different states and union territories in India create regional disparities. Measures to address these challenges are to strengthen monitoring and regulation. Ensuring robust monitoring of fire safety norms and making fire safety audits mandatory for all hospitals can improve compliance. The NDMA guidelines for fire safety in public institutions should be enforced more stringently, with regular inspections and penalties for non-compliance. Hospitals should invest in modern fire safety infrastructure, including fire alarms, sprinklers, and fire suppression systems.

The fire safety measures at AIIMS, Delhi, which include advanced fire detection and suppression systems, can serve as a model for other hospitals. Regular fire safety drills and com-

prehensive training programs for hospital staff on emergency procedures are essential. Fire safety training programs such as those initiated by the NDRF can be replicated in all hospitals to ensure staff readiness during a crisis. Governments and hospital

Increasing public awareness about fire safety in hospitals and public institutions can lead to better vigilance and adherence to safety standards. Awareness campaigns like those run by the Bureau of Indian

is a stark reminder of the ongoing lapses in fire safety enforcement in public institutions. Adopting best practices followed in countries like Japan, which has one of the lowest rates of fire deaths, can be a guiding light. The government should focus on



The fire safety measures at AIIMS, Delhi, which include advanced fire detection and suppression systems, can serve as a model for other hospitals. Regular fire safety drills and comprehensive training programs for hospital staff on emergency procedures are essential. Fire safety training programs such as those initiated by the NDRF can be replicated in all hospitals to ensure staff readiness during a crisis. Governments and hospital authorities should allocate more funds for fire safety infrastructure and regular maintenance...

authorities should allocate more funds for fire safety infrastructure and regular maintenance. The National Health Mission (NHM) can include fire safety as a mandatory part of its funding proposals for new hospital projects, especially in underserved areas.

Standards (BIS) can help spread knowledge about fire prevention and emergency response. Providing incentives like subsidies or grants to hospitals that comply with fire safety standards can promote better implementation. The tragic hospital fire in Jhansi

upgrading infrastructure, enhancing regulation, and improving training programs to create safer public spaces.

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Book Review: Story Of Struggle & Success



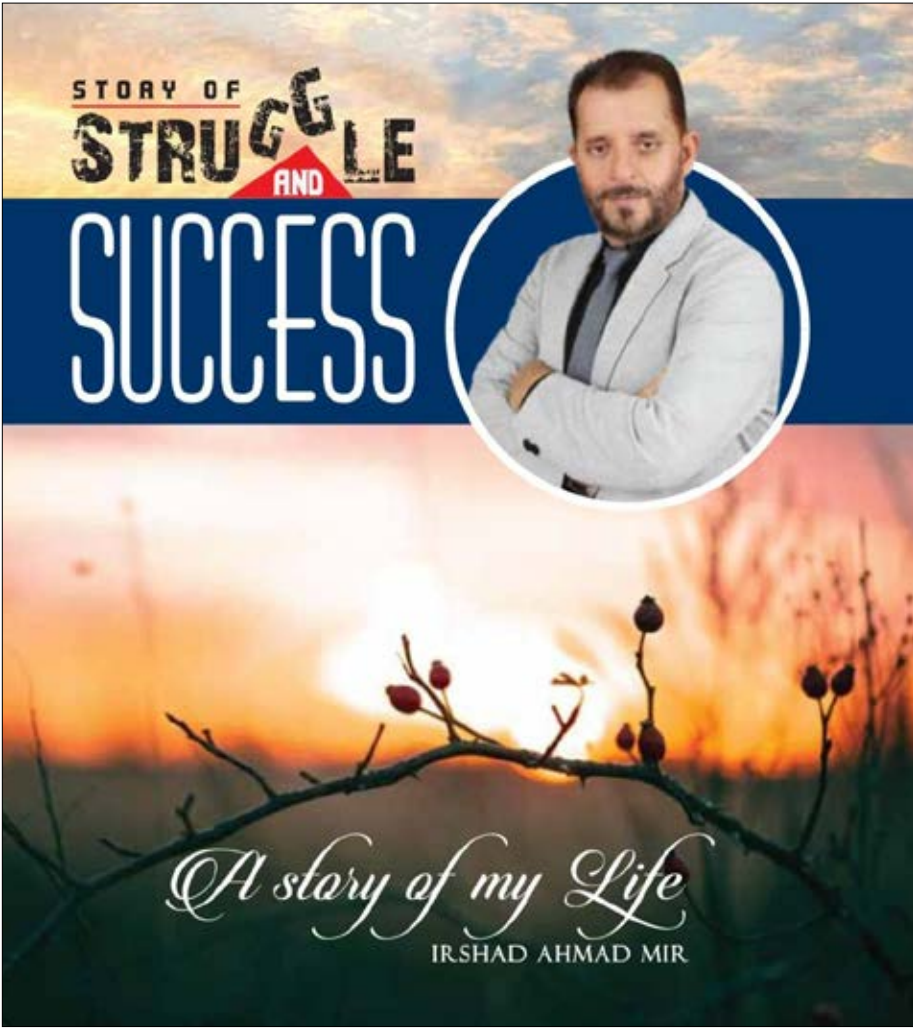
By Khalid Farooq

"When faced with any doubt or hardship, remember that every challenge is shaping the person you are becoming," writes Irshad Ahmad Mir in his recently launched book, Story of Struggle and Success.

This assertion sets the tone for an inspiring narrative that chronicles the author's journey from the serene yet tumultuous valleys of Kashmir to the promising opportunities in Qatar. Mir's book stands out for its authenticity. It isn't a mere celebration of success but a heartfelt account of the struggles, sacrifices, and unwavering determination that shaped his life. The author masterfully captures not only his personal victories but also the setbacks and sacrifices that paved his way forward.

The transition from struggle to success feels authentic and motivating, offering readers valuable insights into resilience and self-growth. The storytelling is straightforward and relatable, making the book accessible to a wide audience. The author's ability to share personal anecdotes and practical wisdom creates an intimate connection with readers, inspiring them to reflect on their own journeys. Written with utmost honesty and integrity – the book is full of emotions, life lessons and humor. The book is a telling account of how you navigate through challenges in life despite all odds and against tides of time.

From finding strength in family and faith to embracing failures as lessons, the book is a treasure trove of insights for anyone seeking inspiration. Each chapter resonates with



themes of perseverance, resilience, and the pursuit of purpose. Mir reflects on the power of kindness, the importance of community, and the lessons drawn from both triumphs and losses. The narrative doesn't just recount events; it shifts perspectives, urging readers to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth. Story of Struggle and Success is more than just a memoir; it's a guide to navigating life's adversities with courage and determination. For those seeking motivation and a renewed sense of purpose, this book is an inspiring companion. I had the privilege to attend the launching ceremony and I also got one of the few signed copies of the book by the author. Having known him for the past six years I have seen him navigate life's adversaries closely. He is always inspiring and leads by example.

