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White Teeth Does Not Mean Good Teeth

Sadhbh O'Sullivan
Refinery29

White teeth are the best teeth, or so we're led to believe. Discolouration is the devil, as is wonkiness, but a little character in your jaw can be forgiven provided your teeth are still bone white. This belief – the whiter, the better – is delivered in many ways. Though teeth whitening has been part of human history for centuries, the practice was really cemented with the accidental discovery of the bleaching effects of Gly-Oxide (an antiseptic oral cleanser) in the 20th century and played a key part in the development of cosmetic dentistry. White teeth came to be another signifier of beauty and effortlessness, with desirable looks varying from 'so natural, they just look lucky' to the American preference for a blinding white, Hollywood smile. Veneers and whitening were originally out of reach for the majority of us but innovations in the industry and increased exposure through social media have made cosmetic dentistry more accessible – and more visible – to 'normal people'. For us Brits, there is also the impulse to reject the still-pervasive myth that our teeth are inherently 'bad' (compared to other nations) and therefore we should fix them. It's no surprise, then, that teeth whitening in particular, and cosmetic dentistry in general, is booming. According to a 2020 survey, 22% of people (including 40% of 18 to 24-year-olds) said they would probably whiten their teeth and 10% said that they definitely would or already had. As with other cosmetic industries, the pandemic has prompted more people than ever to seek out straightening and whitening as part of the so-called 'Zoom boom'. Now, British people are eclipsed only by Americans in how much we search for 'teeth whitening' annually. Healthy teeth, and access to proper dental care and hygiene, should be a right and not a privilege. Unfortunately this isn't the world we live in. Even in countries that have otherwise socialised medicine, like the UK and Canada, dental care is separate from general healthcare and has to be paid for in some capacity. This creates a society where access to dental care is determined by class and your



financial situation. In the UK, people from deprived backgrounds are twice as likely to be hospitalised for dental work that could have been caught by routine checkups. Teeth don't have to be white to be healthy. As is often the case, what we now believe to signify health in people is actually an aesthetic preference (such as the constantly shifting but always slim definition of a 'healthy' body type). Treating tooth whiteness as a primary indicator of health encourages people to spend large sums of money on sometimes dangerous whitening procedures while ignoring basic dental hygiene. If you're talking about healthy teeth you need to look for a few basic things, according to Dr Sahil Patel, dentist and founder of Marylebone Smile Clinic. You want an absence of decay, healthy gums, absence of illnesses that can affect your oral health (like oral cancer) and to monitor the wear on your teeth. You counteract these with proper daily cleaning (including regular flossing), finding ways to lessen or manage any grinding, and regular dental checkups to catch any sign of decay or disease before it gets worse. Even though the shade of the tooth isn't an

explicit part of that list, Dr Patel says there's a reason we see whiter teeth as healthier. "White teeth show that you might be cleaning your teeth, and research shows that it has a measurable effect on how likely you are to want to work with that person, be friends or even be in a relationship with that person. As unfortunate as it may be, humans are social animals so we seem to unconsciously extrapolate from the first impression and that tends to be from a visual perspective of what the teeth look like, in addition to other aspects of the face." It is important to note that teeth staining can be a sign of disease or neglect, Dr Aneka Khaira, cosmetic dentist and founder of Vogue Dental, explains that staining is usually lifestyle- and dietary-related, and can be defined by two categories: intrinsic or extrinsic staining. "Intrinsic staining is internal within dental tooth tissue and can be due to trauma and pulpitis [when your dental gum becomes inflamed]. Extrinsic stains usually result from accumulation of [staining substances] which build up on the external tooth surfaces." The latter can come from food or drink, some medications, and habits like smoking. Extrinsic stains have the potential to at-

tract plaque but they don't inherently. Additionally, staining can result from genetics as well as age, with the whiter enamel (the outer layer of the teeth) wearing away to show the yellower dentine underneath. Without proper oral hygiene and monitoring, this yellowing could indicate potential damage but equally it could be superficial. The important thing is to have a hygienist and dentist regularly examine your teeth to ensure there are no active dental diseases. Dr Khaira adds: "If the tooth surface is clean and the tooth appears darker or more yellow, this isn't necessarily unhealthy. You can have a perfectly healthy tooth as long as you maintain your oral health." There is a further point to be made here, though. A person's inability to maintain their oral health often doesn't come from 'laziness' but from a lack of access to dentistry, which is a much wider problem. Teeth that show signs of disease or decay, which are obviously unhealthy, are grouped together with all discolouration as 'bad teeth'. And this idea of 'bad teeth' is loaded with class assumptions. Yellow teeth are associated with poverty, laziness and neglect, while gleaming white teeth are associated with health and wealth. Unlike the various points in history when people would use acids or even urine to bleach their teeth, we understand far more about dentistry nowadays. 'Good teeth' don't have to be pearly white. But the idea persists because of the sale of the Hollywood smile worldwide, made more visible through social media and more accessible through dental innovation. We buy into the idea that big, white smiles are inherently 'good' and so we do what we can to chase that association of wealth, health and discipline. But it is not a one-time investment. It requires constant maintenance. Even the best whitening will fade over the years, requiring regular top-ups as well as general dental hygiene. And if you have other cosmetic work like caps or veneers, they need additional monitoring and commitment. Once you have chosen to spend money on whitening your teeth, you have to maintain it with constant investment. It is another mark of 'middle class maintenance'. Shortcuts can be ineffective or, worse, dangerous.