Irshad as an author is as good as he is in his trade. What he has written is mostly from his experience and almost all these stories are based on truthful events.

Through this book, readers will get a chance to delve into his world of thinking and are set for an experience of a lifetime, especially for our younger generation. One can find motivation after reading the book about how hard work always pays. Irshad, who came from a humble background, is now heading a company with more than 200 employees and competing with international brands. His struggles and success have been written in a way as an accomplished author who manages to convey his life journey to readers in a very simple way. From the beginning till the end, this book attracts the reader and he feels as if he too is part of the characters of the book. Basically every chapter of this book gives us a message about resilience and hard work and how to achieve success in an uncharted territory. Since this is the first book of the author, some stories could have been written in a better way and more details about the Middle East and Qatar weaved around his life could have made this book a masterpiece. This book is a must read, especially for those youths who want to achieve big in their lives and are ready to travel abroad.

Raj Bhawan celebrates Foundation Day of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur

JAMMU: The Foundation Day of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura was celebrated in J&K Raj Bhavan.

Students, Security personnel and the people of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur living in J&K were the special invitees for the cultural programme celebrating the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, organized to commemorate the occasion.

In his address, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha conveyed his hearty greetings and best wishes to the people of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur.

He paid homage to the great personalities of the three states and remembered their significant contribution in nation building.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the socio-economic



transformational journey of North Eastern States, under the leadership

of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

He said the rapid and inclusive development has connected the aspirations of the people of the North East to the aspirations of the nation.

"Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur are the treasure troves of India's rich traditions, culture, folk art & crafts. I can say with immense pride that today the North Eastern States have emerged as growth engines of the country and are inspiring the entire society through their spiritual ideals and cultural values. May these blessed states continue to achieve new heights of growth, progress, and development. I wish the people happiness, peace, and prosperity in the years to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Secretary JK Legislative Assembly participates in 61st Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies

JAMMU: Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita, participated in the 61st conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India held at Patna, Bihar.

The conference was presided over by Secretary General Lok Sabha, Utpal Kumar Singh.

The conference brought together the Secretaries of Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils to share their experiences of Parliamentary Democracy and issues confronted while discharging their duties.

During the conference, robust discussions were held on adoption of modern technologies in Legislative Bodies for greater efficiency, effectiveness and productivity.

During the discussions, Manoj Kumar Pandita spoke on the initiatives being taken by the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of present Speaker Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather.

He mentioned that the three day orientation programme was recently held at Jammu for newly elected Legislators which has been appreciated throughout India.

Manoj Pandita further discussed with Secretary Legislative Council Bihar, Akhilesh Kumar Jha, about implementation of National e -Vidhan Application (NeVA) in Bihar Legislative Council.

Earlier, Manoj Kumar had attended 60th conference of Secretaries at Mumbai Maharashtra held on the theme "Making use of Cutting Edge Technologies in the Service of Legislature". He also attended the 59th conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India held at Jaipur in the month of January, 2023 under the theme "Enforcing Executive Accountability by Strengthening Committee System in Legislature".

During the discussions, Secretaries of other states where elections have been held recently like Haryana and Maharashtra, have decided to hold such type of conferences in their respective states.

Pertinently, such type of conferences are being held every year on different subjects pertaining to functioning of State Legislatures.

DDC Baramulla reviews Aspirational District programme

BARAMULLA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired a meeting today to review the progress of the Aspirational District programme.

During the meeting, DDC directed the concerned officers to submit the leftover Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the Rs.3.18 crore allocation approved by NITI Aayog.

The meeting also focused on the review of physical and financial progress of previous projects under the programme. DDC emphasized the need to complete projects on time and ensure the effective utilization of resources.

Additionally, the review included discussions on the saturation of balance indicators in the district. Sherpa stressed the importance of prioritizing the completion of remaining targets to achieve the goals of the Aspirational District Programme.

DDC called on all officers to work collaboratively to overcome challenges and accelerate the implementation of projects to ensure Baramulla's sustained development under the programme.

DDC Kupwara releases statistical publications



KUPWARA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today released various Statistical publications pertaining to performance of various sectors in district Kupwara.

The publications which were prepared and presented by District Statistics & Evaluation Office (DSEO) Kupwara include District Statistical Handbook, District Profile, District Kupwara at Glance and Economic Review of District Kupwara.

Meanwhile, the DDC said that data collection, its compilation and presenting it in its analytical order is an important factor in every field of development. The data so collected can be used for framing/developing the area and bridging the critical gaps for the improved version of the planning.

Further the publications will be helpful in the long run for its users, research scholars and other agencies engaged in connection with development and framing of policy planning matters at any stage for the betterment of the district.

The publications were released in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, M Rouf Rehman; ACR Kupwara, Chief Planning Officer Kupwara, Dy. Director Statistics & Evaluation, AD Planning, and staff member of DSEO.

DC Baramulla launches Clean River Jhelum campaign on Republic Day-2025 eve

BARAMULLA: In a significant step to promote environmental cleanliness ahead of Republic Day, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today launched the 'Clean River Jhelum Campaign.'

The campaign, running from January 21 to January 25, 2025, aims to clean the River Jhelum and raise awareness about environmental conservation.

Organized by the Housing and Urban Development Department Kashmir, with active participation from the Municipal Council (MC) Baramulla, the initiative will focus on cleaning the riverbanks, collecting waste, and educating the public on the importance of preserving natural resources. "The River Jhelum is a vital part of our heritage, and this campaign highlights our collective responsibility to protect and preserve it for future generations," stated DC during the launch. The campaign is designed to inspire the local community to take action in maintaining a cleaner and greener environment.

The campaign was launched in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Baramulla, Naveed Ajaz, and other officers and officials. This initiative aligns with the ongoing efforts of the Housing and Urban Development Department Kashmir to improve urban cleanliness and foster sustainable development practices in the region.

Div Com Kashmir assesses preparations for celebration of Republic Day

SRINAGAR: In view of ensuing Republic Day celebrations, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting on Tuesday with officials from civil departments and security agencies to assess the final arrangements and facilities for the national event.

During the meeting, the Div Com reviewed the facilities for the participants and emphasized on overwhelming participation in the Republic Day celebrations.

He also instructed for hassle-free entry of participants at the venue, and directed concerned departments to appoint nodal officers to facilitate them.

He called for the illumination of key government buildings and institutions to foster a festive atmosphere.

The meeting was attended by Deputy



Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Director Floriculture, and heads of all divisional and district offices.

Later, the Div Com also visited Bakhshi Stadium to assess the arrangements for the seamless execution of the Republic Day celebrations.

During this visit, he inspected the availability

of drinking water and electricity, installation of LED screens, sound systems, seating arrangements, sanitation, and toilet facilities.

On the occasion, he directed the Roads and Buildings department to install four LED screens at the stadium for live broadcast of the celebration proceedings.