Air Pollution Reducing Life Expectancy By 5 Yrs In India: Study

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Air pollution is the greatest threat to human health in India and the average Indian resident is set to lose five years of life expectancy if the WHO guidelines are not followed, according to the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago's (EPIC) Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released on Tuesday. The residents of Delhi, the most polluted mega city in the world with the average annual PM2.5 levels exceeding 107 micrograms per cubic metre or more than 21 times the WHO guidelines, stand to lose 10 years of life expectancy if the current air pollution level persists, the report said. According to the new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines issued last year, the average annual PM2.5 concentration should be no higher than five micrograms per cubic metre. It was 10 micrograms per cubic metre earlier. Measured in terms of life expectancy, the AQLI shows that ambient particulate pollution is consistently the world's greatest risk to human health. Globally, air pollution reduces 2.2 years of life expectancy, relative to a world that follows the WHO guidelines. This impact on life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, more than three times that of alcohol use and unsafe water, six times that of HIV/AIDS and 89 times that of conflict and terrorism. "Of all the countries in the world, India faces the highest health burden of air pollution due to its high particulate pollution concentrations and large population," the report said. "Since 2013, about 44 per cent of the world's increase in pollution has come from India, where the particulate pollution level has increased from 53 micrograms per cubic metre to 56 micrograms per cubic metre -- roughly 11 times higher than the WHO guidelines," it said. The average annual par-

ticulate pollution in India has increased by 61.4 per cent since 1998, leading to a further reduction in the average life expectancy of 2.1 years. The study attributed the rise in air pollution in India to the industrialisation, economic development and population growth over the last two decades, which have led to a skyrocketing energy demand and fossil fuel use. All of India's 130 crore people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level exceeds the WHO guidelines. More than 63 per cent of the population live in areas that exceed the country's own national air quality standard of 40 micrograms per cubic metre, it said. The Indo-Gangetic plains, home to more than 50 crore people or about 40 per cent of the country's population, is the most polluted region in India, with an annual average PM2.5 concentration of 76.2 micrograms per cubic metre in 2020. The study said "510 million residents of Indo-Gangetic plains are on track to lose 7.6 years of life expectancy on average if current pollution levels persist. Residents of Lucknow stand to lose 9.5 years of life expectancy". It said if the WHO norms for PM2.5 pollution are met, life expectancy can go up by 8.2 years in Uttar Pradesh, 7.9 years in Bihar, 5.9 years in West Bengal and 4.8 years in Rajasthan. Across the world, 7.4 billion (740 crore) people -- 97.3 per cent of the global population -- live in areas where the PM2.5 level exceeds the WHO's new, stronger guidelines. South Asia stands to lose the most in terms of life expectancy. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal -- where nearly a quarter of the global population lives -- remain among the top five most-polluted countries in the world. South Asia accounts for more than half (52 per cent) of the expected lost life years globally due to high pollution.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

Short Term e-Tender
NIT No: E-22of 2022-23

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturers/authorized distributors/dealers/workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document (Rate in Rs.)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest money	Validity of offer	Time of completion	Programme Head	Whether Accorded/ Position of Funds	Tender ID no.
1	Electrical work to be carried out at lift irrigation schemes (Gantamulla, Janbazpora-II, and D.C residence).	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.185	Rs. 370.00	120 days	07 days	M&R	Yes AAA order no. 01-MCO of 2022-23 Dated: 19-04-2022	2022_IFC_173828_1
2	Mechanical work to be carried out at lift irrigation schemes (Gantamulla, Delina Main, Johama, Zehanpora and Khadniyar).	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.703	Rs. 1406.00					2022_IFC_173828_2
3	Electrical work to be carried out at various lift irrigation Schemes (Ijara and Janbazpora-II).	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 1.565	Rs. 3130.00					2022_IFC_173828_3
4	Electrical work to be carried out at various lift irrigation Schemes (Janbazpora-I, Sheer-I and II and Nadhial old).	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.85	Rs. 1700.00					2022_IFC_173828_4
5	Mechanical work to be carried out at lift irrigation Scheme Seer, Ijara and Zehanpora	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.78	Rs. 1560.00					2022_IFC_173828_5
6	Urgent electro-mechanical works at Rebbon Lift Irrigation Scheme of MISD Sopore.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.70	Rs. 1400.00					2022_IFC_173828_6
7	Urgent Electrical works at Vighbal-I Lift Irrigation Scheme of MISD Sopore.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.77	Rs. 1540.00					2022_IFC_173828_7
8	Mechanical works at Wanpora Lift Irrigation Scheme of MISD Sopore.	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 1.30	Rs. 2600.00					2022_IFC_173828_8
9	Urgent electro-mechanical works at Hibdangpora Lift Irrigation Scheme of MISD Sopore.	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 1.09	Rs. 2180.00					2022_IFC_173828_9
10	Repairs to 03-cusec capacity, 50 m head horizontal split casing pump to be carried out at Lift Irrigation Scheme Hamnipora of MISD Handwara.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.303	Rs. 606.00					2022_IFC_173828_10
11	REPAIRS TO 100 KVA 11KV/440V DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER AT LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEMES ZANDBATTI OF SUB DIVISION HANDWARA.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.479	Rs. 958.00					2022_IFC_173828_11
12	Repairs to 02-cusec capacity, 60 m head horizontal split casing pump to be carried out at Lift Irrigation Scheme Gonipora of MISD Handwara.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.484	Rs. 968.00					2022_IFC_173828_12
13	Urgent electromechanical works to be carried out at various Lift Irrigation Scheme Waskura of MISD Handwara.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.251	Rs. 502.00					2022_IFC_173828_13
14	Electrical works at Lift Irrigation scheme Guirwa of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.80	Rs. 1600.00					2022_IFC_173828_14
15	Mechanical works at Lift Irrigation scheme Guirwa of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.489	Rs. 978.00					2022_IFC_173828_15
16	Repairing of 100 Kva HT transformer at Lift irrigation scheme Baliharan Old and rewinding of 03 HP priming motor at LIS Trikolbal new of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.567	Rs. 1134.00					2022_IFC_173828_16
17	Fabrication, Providing and fitting of Tail pieces in view of the receding water level at various Lift irrigation schemes of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.733	Rs. 1466.00					2022_IFC_173828_17

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 13-06-2022 (04:00pm). The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 13-06-2022 (06:00 pm) to 20-06-2022 (6:55 pm). The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue. The complete bidding shall be online. Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla on 21-06-2022 at 12:30 am after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day.

No. MIDB/CC-02/1093-1102
Dated: 13-06-2022

DIPK-3929/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Baramulla

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار زونہ سرینگر
عنوان: درخواست از جانب سید ریاض احمد ولد سید حسین شاہ ہمدانی ساکنہ مرزا کمال صاحب چل نسبت اجارائی بنگلہ ہیر منٹینٹ

اشتہار برادر آگاہی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل ہے کہ اس کا والد متوفی سید حسین شاہ ہمدانی ساکنہ مرزا کمال صاحب چل مورخہ 29-01-2022 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہ اس کے حق میں بنگلہ ہیر منٹینٹ اجراء فرمائی جائے۔ برو سے رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ متوفی کتبہ بدیل ہے۔

سید ریاض احمد 67 سال پر متوفی عجات

قبل اسکے کہ درخواست سائل پندہ کو روائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو سٹینٹ بدلا اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کریں۔ یہ عدا گذرنے پر کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار SS

Fax/Phone: 0194-2310283 | Email: xen2nd@gmail.com
Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 2nd Sgr.
Lal Mandi, Near L.D. Hospital Srinagar.

Reference:- This office NIT No. 52/R&B/CDII/5003-13 of 2022-23 dated 11.06.2022 issued under endorsement No. 5003-13 dated 11.06.2022.

CORRIGENDUM

Please read class of contractor as "Civil with HMPO/AAAY Class for the work figuring at Sl. No. 1 & 2 of above referred NIT and "Civil with HMPO/AAAY/BEE Class for the work figuring at Sl. No.3) instead of "AAAY with HMPO/HMPO/AAAY Class Civil with Registered MOU with HMPO" which was erroneously mentioned in the aforesaid NIT

All other terms and conditions of the said NIT shall remain unaltered.

No. 5015-25
Dated: 13.06.2022

DIPK-3993/22

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R&B Construction Division IInd
Srinagar

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Quote!

The antidote for fifty enemies is one friend

-Aristotle

NEWS DIGEST

5.1 Magnitude Quake Hits J&K

Srinagar: An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale hit Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday afternoon, officials said. They said that an earthquake, with an epicentre at Afghanistan-Tajikistan border was felt at 1.05 pm. Strong tremors were felt, causing panic among people, they said. However, there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property so far, they further said.

J&K Logs 18 New Covid Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's COVID-19 tally increased to 4,54,373 on Tuesday as 18 more people tested positive for the viral disease, officials said. The death toll remained unchanged at 4,752, they said. Of the fresh cases, 15 were reported from the Jammu division and three from the Kashmir division, they said. There are 99 active COVID-19 cases in the union territory, while the number of recoveries stands at 4,49,522, the officials said.

Electric Shock Kills Minor Boy

Srinagar: A minor boy died on Tuesday after receiving an electric shock at his home in Mujpathri area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Six-year-old Uzair Hameed Sheikh, son of Abdul Hameed from Mujpathri received an electric jolt at his home on Tuesday evening, reports said. The minor was soon after removed to sub district hospital where the doctors declared him dead. A police official in the meantime also confirmed to a local news agency KDC about the death of the boy due to electrocution.

Soldier Dies Under Mysterious Circumstances

Srinagar: A 27-year-old soldier died under mysterious circumstances at a hospital in North Kashmir's Sopore town. Sources told a local news agency KNT that a soldier posted at Mazbugh Sopore fell unconscious and was shifted to Sub-District Hospital Sopore where doctors declared him brought dead. The cause of the soldier's death is being ascertained while police have started proceedings under CrPc 174. The victim has been identified as Gurpreet Singh son of Balvinder **More on P6**

Encounter In Bemina, 2 Militants Killed

Big Success, They Were Planning Attack On Amarnath Yatra: IGP



File Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have averted a major threat to the upcoming Amarnath Yatra by killing two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, including a Pakistani national in an encounter in this capital city.

Abdullah Goujri of Faisalabad

Pakistan and his local associate Adil Hussain Mir alias Sufian alias Musab of Pahalgam in Anantnag district were killed in a swift encounter in Bemina area of this capital city, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. Mir, according to police, had crossed over to Pakistan in 2018 on a visit visa through **More on P6**

Encounter Breaks-out In Kulgam

An unspecified number of militants are trapped in an ongoing encounter that broke out in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday, officials said. They said a joint team of police and army launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Mishipora area of the district after receiving specific information about the **More on P6**

IN THIS CONNECTION, POLICE have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any."

Beast Kills Minor Girl In Uri

Locals Protest As 3 Children Killed In Few Days; Admin Orders Eliminating Wild Animal

Agencies

Srinagar: After two incidents in the last few days involving killing of two children, a 12-year-old girl has now fallen prey to a predator at Batangi Boniyar in Baramulla district.