He also urged the relevant authorities to ensure adequate heating arrangements for guests and enjoined the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to deploy mobile toilets at the venue.

During the visit, the Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic, ASP Security and officials from various departments, including PHE, KPDC, R&B, Information, MED, Traffic Police, YSS, AAFL, Sports Council, and Hospitality & Protocol, and others.

Heritage Conservation: Srinagar Admin to Constitute Expert team to Draft Conservation Report

SRINAGAR: In order to review the progression of the heritage preservation projects in the district, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex here, today.

At the outset, DC highlighted the significant cultural value of Srinagar's architectural heritage, underscoring the critical need to preserve these historical assets as symbols of the District's identity and legacy.

He laid emphasis on collaborative frameworks in restoration practices to conserve architecture of the identified sites on heritage patterns.

Dr Bilal remarked that protecting Srinagar's architectural heritage is essential for cultural continuity and tourism promotion besides religious aspects.

On the occasion, the DC directed for constituting an Experts Team that will visit all sites and share a conservation report with the executing agencies so that preservation, revival, maintenance projects on identified



sites in Srinagar District including Aali Masjid, Vicharnag Temple, Ziyarat

Naqashband Sahib, Zeathyar Narayan Mutt temple, Solina, and Baba Gulam-U-Din Shrine.

During the meeting, the DC also held interaction with the different stakeholders and received their feedback for ensuring smooth and sustainable progression of the heritage preservation projects.

He directed all departments involved to expedite efforts and collaborate closely to ensure the effective implementation of heritage preservation projects.

The DC reiterated the Administration's commitment to protect and revitalize Srinagar's historical assets and religious places, ensuring they are preserved for future generations to appreciate and learn from.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer R&B, Executive Engineers of R&B, Officers from Archives, Archaeology & Museums Kashmir, experts from Kashmir University, SKUAST, INTACH and other concerned.

Delegation from Padder, AoI Gangyal call on Dy CM



JAMMU: A delegation from Padder, led by Pooja Thakur, Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar, called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chaudhary here today.

The delegation apprised the Deputy Chief Minister of the pressing issues faced by the residents of Padder-Nagseni, seeking immediate redressal.

The key demands presented included improving road connectivity, addressing power supply issues, enhancing healthcare facilities and expediting completion of pending developmental projects in the region.

The Deputy Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them of prompt action.

He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for early resolution of several highlighted issues.

Later, a deputation of Association of Industries (AoI) Gangyal, Jammu led by Virendra Jain, President and other functionaries met the Deputy Chief Minister. The delegation apprised the Deputy Chief Minister of current state of Micro/Small Industrial sector, Jammu in particular and J&K in general.

The Association urged for initiating a new industrial policy and package of incentives, the operation part of which must be at par for new and the existing industry as well.

The deputation laid emphasis on compensating local Micro/Small sector through timely reimbursement of fiscal incentives at least equivalent to the quantum of amount prevalent before adoption of GST regime in J&K by way of VAT remission, CST and Toll Tax exemptions besides Central Excise Duty refund and other demands.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the deputation that the issues projected by them would be looked into and redressed properly.

He said the government is committed for ensuring sustained industrial growth in Jammu & Kashmir.

DDC Gbl discusses work plan for SANJY-2025

GANDERBAL: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, today chaired a high-level meeting in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat here to discuss the comprehensive work plan for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025.

The meeting commenced with a review of the action plan from the previous year's Yatra, with a strong emphasis on enhancing the quality of services and infrastructure. Discussions revolved around key focus areas, including improvements in health services, sanitation, flood protection measures, solar lighting, parking facilities, mobile connectivity, transport services, contingency plans, and other vital infrastructure to ensure a seamless Yatra experience for pilgrims.

Heads of Departments provided updates on their respective preparations and ongoing projects related to SANJY-2025. The DDC underscored the importance of submitting finalized work plans by January 24, 2025, to enable the timely execution of development works critical to the



successful conduct of the Yatra.

The Animal Husbandry Department was tasked with identifying suitable locations along the Yatra route for hot water facilities for ponies, while the Jal Shakti Department was directed to ensure the availability of hot water at these identified points.

The Rural Development Department was instructed to prioritize the maintenance of toilet facilities, and BEACON was asked to make provisions for repairing utilities that may require attention during the Yatra.

In addition, the ARTO Ganderbal proposed the establishment of a separate SRTC ticket counter and merging of parking areas to streamline transportation and parking management.

Addressing the critical issue of mobile connectivity, the DDC directed telecom companies to submit a detailed plan in advance, with a special focus on strengthening connectivity at the Base Camp Baltal and along the Yatra track from Domail onwards.

Officers shared their insights and experiences from the previous year's Yatra, contributing valuable suggestions to further enhance the services provided to pilgrims. The DDC assured immediate redressal of the issues raised by officers and issued specific directions to concerned departments to address them promptly.

Arrangements for Shab-i-Meraj finalized at Kulgam

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday finalized arrangements for smooth observation of Shab-i-Meraj, at the meeting hall of Mini-Secretariat, here.

DDC asked the PHE department to ensure safe drinking water supply to all mosques and shrines, adding that tanker service be made available to those religious places where huge congregations are expected as a backup and standby measure.

The KPDC, the Assistant Director, FCS&CA was directed to ensure proper power supply in the entire district especially during the Shab-i-Meraj for smooth celebration of the festival.

The CMO was asked to deploy medical teams along with essential drugs at all the major shrines including Hazrat Syed Simnani (RA) Shrine Kulgam, Hazrat Sheikh ul Alam



(RA) Shrine Quimoh, Hazrat Noor Shah Bagdad (RA) Kund & Chimmer as a precautionary measure.

The Assistant Director, FCS&CA was directed to make available essential commodities in all the food stores, ensuring quality of all essentials. All the Executive Officers of three Municipal Committees were directed to clean up the surroundings of all major shrines in the district.

Tehsildars were directed to intensify the market checking and

ensure availability of essentials including mutton, bakery and poultry at a reasonable rate.

The DC called for synergizing efforts by the concerned departments to ensure that the religious eve is celebrated in a smooth and peaceful manner.

He said no stone should be left unturned in extending best civic amenities to the people on this pious and sacred function.

The transport department was directed to prepare a traffic plan & advisory for commuters for hassle free traffic regulation during the festival days. ADDC Bashir Ahmad Wani; Addl. Superintendent of Police, ACR, ACP, SDM Noorabad, CMO, Tehsildars, AD Food, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Jal Shakti, PDD, besides Sectoral Officers attended the meeting

Awareness/ training programme on ‘Red Rice’ held at Lalmandi

SRINAGAR: An awareness cum training programme on 'Red Rice' under HADP Project, (promotion of niche crops in the UT of J&K), was held today at agriculture complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

The programme was organised by an advanced research station for saffron and temperate seed spices, SKUAST-K.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of different niche crops including Red Rice. He enumerated the different initiatives by the department in this direction.

He said that our niche crops would play an important role in the economic growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector in the region. He said under the holistic agriculture development program (HADP) government has approved a multi-

core prestigious project to promote the niche crops in the region.

The Jt. Director said the different interventions under HADP project, (Promotion of niche crops) like establishment of nurseries/ seed villages, would generate job opportunities for unemployed youth working in niche sectors.

Earlier head of the research station, Prof. Dr. Bashir Ahmed Allie presented a detailed scenario of different initiatives by the advanced research station, SKUAST- Kashmir for the promotion of niche crops like Red Rice.

Officers of the Research station for saffron and temperate seed spices SKUAST-K, officers of agriculture department and a number of red rice farmers participated in the training program.

Contours of a Visionary Mind

Dr. Maroof Shah’s Intellectual Legacy: Bridges Mysticism, Philosophy and Modernity

Part -I



Shabeer Ahmad Lone

"Academic critique and research whether of literature, art, philosophy, science, mysticism, religious discourse, social thought, or any realm of human inquiry-is a profound voyage where intellect embraces intuition, reason merges with reverence, and empathy intertwines with rigor. It seeks not merely to analyze but to illuminate, to reveal the truths hidden in the silences between words and the depths beyond the surface."

A distinguished scholar, author, columnist Dr. Muhammad Maroof Shah's intellectual legacy represents a profound and ambitious synthesis of mysticism, philosophy, literature and religious thought, rooted deeply in Islamic tradition and stands as a profound beacon of enlightenment in an age marked by existential disarray and spiritual alienation and other modern day human conditions. His works transcend the confines of time, geography, and ideology, weaving a seamless tapestry of thought that critically harmonizes the sacred and the secular, East with West, the traditional and the modern, spirituality and reason, the personal and the universal, metaphysics and the pragmatic concerns of humanity with intellectual rigor. Shah's thought operates at the intersection of various intellectual, religious/spiritual/mystical/philosophical and literary traditions, embodying a visionary approach that seeks to harmonize the fractured realities of the modern world. Rooted in the metaphysical depth of Islamic spirituality, Shah's scholarship draws upon the timeless wisdom of key figures across like Ibn Sina, Al-Farabi, Ibn-Rushd, Suhrawardi, Ibn Arabi, Rumi, Al-Ghazali, Iqbal, Mulla Sadra and scores of others while simultaneously engaging critically with the existential and philosophical discourses of Heidegger, Kant, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Camus, and scores of others. This dialectical approach reflects not only his intellectual audacity but also his deep commitment to uncovering universal truths that resonate across traditions and contexts. In the face of the materialistic and reductionist paradigms of modernity, Shah's thought calls for a return to the sacred as the ultimate foundation for human existence, bridging the gap between the temporal and the eternal. His contributions are not confined to the academic domain; they are a call to action, urging humanity to embrace a holistic vision of life that is both ethically grounded, spiritually uplifting and impactful on ground. By addressing the crises of meaning, purpose, identity, transcendence, and ethics (central to human existence) through a critical and harmonious synthesis of tradition and modernity, Shah's intellectual oeuvre offers an enduring and transformative roadmap for individual and collective renewal. The intellectual and mystical foundations of Shah's work form a rich tapestry that weaves together the metaphysical insights of Sufi mysticism, the existential inquiries of Islamic philosophy, and relevant concepts from Western and Eastern thought.

One of the hallmarks of Shah's intellectual contribution is his ability to synthesize diverse intellectual paradigms. Shah's scholarship goes beyond surface-level comparisons;

their faith with the demands of modern life .

At the core of Dr. Shah's thought lies a commitment to a holistic understanding of Islam that transcends narrow doctrinal boundaries. His exploration of Islamic mysticism reveals the mystical dimensions of faith that are often marginalized in mainstream discourse. Drawing on the works of classical Islamic philosophers like Ibn Arabi and Al-Ghazali etc. Shah emphasizes the purification of the soul and the transformative power of self-awareness as essential aspects of spiritual development. Through figures like Ibn Arabi, Gazzali, Iqbal, Rumi, Mulla Sadra etc. he grounds his worldview in an Islamic metaphysical and ethical tradition, while his engagement with Heidegger, Jung, Eric Fromm, Ken Wilber and other key and significant religious, mystical, literary and cultural figures across cultures, traditions, and modern ethics enables him to address contemporary issues from a universalist perspective. For Shah, true knowledge is not simply intellectual but requires a profound inner transformation, one that connects the individual to the Divine and to the larger cosmos.

Shah's mystical perspective is enriched by his engagement with Western philosophy, particularly Continental tradition, where figures like Meister Eckhart, Heidegger, Kant, Sartre,



Camus, Tillich, Taylor, Ken Wilber, Bugbie, Kierkegaard, Nasr, etc. play a key role in shaping his thought. The existential challenges of meaning, alienation, and self-realization that these thinkers address are brought into dialogue with the metaphysical insights of Islam. From Eastern mystical and philosophical thought he draws from Laozi, Confucius, Upanishads and Vedantic thinkers and from Kashmiri Tradition he draws from Abhinavagupta, Nund Reshi, Lal Ded and Sufi poets from Shams Faqeer to Ahad Zargar and others. Shah's fusion of these mystical/ intellectual traditions offers a fresh perspective on how existential concerns, such as the search for purpose in an often fragmented and disenchanted world, can be addressed through the lens of Islamic spirituality. This synthesis makes Shah's work intellectually rigorous and spiritually transformative, offering a way to bridge the



he delves into the ontological and epistemological foundations of these traditions, seeking shared truths that resonate across cultures and philosophies. This intellectual audacity enables him to articulate a vision of human existence that is deeply rooted in spiritual realities while remaining attuned to the psychological and social dimensions of life in a rapidly changing world.

Dr. Shah's methodological rigor is another area of critical acclaim. His writings often incorporate a comparative analysis of philosophical traditions, drawing parallels between Islamic thought, Eastern and Western philosophical paradigms. This comparative approach allows him to articulate a vision of Islamic modernity that is not merely reactive but proactive, positioning Islamic philosophy as a viable and rich intellectual tradition capable of addressing contemporary challenges. His ability to engage critically with Western philosophies while remaining grounded in Islamic principles, thus fostering a dialogue that transcends cultural boundaries. Moreover, Dr. Shah's uses his philosophical discourse for making complex ideas more relatable. By weaving historical examples into his arguments, he invites readers to reflect on their experiences, thereby creating a space for critical self-examination and communal reflection. This approach has to be lauded for its ability to engage a broader audience, seeking to reconcile

seemingly disparate worlds of modern existentialism and Islamic mysticism.

Shah's exploration of existential philosophy adds another layer of depth to his thought. He engages critically with the works of significant existential philosophers by interrogating their views on freedom, responsibility, and the absurd. While he appreciates their insights into the human condition, Shah points limitations of engagement with transcendence in some of them. He contends that existentialist notions of individual freedom and authenticity can only be fully realized within the context of a metaphysical framework that acknowledges the Divine. This interplay between existentialism and Islamic mysticism in Shah's thought reveals his unique ability to address the psychological and spiritual crises of modern individuals, providing a vision of freedom that is both empowering and anchored in transcendence.