Reports said that a girl identified as Rutba Manzoor daughter of Manzoor Ahmad Bhat was pounced upon by a wild animal and taken away to nearby forests this morning. Alarmed by the cries, the family and locals tried to chase the animal. **More on P6**

...AMARNATH YATRA

Make Use Of Modern Tech To Augment Security: DGP

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh on Tuesday called for putting in place an effective mechanism for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra and directed for making adequate use of technology to augment the security for the pilgrimage.

Singh chaired a high-level meeting of senior officers from police, civil administration and CAPFs to review the security arrangements and deployment of personnel for the yatra, at the Police Control Room here.



The director general of the J-K Police directed for placing all possible security arrangements at the pilgrimage base camps and strengthening the communication network.

He stressed for effective and planned regulation of traffic management on the national highway and other roads, parking of vehicles and deployment of forces on the yatra routes of Pahalgam and Baltal.

Singh emphasised upon the officers to make adequate use of modern security gadgets and technology, including CCTVs and drones, to further augment the security at important yatra locations and en route.

He stressed for keeping special focus on sensitive locations and base camps, including parking places, and directed **More on P6**

interview follows:



File Photo

Srinagar, SSP said, is witnessing a massive footfall of tourists which the city has never seen. "The footfall of tourists is exceptional," he said. "Last month, as per official figures, over more 4 lakh tourists visited the city."

Under the Smart City Project,

the city traffic chief said, Srinagar Municipal Corporation is making the smart, good-looking and presentable bunkers. "This is being done so that the security is not compromised," he said.

Edited excerpts from the

The Chief Secretary has asked for a detailed traffic plan in the city within 15 days. What's your preparation and presentation?

Yes, the Chief Secretary has

Govt Orders Closure Of Schools Run By Jama'at Affiliate

Over 300 Edu Institutions Run By Falah-E-Aam Asked To Cease Academic Activities

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir School education department on Monday ordered the cessation of academic activities in schools run by the Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT), an affiliate of the now banned socio-religious organization, Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI) Kashmir. In an order, a copy of which lies with the Kashmir Observer, Principal Secretary (School education department) B K Singh directed the school education department for cessation of academic activities in FAT affiliated schools.



Representation Photo

Singh has also asked chief education officers (CEO) of various districts to seal the FAT affiliated institutions within 15 days in consultation with the district administration.

"Whereas, in the meantime the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, in view of powers conferred by sub section (1) of the section-3 of the J&K Criminal

Law Amendment Act,1983, declares/banned the Falah-e-Aam Trust Association/ Organization (in short FAT) to be an unlawful Association vide SRO No.11.51, notified on 11 May 1990" reads the order.

As per the order, the students who are presently studying in FAT institutions have to admit themselves in nearby government schools for the current **More on P6**

J&K Govt Takes Over Possession Of Centaur Hotel

Seals Building, Bars All From Entering Main Gate Till Further Orders; Employees Protest

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday took over the possession of Centaur hotel and sealed the building after the Hotel Corporation of India violated conditions of the lease agreement.

According to the official documents, a prior notice was served to the employees of the Centaur Hotel here in Srinagar, asking them to

vacate the premises within 45 days from the date of issuing the eviction notice. The notice was served to Centaur Hotel employees on 25-04-2022. As per the notice, the J&K Government has charged the Hotel Corporation of India of violating conditions of the lease agreement by subletting the Hotel to a third party.

It is pertinent to mention that in pursuant to the cabinet decision No. 237 dated 25.06.1979, **More on P6**

Maharashtra ATS Arrests Man In Doda

Press Trust Of India

Pune: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad has arrested a man from Jammu and Kashmir in a case of recruitment of operatives for a militant organisation and funding, an ATS official said on Tuesday.

With this, the state ATS has nabbed four people so far since May this year in the militant funding and recruitment case.

Elaborating on the latest action, the official said they have arrested a 32-year-old man from Doda district **More on P6**

Andrabi Proposes Tribunal For J&K Waqf Board



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board on Tuesday proposed for formation of a Tribunal as per Central Waqf Act to address to the legal matters related to Waqf in the Union Territory.

The proposal for formulation of a Tribunal was presented by

Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi to the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

Andrabi, he said, also apprised the LG about the initiatives taken by Waqf Board for streamlining the Waqf Management System in J&K. **More on P6**

Never Seen Before—'4 Lakh Tourists, 6 Lakh Vehicles And Smart Bunkers'

Auqib Javed

With Chief Secretary setting the 15-day deadline for Srinagar traffic plan, the man-in-charge has called for the inter-departmental coordination for streamlining the surging vehicular flow in the city. "There're some engineering bottlenecks which lead to traffic jams in some city pockets but we [Traffic Department] aren't responsible for it as it doesn't come under our domain," Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, SSP Traffic, Srinagar, told Kashmir Observer in an exclusive chat.

"The ease of the traffic department is dependent on other departments like Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Roads and Building department (R&B), Power Development Department (PDD) and others."

Srinagar, SSP said, is witnessing a massive footfall of tourists which the city has never seen. "The footfall of tourists is exceptional," he said. "Last month, as per official figures, over more 4 lakh tourists visited the city."

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the city traffic chief said, Srinagar Municipal Corporation is making the smart, good-looking and presentable bunkers. "This is being done so that the security is not compromised," he said.

Edited excerpts from the

interview follows:

The Chief Secretary has asked for a detailed traffic plan in the city within 15 days. What's your preparation and presentation?

Yes, the Chief Secretary has

a specific view of how traffic should ply in the city. To make it more hassle free, we're making some changes. The deployment will be reworked and we will brace up for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

But the city is in total traffic mess, people get stuck in jams for hours. Why has the traffic department failed to address the issue?

No, I disagree. It's not a complete mess, as you say. Yes, there're some engineering bottlenecks which lead to traffic jams in some pockets.