Ethics occupies a central place in Shah's intellectual project. He views ethical living as inseparable from spiritual realization emphasizing that true morality is rooted in the purification of the soul. Shah critiques the moral relativism of modern secular ethics, which he sees as a consequence of its detachment from metaphysical principles. Drawing on the works of Al-Gazali, Iqbal, Mulla Sadra, Shah Waliullah, Baba Afdal, Ali Shariati, Fazlur Rahman, Soroush and other

Islamic philosophers, Shah advocates for an ethics of responsibility that transcends cultural and temporal boundaries. This ethical vision challenges individuals to move beyond self-interest and engage in compassionate action, fostering a society grounded in justice, mutual respect, and spiritual awareness. This call for ethical living, especially in a world increasingly characterized by consumerism and materialism, positions Dr. Shah's works as both a philosophical and a practical guide for modern spiritual seekers.

Shah's engagement with science and modernity further underscores his intellectual versatility. He criticizes the mechanistic and reductionist paradigms of modern science, which often overlook the metaphysical dimensions of existence. At the same time, he recognizes the potential of scientific inquiry to enhance human understanding when it operates within a framework that respects the unity of knowledge. Shah's call for a synthesis of science and spirituality echoes the perspectives of thinkers like Seyyed Hossein Nasr, who similarly advocate for an epistemology that integrates the material and the transcendent. This holistic approach positions Shah as a mediator between the spiritual heritage of Islam and the intellectual demands of modernity, offering

a vision of progress that is both innovative and grounded in timeless truths.

In the field of comparative religion, Shah draws engages critically with wide range of thinkers and traditions to explore commonalities, surface divergences and the deeper essence of religious and spiritual experiences. His scholarship is deeply influenced by figures who have contributed to understanding the interplay of religious traditions, their metaphysical dimensions and their relevance to modern challenges. He has critically engaged with Huston Smith, Karen Armstrong, John Hick, W.C Smith, Joseph Campbell etc.

Shah examines Derrida's critique of logocentrism and its implications for understanding sacred texts and religious hermeneutics and explores Zizek's critiques of ideology, religion, and culture, often juxtaposing them with mystical and metaphysical perspectives.

Shah's expansive engagement with key literary figures across cultures, traditions and periods like Dante, Shakespeare, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, T.S Eliot, Franz Kafka, Albert Camus, Nietzsche, W.B Yeats, Walt Wittman, Rilke, Holderline, Shelley, Emily Dickinson, Miza Ghalib, Iqbal, Mahmoud Darwish, Edward Said, Kahlil Gibran, Rabindranath Tagore, Hafiz, Bedil, Rumi etc. is marked by a profound critical and philosophical depth. He employs a comparative approach to assess how these literary giants grapple with universal themes of death, ethical challenges, spirituality, morality and the human condition. His conclusions are often aimed at uncovering the perennial truths embedded in their works, linking them to broader mystical, philosophical, and ethical concerns. He underscores their enduring relevance in understanding the human perennial quest for meaning, purpose, and transcendence.

Shah critiques the modern secular worldview for its reductive understanding of existence. He argues that modernity, by severing the connection between knowledge and transcendence, has fostered a crisis of meaning. This critique is not an outright rejection of modern achievements but a call for a more integrated approach that respects both the material and spiritual dimensions of human life. One of the most compelling aspects of Dr. Shah's intellectual legacy is his critique of modernity and its impact on spiritual and intellectual life. His thought invokes traditionalism, resonating deeply with the ideas of influential thinkers such as René Guénon, Frithjof Schuon, Huston Smith, Ananda K. Coomaraswamy, Martin Lings etc. and among contemporary thinkers such as Nasr, William Chittick, Titus Burckhardt, Henry Corbin etc. He aligns with them who critique the fragmentation of knowledge and the loss of transcendent values in the modern age. Shah argues that modernity, with its emphasis on rationalism, individualism, and secularism, has led humanity to a spiritual crisis. By reawakening traditional Islamic wisdom, Shah offers a path that reconnects individuals with their metaphysical roots, advocating for a return to fundamental spiritual truths that transcend the fragmented worldview of modernity.

Shah has also eloquently articulated the profound contributions of Kashmir to philosophical, literary, and spiritual discourse, emphasizing its timeless relevance in Indian and global contexts. His scholarship not only unearths the historical significance of Kashmir's intellectual traditions but also highlights their enduring resonance in addressing contemporary challenges of pluralism, spirituality, and human coexistence. He underscores the unparalleled contributions of Kashmiri Shaivism to Indian philosophy. He admires Shankara's Advaita Vedanta for its profound vision of unity, paralleling Sufi metaphysics. However, while noting its transcendental focus, he advocates a spirituality that balances metaphysical depth with social compassion and justice. This non-dualistic tradition, articulated by luminaries like Abhinavagupta, Vasugupta, and Utpaladeva, offers a profound metaphysical framework that integrates the material and the spiritual. He passionately advocates for rediscovering and preserving Kashmir's intellectual heritage, emphasizing its potential to inspire solutions to modern dilemmas. Whether through the philosophical depth of Shaivism/Reshim, the poetic brilliance and profound insights of Sufi Poetry, or the spiritual inclusivity of Sufi Reshis, Kashmir's contributions remain profoundly relevant in shaping a just, harmonious, inclusive, and enlightened global society.

Shah's oeuvre reflects a profound engagement with timeless and contemporary questions. From exploring Iqbal's dynamic understanding of evil to engaging critically with the work of Osho, his writings challenge static thought and ignite transformative reflection. He bridges science and faith, modernity and tradition, reason and revelation, offering nuanced pathways for dialogue and synthesis. Whether delving into Sufism's spiritual depths or unraveling the enigma of divine debates, Shah's clarity and depth transcends boundaries, making his legacy a beacon of timeless relevance. His vision is at once philosophical, religious, mystical, practical, and profoundly human, inspiring thought and action in equal measure.

Here is an overview of some of his seminal works and their central insights:

1. The Problem of Evil in Muslim Philosophy: A Case Study of Iqbal

In this insightful work, Dr. Shah examines the philosophical dimensions of evil in Islamic thought through the lens of Allama Iqbal's vision. He explores Iqbal's dynamic interpretation of evil as an essential element in the cosmic order, one that challenges human moral and spiritual growth. Shah highlights Iqbal's profound reconciliation of the existence of evil with divine justice, advocating for an understanding of God that transcends static theology and embraces life's trials as catalysts for human creativity and ethical evolution. However, the author says Iqbal's philosophical and theological dualism comes in his way to formulate a convincing theodicy

To Be Continued.

Continued From P1...

Rajouri deaths

Home Minister Amit Shah, led by a director-level officer from the Ministry of Home Affairs on the second consecutive day spent hours collecting samples and interacting with villagers and surviving family members.

Initial investigations, according to the officials, ruled out a communicable bacterial or viral disease, focusing instead on neurotoxins found in the samples of victims.

Authorities also sealed a local spring after discovering traces of pesticides or insecticides in its water.

CM Omar

Talking to reporters after meeting the families of the victims the Chief Minister said that till now investigators have not been able to establish the reason behind mysterious deaths in the hamlet but efforts are on to ascertain the cause of deaths. "The government's priority is to stop this cycle of deaths and that it should not go beyond 17," he said, adding, "Since the day we have got the information, officials of Health and other departments have been working to understand the cause behind these deaths."

"Tests were done, and we reached the conclusion that there was no bacteria or virus that caused these deaths," he said, adding, "All these deaths have taken place in three families. "But, we are yet to find the reason behind these deaths. Since it's not a disease, Police are also involved in it and they have formed a team to investigate the matter.

The Central Government team is also there, and together we will look into the reason behind these deaths," the Chief Minister said.

He said that the government is fully committed to uncovering the cause of the tragic deaths, with multiple agencies actively involved in the investigation.

Security beefed

the formation of an elected government after the abrogation of J&K's special status in 2019.

IGP Birdi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The preparations for 26th January are in full swing, and there will be multi-tier security arrangements to ensure that people can come and go smoothly and enjoy the parade with peace of mind."

Meanwhile, an official told KNO that the multi-tier security measures have been put in place to ensure that day passes peacefully.

"Sanitization and area domination exercises are being carried out by security personnel to ensure safety of the people," the official added.

He said there is an extensive deployment of police and paramilitary forces along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC). "Senior officers have reviewed security arrangements in sensitive border areas to ensure effective coordination between various agencies," he added.

"To further bolster security, advanced surveillance technologies, including drones and high-resolution CCTV cameras, have been deployed to monitor event venues and surrounding areas," he said, adding that checkpoints have been set up in Srinagar and other district headquarters, particularly at key entry points.

R-Day entry

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No:0216020006149, which is Registered in the name of Zaffar Ahmad Beigh, S/O Rustum Beigh, R/O Rather Mohalla Kaloosa. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Tanweer Ahmad Begh, S/O Mirza Zaffar Ahmad, R/O Kaloosa Nathpora, 63, Sub Station Bandipora KLS, JK. In this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Tanweer Ahmad Begh.
S/O Mirza Zaffar Ahmad.
R/O Kaloosa Nathpora, 63, Sub Station Bandipora KLS JK.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No:0216020002491, which is Registered in the name of Gh Rasool Lone, S/O Mohmmad Sabir Lone. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Bashir Ahmad Lone, S/O Gh Rasool Lone, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Bashir Ahmad Lone.
S/O Gh Rasool Lone.
R/O Bonkoot Pahlpora Bandipora.

and electricity, installation of LED screens, sound systems, seating arrangements, sanitation, and toilet facilities.

On the occasion, he directed the Roads and Buildings department to install four LED screens at the stadium for live broadcast of the celebration proceedings.

He also urged the relevant authorities to ensure adequate heating arrangements for guests and enjoined the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to deploy mobile toilets at the venue.

Its in place to mention here that Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary will lead the ceremony in Srinagar at take salute at Bakshi Stadium here.

CS for enforcing

to frame a proper SOP for monitoring the population of the village. He asked them to deploy sufficient manpower from both the Health department and Police to enforce the Do's and Don'ts set in the SOP.

Dulloo further enjoined upon the divisional and district administration to not let down their guard and allow only tested edibles and non-edibles to be used by the persons under quarantine. He stressed that till the actual causes of these deaths are not known both the Police and Health professionals should carry on their investigations as required as per the set procedures.

He also urged them to study the reports received from the national diagnostic institutions that had taken samples from the village. He directed them to take every possible measure to protect the lives of these villagers till the toxicology reports point out the actual causes of these deaths.

He also took note of the work done so far by the SIT constituted by the Police Department and other investigation agencies including the Ministerial team sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs. He enquired from the experts the possible preventive measures that could be taken to control the further damage.

The Secretary H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah informed the meeting that every measure has been taken to isolate the families and provide them food and water after testing the same.

It was given out that the health teams are stationed there to keep surveillance for any of the symptoms appearing in any person. It has further been added that the local PHC/CHC has been kept in a state of readiness besides it is ensured that no food or eatables are exchanged as the families had been removed from their homes and kept under continuously monitored to safeguard their lives.

Doctors’ profession

it is meant to serve the ailing people. While speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bharat Bhushan congratulated the students and agencies who worked hard for establishment of Homeopathy Medical College in Kathua.

Dr. Surinder K. Attri, in his welcome address, expressed gratitude to the Minister for her whole hearted efforts to start the Government Homeopathy Medical College in Kathua. He said that the 30 bedded Homeopathy Hospital is already functioning and facilitating the people of Kathua in terms of medical facilities.

HUDD launches

of all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to implement the cleanliness campaign in their respective ULBs as per the calendar of activities in letter and spirit. Giving details about the Swachhata initiative,

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No:0216010004389, Which is Registered in the name of Gh Mohi U Din Lone, S/O Ab Kareem Lone. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Mahraj Din Mir, S/O Ali Mohammad Mir, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mahraj Din Mir.
S/O Ali Mohammad Mir.
R/O T. A. Shah Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No:0216010006734, which is Registered in the name of my Father Namely Ab Aziz Baba, Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Mohd Ismayeil Baba, S/O Ab Aziz Baba, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohd Ismayeil Baba.
S/O Ab Aziz Baba.
R/O ward NO: 06, Bagh Bandipora.

Dr. Devansh Yadav, Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 J&K UT, said that while the Nation is celebrating 76th Republic Day, it is imperative to make our ULBs Swachh and garbage free. He said that different activities have been scheduled to create a Jan Andolan.

These included community cleanliness drives with emphasis on water bodies, Plog Run, clearing of garbage hot spots, street plays, open painting and quiz competitions, special sanitation drives in health institutions, school engagement programs and intensive digital campaigns.

He advised the ULBs to involve people from different walks of life especially Swachhata ambassadors, influencers, NSS volunteers and senior citizens in these activities for building a cleaner, healthier Jammu & Kashmir. He also asked the ULBs to promote "My Place, My Responsibility" campaign, encouraging individuals to take ownership of their surroundings and contribute towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene.

To further encourage engagement of public especially youth, a Painting Competition with the theme "Importance of Segregation" is also scheduled to be held as part of the campaign. The painting competition will be open to all age groups and will invite the participants to showcase their creativity and commitment to a cleaner, greener Jammu & Kashmir. Cash prizes of Rs 1.00 lakh, Rs 0.50 lakh and Rs 0.25 lakh will be given for best three paintings respectively.