Can you please explain it further?

See, there're many places dotted with potholes. It takes nearly

two minutes for the commuters to pass on the patch when it should only take them some seconds. It ultimately leads to traffic jams.

We raised this issue with the concerned R&B (Roads and Building) department, they're looking into it.

Are you passing the buck?

No, I'm telling you the ease of the traffic department is dependent on other departments, like Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), R&B, Regional Transport Office (RTO) Power Development Department (PDD) and others.

For example, you can see the hump near Dhar Medicate at Dalgate, which leads to traffic snarls. The R&B department has to clear the bottleneck to ensure smooth traffic.

Similarly, you **More on P6**

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K O V I E W

New Nuclear
Arms Race

For the first time since the Cold War, the global nuclear arsenal is expected to grow in the coming years, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its report on Monday. The SIPRI, a leading conflict and armaments think tank, has warned that in the absence of immediate action by the nuclear powers, global inventories of warheads could soon begin rising for the first time in decades. Wilfred Wan, director of SIPRI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, said that all of the nuclear-armed states are increasing or upgrading their arsenals and most are sharpening nuclear rhetoric and the role nuclear weapons play in their military strategies. The report comes in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Russian president Vladimir Putin has already put Russia's nuclear deterrent on high alert. He has also warned of consequences "such as you have never seen in your entire history" for countries that stood in Russia's way. Incidentally, Russia has the world's biggest nuclear arsenal with a total of 5,977 warheads, some 550 more than the United States.

Such a massive stockpile of nuclear weapons poses a great danger to the world at a time when the world is entering a particularly uncertain phase with the US power being challenged by Russia and China. The US which remains the world's No 1 power has sought to take on both the powers. Its GDP and defence expenditure remain several times higher than its nearest competitor China. But in Ukraine, we are at an interesting moment in history. The outcome of the war will determine the new global geopolitics if not the new superpower of the world.

The US has sought to demonstrate that far from being hemmed in by the Russian invasion, it would only further expand its global footprint. It is further encroaching into what China considers its sphere of influence in the east. And in response to Ukraine war, the US has sought to further aggravate the situation by encouraging Finland and Sweden, Russia's neighbours to join NATO. This has created a very fraught geopolitical situation and we can only hope that its end result is not more war. A defeated Russia won't also be in the interest of world peace, nor a China which feels cornered by the US-led west. The world needs resumption of a process of dialogue and re-engagement for a peaceful resolution of its conflicts, which alone will result in a long term peace.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Some cheer

Several factors are thought to have contributed to this achievement. Improved health services that prevent and timely treat causes of child mortality — complications during birth, neonatal sepsis, pneumonia, diarrhoea, low birth weight and such — have improved the count. The contribution of community caregivers such as anganwadi workers and Accredited Social Health Activists — these personnel are ignored by the incentive schemes of the government — must be acknowledged. There seems to be a gradual realisation among women about the importance of giving birth in hospitals: the last-mile coverage of hospital care must, therefore, be widened.

But the success has been uneven, as is borne out by the disparity among states: Kerala's IMR in 2020 was 6, while Madhya Pradesh's was 43. Expectedly, the IMR in rural areas is much higher than in urban areas — 31 and 19, respectively. There are other sobering indicators. In South Asia, the IMRs of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan are lower than that of India. There is thus a case for India to learn from its smaller neighbours. Sri Lanka's highly effective domiciliary and institutional care system for expectant mothers and children has been a success; Bangladesh has also set a milestone in terms of its public-private partnerships in the healthcare sector. These can be good examples to follow. There is also the need for policy to connect the relevant dots. Improvements in IMR cannot be independent of improvements in other parameters such as malnutrition, maternal mortality ratio, dietary needs, inoculation of children and so on. India should now work on building the momentum that it has achieved in IMR to tackle other, overlapping health challenges. Progress on this front is also contingent upon strides taken in the social, cultural and economic spheres. Issues such as vaccine hesitancy, lingering reservations towards institutional care, unequal access to hospitals on account of gender and caste discrimination and the prohibitive cost of medical treatment demand urgent attention.

Telegraph India



Indian Economy
Glass Half-Full Or
Half-Empty For India?

Nirvikar Singh

“There are other areas where policy rethinking is needed. None of them really have anything to do with the rhetoric of self-reliance. Instead, the guiding principle of economic policymaking in India needs to be making the best use of India's resources, and doing so in an integrated manner

After two years of being buffeted by the Covid pandemic and its fallout, the Indian economy is showing strong signs of resilience. Growth has returned rates above 7% and is expected to continue at this level for the next year or two. India is continuing to pursue the “formalisation” of the economy, and this push is helping some firms that might otherwise have remained stuck in old routines. At the upper end of the economy, the number of highly valued start-ups—often focused on or enabled by information technology—continues to increase. Foreign firms are bullish on India and the purchasing power of its consumers. The Centre is making progress on divestment, including the landmark sale of Air India and the sale of shares in the Life Insurance Corporation of India. There are signs that corporate balance sheets may be recovering, and this may help the financial sector recover as well. India has returned to being one of the fastest growing economies in the world, a status that had been lost well before the pandemic hit.

Despite all this good news, the “half empty” side of the picture may be of greater concern, requiring serious, immediate, and sustained policy attention. Inflation is certainly a problem. Inflation expectations were heightened even before Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and the Reserve Bank of India has been faulted for acting too slowly, deviating from its inflation-fighting mandate to support the economic recovery. The US Federal Reserve also seems to have been caught in the same situation. One cannot help sympathise with both central banks, since the situation of repeated pandemic waves and supply shocks has been unpredictable. Another common problem is that both economies have been seeing a two-speed recovery, following an inequitable distribution of negative impacts from the pandemic and consequent disruptions. What is different is that the US economy

is recovering very robustly overall, with historically low unemployment rates (though labor force participation has fallen, as it has in India). In India, employment growth remains anaemic, with longstanding weakness in employment growth made worse by the recent economic shocks.