During this campaign, ULBs will leverage social media platforms under the hashtags #CleanRepublicDay and #SwachhJK to promote cleanliness initiatives, sharing impactful messages, photos and videos to encourage public participation.

Requesting the public to participate, the Mission Director said, "This Republic Day, let us unite to celebrate our progress as a Swachh UT by reaffirming our commitment to cleanliness and sustainability".

Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Owais Ahmad; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, Manisha Sarin; Director Local Bodies, Kashmir, Akramullah Tak; CEOs/EOs of all Urban Local Bodies of J&K and experts from the Project Management Unit of H&UDD were present during the launch of the campaign.

Illegal drugs

Courier Service located in Chota Bazar:The

NOTICE

1) Momin Manzoor Gojar Turk, 2) Momina Manzoor (Daughter), 3) Mozin Manzoor Gojar Turk, 4) Manan Manzoor Gojar Turk, Hence their Birth is at home and in Hospital their is not any Birth Record, and also there is No Birth Record in Municipal council office, Now i want to apply for Online DOB of my Children, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Manzoor Ahmad Gojar Turk.
F/O
1) Momin Manzoor Gojar Turk.
2) Momina Manzoor (Daughter).
3) Mozin Manzoor Gojar Turk.
4) Manan Manzoor Gojar Turk
R/O Quilmuqam
Tehsil Aloosa District Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No: JK-15 20140008592, my Parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohammad Yousf Bhat, while as my Actual and correct Parantege is, Mohd Yousuf Bhat. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Rafiq Ahmad Bhat.
S/O Mohd Yousuf Bhat.
R/O Ayathmulla Bandipora.

NOTICE

I, Mohd Ashraf Dar, son of Ali Mohd Dar, resident of Darmahama Mantrigam, Bandipora, holding driving license number JK15 2021 0000934, issued on 24/03/2021 and valid until 23/03/2031, hereby inform that I am changing my name to Mohmad Ashraf Dar, son of Ali Mohd Dar. Any person with objections may contact the ARTO office, Bandipora, within seven days from the publication of this notice.

police in a statement said that acting on reliable information, a search was conducted at the courier office after following due legal procedures, resulting in the recovery of a substantial quantity of illegal drugs.

The seized drug's include Mavrix-T Codeine – 220 bottles; Spasmodoxyvon – 15 boxes (7 strips per box); and Pregabalin – 60 strips.

3000 Solar

with immense potential for harnessing solar, hydro and other renewable energy sources.

He informed that solarisation of all government buildings under PM Surya Ghar scheme has already been taken up by JaKeDA and it is expected that by December 2025,

all these buildings in J&K shall be solarised. He added that under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, around 1000 solar roof topping under domestic category has been done and a total of 3MW has been achieved, so far.

Second Meeting

committee report each in Hindi and English, and 21 volumes of annexure, besides a soft copy as well. Headed by BJP MP PP Chaudhary,

the 39-member joint committee comprises members from all major parties, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Congress, Sanjay Jha from JD(U), Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, AAP's Sanjay Singh, and Kalyan Banerjee and Saket Gokhale from Trinamool Congress.

National Conference Leader Javed Rahim Bhat Welcomes Salary Hike for SPOs, Discusses Regional Issues in Pulwama

PULWAMA National Conference leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Javed Rahim Bhat has welcomed the recent cabinet decision to increase the salaries of Special Police Officers (SPOs) in the police department. He termed the move as a positive step towards improving the welfare of SPOs and boosting their morale.



In a meeting held in Pulwama, Bhat engaged with public delegations from 15 villages, including Babgam, Wanpora, Loswani, Chiwa Kalan, Karimabad, Barpora, and Zadoora. The discussions centered on the pressing regional issues faced by residents.

inadequate infrastructure, water supply shortages, poor road connectivity, and lack of healthcare facilities. Bhat assured the people that their grievances would be prioritized, and he would work towards addressing them at the earliest.

The public delegations raised various concerns, including

"Resolving the issues of the people is my top priority, and I

am committed to working with the administration to bring development to these areas. The concerns raised by the residents of Pulwama will be addressed on a priority basis," Bhat said.

The meeting witnessed active participation from the public, with residents expressing hope for swift resolutions under Bhat's leadership. He assured the delegations of continued efforts to ensure equitable development and promised to bring their concerns to the notice of higher authorities for swift action.

This initiative is part of Bhat's ongoing efforts to strengthen communication between public representatives and the administration, aiming for inclusive growth in Pulwama.

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدارسرکل ہارون تحصیل نار تھ سرینگر

مضمون درخواست از جانب عویس علی و آصف علی بمرد عطا علی۔ R.B.A سرٹیفیکٹ بحق پاس عویس علی و آصف علی اولاد اولان زلفقار علی کھوسا کن گنڈیل سرینگر۔

اشتہار بمرد ادا گاهی ہر خاص و عام!

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں رپورٹ پٹواری مفصل ہے۔ قرار رپورٹ پٹواری سائل درخواست دہندہ کنبہ/ افراد خانہ بذیل اندراج ہے۔

| نمبر شمار | نام افراد مخدو ولدیت | رشتہ ہمراہ سائل/ سائلہ | عمر تقریباً | پیشہ |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | عویس علی | سائل | 39 | Pvt Employee |
| 2 | آصف علی | سائل | 38 | Driver |
| 3 | زینت | زوجہ عویس علی | 37 | H/W |
| 4 | حیدر علی | پسر عویس علی | 06 | زیر تعلیم |

اس طوکر تبہ۔ 14 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ قبل اسکے کہ معاملہ زیر بحث کے نسبت مزید کارروائی کی جائے یہ ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا اطلاع کیا جاتا ہے۔ کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر کی اوقات رانعم کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معیا و گزرنے کے۔ کوئی کئی ہندریا افسران قابل ہوں نہیں ہوگا۔

مدیرتہ البنات دارالعلوم رحیمہ بانڈی پورہ

کی تعمیر و تکمیل کے صدقہ جاریہ میں خصوصی حصہ لیجئے، موقعہ غنیمت جانیں

اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ کے فضل و کرم سے لڑکیوں کے لئے زیر تعمیر ”مدیرتہ البنات“ کی پہلی عمارت کی آخری منزل مکمل ہونے جا رہی ہے۔ اب اس میں اہم مرحلہ چھت کے بنانے کا ہے۔ انجینئر حضرات کے تجزیہ کے مطابق چھت میں تقریباً 33 ٹن لوہا لگے گا۔ اس کا لیبر اور میٹرل بل مکمل ماکر خرچ تقریباً 40 لاکھ روپیہ بنتا ہے۔ چھت پر لگنے والے ٹن کے شیٹ کام مرحلہ اس کے بعد ہے جس میں الگ سے تقریباً 10 لاکھ روپیہ لگنے کا تخمینہ ہے۔