India is also more likely to suffer lingering negative impacts on the education of its children and youth, and it is being hurt more by the spike in oil prices. In a nutshell, the structural weaknesses that were hampering India's growth before the pandemic are likely to become more apparent once the initial bounceback from the pandemic has played out. It is not yet clear that India can achieve sustained growth of 7-8% for a decade, which ought to be a minimal goal. What needs to be done in the short and medium term?

An enigma: Paul Pogba's departure rather than an expensive new contract should augur well for Manchester United

One of the most critical obstacles to economic growth is access to cost-effective, reliable electric power. This sector is one of the relative failures of India's economic reforms. Even now, electric power shortages are being addressed by increasing the use of coal-based generation, which has tremendous negative consequences in the longer run. By contrast, the Rockefeller Foundation is championing the idea of distributed renewable energy systems, using solar power. In India, it has created a subsidiary, Smart Power, which is investing \$75 million in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. But this is a drop in the ocean compared to what is needed, and is an obvious example of where public investment can make a difference at the scale and speed that India needs.

Reliable electric power is also a prerequisite for access to the internet, the modern delivery mechanism for knowledge and information of all kinds, including basic education and skill upgrading. In-

vestment in digital infrastructure that goes beyond 5G cellphones is also desperately needed, to provide bandwidth at levels that will permit accelerated and more inclusive growth.

Another area where creative thinking is needed, rather than business as usual, is on the inflation front. The most unequalising aspect of inflation is in the case of food. Yet India has a foodgrain procurement and distribution policy that is dysfunctional, and doing little or nothing to help reduce food inflation. Instead, it has helped create a situation where farmers in states like Punjab are using free or subsidised electricity to pump groundwater to grow rice in a region where it is not optimal. Scarce electric power is being used to fill warehouses faster than they can be emptied, and to turn the area into a desert.

There are other areas where policy rethinking is needed. None of them really have anything to do with the rhetoric of self-reliance. Instead, the guiding principle of economic policymaking in India needs to be making the best use of India's resources, and doing so in an integrated manner. Investing in people means giving them effective access to knowledge, skills and the means of production. Investing in natural resources means reducing their depletion and degradation, as well as replenishing them where possible. The national objective function has to be appropriate, as a first step toward figuring out what to do and how to do it. In terms of the simple metaphor, what glass is being filled?

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

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Women Shouldn't Relinquish Right to Inheritance

THIS is in reference to the recently released National Family Health Survey 2019-20 (NFHS-5) fact sheet for Jammu and Kashmir which states that only 57.3% women in the UT own a house and/or land, alone or jointly. Even though these figures might be read as “at least more than half women own property” but given that all women are coparceners in one or the other way, it should raise questions. J and K is a Muslim majority region and Islam entitles a sister to inherit half of what a brother gets as a coparcener. Despite this fact, the number of women owning a property

is almost half of that of men.

Women asking for their coparcenary rights is considered taboo and a lot of women seem to have internalized that asking for inheritance rights will break their relationship with other members of the family, especially brothers. As a result, they sign relinquishment deeds without giving a second thought about it. This inheritance of property is mostly seen as a matter of money and wealth, but it goes beyond that, at least for women. Economically speaking, ownership of any kind of property by women is a very important determi-

nant in the quest for women empowerment. In the realist world wherever everyone is responsible for their own survival, women should not expect their male relatives to care for them. Unless women do not attach economic value to their lives, they will have no power. This is especially true for unemployed women who do not have financial independence. Since inheritance of property is a given- however small value it may have, they do not have to get an education or work for getting it. The only thing they need to do is not to sign the relinquishment deed.

Relinquishment of coparcenary

rights militates against women empowerment. It is high time that women ask for their inheritance rights that the constitution as well as the religion gives them. The right to inheritance also seems one of its kind means to women empowerment where people peddling religiosity may not find a reason to oppose it. Women should know that signing a relinquishment deed may lose them a lifetime opportunity for leading a respectful life in this patriarchal world.

Haris Rashid
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Housing Apathy



“

Everyone is going through different trails and tests. By our arrogant and apathetic attitude, we actually afflict more hardships and hound our targets. When we indulge in the claptrap of ignorance and indifferences, we make it very hard for them to live a peaceful life

Riyaz Kazmi

On that day, in a dicey weather, dark gloom descended over the horizon. It was a sad and startling news to hear that a promising youngster had died by suicide. It had sent shivers down our spine. There was confusion and cacophony. Most people were perpetuating narratives of vilification. We can rarely find the people who have impeccable character. Everyone has a dark side.

In this grievous and gruesome incident, it came to the fore that the deceased person was mulish to marry a divorced woman which was not approved by his defiant family as they thought it was just a passing whim! Adil (name changed) didn't toe his line. The rumours couldn't be scotched. Meanwhile, gadflies also nosed around and spewed their venom. It was mendacious and hurtful.

Alas, he could no longer grin and bear it. He was depressed and left everyone as well as the interminable pain.

It was a heart piercing tragedy which will always haunt us as a dreadful memory. The discussions divulged many bitter realities which clearly show how we

as society have become enablers of such tragedies. It is as though we derive sadistic pleasure from pushing the vulnerable and meek people against the wall. Slowly and sadly, desperation and indignity becomes too much for them to bear.

In Kashmir, there is an alarming increase in mental illnesses which has its roots in the onset of insurgency in 1989. A large number of people suffer from depression, mood swings, mental revulsions and other severe ailments. The fallout of these problems have given rise to drug abuse, alcohol addiction, chain-smoking, rash driving, gang fights and impetuous behavior among the youngsters.

It is high time for us to look deeper into the pitfalls which have entrapped us in this vexing situation. We have to parse the severity of the situation keenly and consciously to intend and act now before we are left with only shame and shock. We have become so apathetic about the pain of others that we dilly dally in gossiping, gas lighting, back stabbing, bad mouthing about others. We have lost that human touch a long time ago. We leave no chance to slate and stultify others. We are hardly moved by emotions anymore. When someone is falling apart we ensure that we pull them down further.

In Kashmir, when more than 1.6 million adults are suffering through depression as per 2015 survey figures, it's high time for us to look at the grave situation and introspect. Instead of hurling invectives and addressing them by demeaning nicknames, we should be kind enough towards our fellow human beings who are going through traumatic experiences. We should do our bit to get them out of this mental distress and "disgrace" (as we have labelled it).

We connive without a scruple of shame to vaunt our superiority. We are complacent and always keen on catching others on a wrong foot. It might seem innocuous to take a dig at others or look trivial but our fatuous remarks leave a long lasting negative impact over those who we target. We piddle around and are fond of pestering others and have become vicious and venomous to the extent that we turn a blind eye to our own faults.

Everyone is going through different trials and tests. By our arrogant and apathetic attitude, we actually afflict more hardships and hound our targets. When we indulge in the claptrap of ignorance and indifference, we make it very hard for them to live a peaceful life. It is unsettling and enervating for them. They get

caught in the precarious life crises.

We have already lost too much to the ongoing conflict. Connect the dots and do your bit before it is too late.

Life is not always hunky dory. Everyone has their share of struggles and sufferings. Everyone navigates through challenges and criticism. Some have succeeded while others are stumbling. We should not stultify those who have fallen. What we are going to get by exacerbating and trashing people? In reality, doesn't that speak volumes about us?

We can either choose to be supportive or sarcastic, bitter or better. We have seen enough of vice and violence. In the disguise of humans, let's not be the spawn of the devil. We can notch up the victory over the mental crises by feeling the pain of our fellow beings. Live and let others also live peaceful. Be loving and caring to others - it's not just the medicines but also our beautiful manners and memories which have power and positive impact upon those who are going through mental anguish and anxieties. Let's do our part by helping and healing others - by our acts of kindness, love and laughter.

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The Indian-American Spelling Bee Winning Spell

Chidanand Rajghatta

For some 11 million primary and middle school children in the United States, it is an annual rite of passage. For perhaps half a million or so children of Indian-origin in America, it is a mantra - a Sanskrit term for a word or sound repeated to aid concentration in meditation.

First held in 1925, the US National Spelling Bee championship has now become something of a yearly fixture in the country's sporting calendar, much like the US Opens in tennis and golf. There are expanding stakes, growing fan following, and wall-to-wall media coverage. Every year, after preliminary rounds in cities and towns across America, some 200 finalists converge late May on Washington DC, where over two intense days, they duke it out in full glare of live coverage spelling words that are often obscure and seldom heard or used in everyday exchanges. And invariably in recent years, the winner turns out to be an Indian-American kid.

Why children of Indian origin are so into spelling and so good at it to the extent of winning 21 of the last 23 titles (including last week's 2022 championship) has been a subject of op-eds, scholarly studies, academic papers, books, films, and documentaries. Explanations range from disciplined double parenting that is the norm in typically stable Asian families, to their emphasis on rote learning, and familiarity and comfort with the English language - the last underscored by the fact that East Asians (Chinese, Koreans, Japanese) seldom feature in the finals despite similar "tiger" upbringing.

Another understated reason: legacy. Once a country or community tastes success in a particular field or sport, it attracts a following that provides future winners - like Pakistan in squash for the longest time, China in table tennis, Russia in chess, Cuba



in boxing, Hungary in water polo, South Korea in archer, etc.

Shalini Shankar, head of the Asian American Studies Program at Northwestern University, who studied the phenomenon for her book *Beeline: What Spelling Bees Reveal about the New American Childhood*, reckons Indian-Americans got ahead of the pack by institutionalizing spelling bee as a community event, way back

in the 1990s with its own competitions and training methods, paving way for a generation of winners. According to Shankar, the more visible Indian spellers got with a winning streak that started in 1999, the more interest it generated in the community, producing more winners.

While parents beam with pride and pleasure at their children cracking absurdly difficult/rare/incompre-

hensible words, there has also been a furious debate about the usefulness of it all - what's the point in learning words that one will never use in daily life? Critics have derided the contest as a test of useless rote learning, and for the kind of pressure it puts on the kids. One year, a participant fainted on stage from tension and exhaustion. Counselors are on hand to manage meltdowns and breakdowns.

But overall, it is the school kids themselves who seem to enjoy going through pedagogical hell. For the joy of the challenge? Bragging rights? Peer pressure? Who knows? Winning words in recent years include *aiguillette* (the metal tip of a lace tag), *koinonia* (a Greek-origin word for fellowship or joint participation), *scherenschnitte* (German-origin word for scissor cuts in paper

design), and *Laodicean* (half-hearted or apathetic, especially with regards to religion or politics).

Past champions - all of whom seem to have done quite brilliantly in their careers - say it has helped them stay disciplined, stay focused, and broadly improved their knowledge and outlook. James Maguire, who tracked years of spellers for his book, *American Bee: The National Spelling Bee and the Culture of Word Nerds*, found that the winners carried their confidence into their future careers.