عمارت کی چھت کی حیثیت سرپوش کی ہوتی ہے جو سارے کام کی ستر پوشی اور سایہ کرتا ہے۔ لہذا انجینوں اور مستورات کے اس ادارے کی سرپوشی اور سایہ کا انتظام کرنا اللہ تعالیٰ کی جانب سے رحمت اور سایہ نصیب ہونے کا ذریعہ بن گئے۔ ان شاء اللہ تعالیٰ۔ اس کا خیر میں حصہ لینے کے لئے مدیرتہ البنات کا یہ اکاؤنٹ نمبر متعین کیا گیا ہے:

Account Number: 072701010000200

Title of account: Madrasa Tul Banat Darul Uloom Raheemiyah

Branch: JK Bank Branch Nishat Park Bandipora Kashmir

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اس سے قبل بھی اس تعمیر میں بہت سے خوش نصیب حضرات نے کمرے بنا کر یا ان کا حصہ لیکر صدقہ جاریہ رکھنے کے لئے اپنا حصہ ادا فرمایا۔ اب پھر اللہ پاک نے یہ موقع عطا فرمایا کہ شوق رکھنے والے لوگ اس کام میں بھی حصہ لیکر اپنے لئے، اپنے والدین کے لئے، عزیز و متعلقین کے لئے صدقہ جاریہ متعین کر سکتے ہیں۔ اپنی خواتین کو بھی ترغیب دیں تاکہ وہ بھی اپنا حصہ اس کا خیر میں لگائیں کیونکہ یہ مدرسہ مستورات کے لئے مخصوص ہے۔ ایک کمرے کی لاگت ساڑھے پانچ لاکھ روپے ہے جتنی توفیق ہو کر مردوں میں یا چھت میں حصہ لیں۔ اللہ قبول فرمائے۔

اہم گزارش یہ ہے کہ بینک کھاتہ میں رقم ڈالنے کے بعد فون نمبر 9419089250 یا 8899101091 پر سکرین شاٹ ڈال دیں یا وائٹاپ منیج کے ذریعہ یا فون پر اطلاع کریں نیز اپنا نام اور ایڈریس روانہ کریں تاکہ رسید بھیجئے میں سہولت ہو کیونکہ اب یہ تفصیلات بینک سے دستیاب نہیں ہوتیں۔

محمد رحمت اللہ کشمیری

ناظم دارالعلوم رحیمہ بانڈی پورہ کشمیر

Pant unveiled as LSG captain, says he will give the franchise '200%'

Rishabh Pant has vowed to "give 200%" to Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) after being officially unveiled as the franchise's captain for IPL 2025. As ESPNcricinfo had reported earlier, Pant was set to be named captain after being bought at the pre-season auction for a record INR 27 crore (USD 3.21 million approx.).

"Thank you to LSG family for showing the faith in me," Pant said, alongside team owner Sanjiv Goenka and mentor Zaheer Khan, in Kolkata on Monday. "I will give my 200% and that's my commitment to you. I will try whatever is in my power to repay the faith you have shown. Looking forward to have a new beginning with new energy and just have a blast out there, and have lots of fun."

Pant takes over from KL Rahul, who led the franchise for its first three seasons before going back into the auction this time around. Pant moves to LSG after a long stint with Delhi Capitals - he was with the franchise since 2016, took over its captaincy in 2021 and led all through barring the 2023 season, when he was recuperating from a serious car accident.

With LSG, he has a chance to build on the team's previous three seasons of moderate success; they made two playoffs in a row before missing out in IPL 2024.

"Yes this is a new team and a new set-up but my ideology of captaining a side doesn't change," Pant said. "But as a cricketer you are [always] trying to add to your captaincy. If you give confidence and trust in a player,

he will do things you can't even imagine. That's the ideology we will try to have. We will give them trust, clear communication and lay out what role we have for them.

"One thing we will stress on is a never-

individual.

"See, everyone gets tired but eventually how far are you willing to take it? Are you willing to give that extra 20-30% for the team, even though your body is not

Zaheer, who as captain of Delhi Daredevils in 2016, had worked with a young Pant fresh off his India Under-19 stint, said Pant is someone who has inspired a new style of play. He said that acquiring Pant and naming him captain was the first of many pillars that LSG were putting in place to create a winning franchise.

But will their crew of middle-order left-hand batters affect team balance? LSG will potentially line up with Pant, David Miller and Nicholas Pooran back-to-back. Zaheer said good batters will always find a way.

"It can be a tactical edge also," Zaheer said. "That's how we are looking at it. I haven't looked at how many left-handers I want in the team. It's fine as long as you have the balance, you have options in the squad and your bases are covered. When I'm looking at our team, it's looking like a solid unit."

"Now about creating that environment entering the season and creating the pillars of success for any team. We want to get that in place and that starts with Rishabh being captain. He's going to drive the whole unit in that way so that so that there's a 'Brand LSG' - the kind of cricket that LSG wants to play, and we will be able to deliver."

IPL 2025 is set to start on March 21 at Eden Gardens, and run till May 25. LSG is the second franchise to unveil a new captain for 2025, after Punjab Kings put Shreyas Iyer in charge.



say-die attitude. 'You fight till the last ball.' That's what I emphasise on. Performances will come and go, but are you fighting enough? Are you giving your 100% on the field? And that is something you can control as an

allowing? That's the kind of character we want in the team and that's the culture we are building."

Too many left-hand batters? Zaheer sees it as a 'tactical edge'

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Kohli available for Delhi's Ranji Trophy game starting January 30

Twelve years after he last featured in India's premier domestic first-class tournament, Virat Kohli is set to return to the Ranji Trophy. Kohli confirmed his availability to play in Delhi's last round of group-phase matches, against Railways, from January 30 to February 2. The development was confirmed to ESPNcricinfo by Delhi head coach Sarandeep Singh.

Kohli was a conspicuous absence in the squads for the penultimate round of group-phase matches, starting from January 23, when Delhi play Saurashtra in Rajkot. Both Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja confirmed they would play this match, but Kohli was ruled out after he informed the BCCI medical staff that he was still recovering from neck pain, for which he had taken an injection on January 8, three days after the Border-Gavaskar Trophy ended in Sydney. Several other India players will also feature in the January 23 round of games, including Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

While reviewing India's recent run of defeats in Test cricket, against New Zealand followed by Australia, the BCCI in coordination with the team leadership group comprising head coach Gautam Gambhir, Test and ODI captain Rohit, and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar laid down various rules including making it mandatory for centrally contracted players to feature in domestic cricket. If not on duty elsewhere, a player can opt out only with prior permission of the selection panel head, the BCCI said.

It could not be confirmed if Kohli has told the Indian team management and Agarkar yet about him playing the January 30 round of Ranji games. If that match goes the distance, finishing on February 2, it would be a mere three days between that and the start of the ODI series against England on February 6. Kohli is part of the India squads for the England series followed by the Champions Trophy, where India play their first match on February 20.



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