Balu Natarajan, who was the first Indian-American to win the title in 1985, and went on to become a sports medicine physician, says winning the title showed him that you can be an immigrant in America and win a competition about the English language. Raga Ramachandran, who won the title in 1988, went on to become a professor of pathology at the University of California in San Francisco. And Nupur Lala, whose victory in 1999 began the cascade of a score of Indian winners over the next two decades, and who was featured in the film documentary *Spellbound*, went on to study cognitive science and language processing. One past winner, 2002 champion Pratyush Buddiga even went on to become a professional poker player, explaining that he missed the competitive milieu of his spelling days.

The spelling bee success of Indian-American kids and the outsized coverage it receives obscures the broader success of the community in almost every sphere of life in America. Their winning ways are seen in a range of school and college competitions. Going forward, from medicine and industry to academia to industry to business, Indians in America are punching way above the one per cent they constitute of the US population. Tasting the nectar of success seems to begin in contests like the Bee.

- Khaleej Times

SUB-INSPECTOR RECRUITMENT

Exemplary Punishment If Anyone Found Guilty: Govt

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday said exemplary punishment will be awarded if anyone is found guilty of malpractice in the recent recruitment of sub-inspectors (SIs) of police.

A high-level enquiry committee under the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) has been constituted to look into allegations of irregularities in the recruitment of SIs by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB).

The panel will submit its report by June 25 and exemplary punishment will be awarded to the guilty person, irrespective of his position, in case any malpractice is found in the inquiry, Mehta said.

The chief secretary reviewed the functioning of the Public Service Commission and the Service Selection Board on Tuesday.

The Principal Secretary of General Administration

Department, Secretary of Public Service Commission and the Chairman of Service Selection Board attended the meeting, an official spokesman said.

The chief secretary said aspirants should await submission of the inquiry report and all necessary corrective measures will be taken in case any malpractice is observed by it. Mehta stressed that the government remains committed to maintaining utmost transparency in selection processes.

The chief secretary was apprised in the meeting that the SSB will take all necessary measures to ensure that 10,000 vacancies are filled during the current year.

The meeting also deliberated upon different aspects of recruitment drives done by the PSC and the JKSSB.

It was informed that both the institutions will take every measure to uphold the integrity and transparency in their recruitments, besides fast-tracking processes.

ED Questions Rahul For Over 8 Hours For Second Consecutive Day In National Herald Case; Cong, BJP Spar

Agenceis

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was questioned for over eight hours by the Enforcement Directorate for the second consecutive day on Tuesday in the National Herald money-laundering case, while the opposition party continued its protests and sparred with the BJP, accusing it of vendetta politics.

Gandhi, 51, who was quizzed for over 10 hours on Monday, arrived at the ED headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road in central Delhi accompanied by his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and his questioning began at 11:30 am.

After a session of about four hours, Gandhi took a break for about an hour at around 3:30 pm and went home. He re-joined the questioning around 4:30 pm and was still at the ED office at 8:30 pm.

The former Congress president had left the federal agency's office at 11.10 pm on Monday after being questioned over multiple sessions and recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Earlier in the day, Gandhi joined senior party leaders at a "dharna" at the Congress headquarters, where the chief ministers of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party MPs

were also present.

Hundreds of Congress leaders and supporters were detained outside the party headquarters at 24, Akbar Road and around central Delhi as they tried to hold a protest against the ED action for the second day.

The BJP hit out at the opposition party, saying it is blocking roads to show its "leaders are above the law" and termed the protests "drama".

"When lawful action is taking place in a case of corruption, Congress is doing this drama and blocking roads...it shows the party considers its leaders above law," BJP's national spokesperson Sambit Patra said.

Union minister Anurag Thakur also took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi over his questioning by the ED after the Congress leader criticised prime minister's decision to provide 10 lakh government jobs in the next 18 months.

"I would only say to Rahul ji, you should first provide the right answers to the ED on the serious charges of corruption made against you," the BJP leader told reporters.

Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, however, claimed that the Centre is scared of Gandhi's politics as he is raising issues concerning the public and asked whether he has become a hurdle in the path of Prime Minister Narendra Modi protecting the

interests of his "cronies".

"This entire exercise is illegal, unconstitutional, malicious and an exercise by a prime minister burning in the fire of political vendetta," Surjewala told a press conference here.

The Congress had alleged that its leaders were manhandled by police during Monday' protest as they tried to walk to the ED office. All approach roads leading to the agency office were made out of bounds on Tuesday for the public as prohibitory orders were imposed and barricades put up.

A large posse of police personnel including from the central anti-riot police force RAF and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were deployed.

K C Venugopal and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury were among scores of party leaders detained for violating prohibitory orders outside the heavily barricaded party office on Akbar road.

Lok Sabha MP Manickam Tagore said he and some other leaders, including P L Punia, were not allowed to enter the Congress office and were detained at the Mandir Marg police station.

Among the other leaders detained were Randeep Surjewala, Jairam Ramesh, Gaurav Gogoi, Deepender Singh Hooda, Ranjeet Ranjan, Jeby Mather, Imran Pratapgarhi, Youth Congress chief B V Srinivas and National Students' Union of India (NSUI) chief Neeraj Kundan, with some of them even roughed up.

HDFC Bank signs MoU with 100X. VC to support start-ups



Agenceis

Mumbai: HDFC Bank today announced signing a memorandum of understanding with 100X. VC, a leading early-stage venture capital firm, to engage more deeply with the start-up community. The Bank will extend its full suite of specialized services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as SmartUp, to all the firms associated with 100X.VC. It will also extend additional credit facilities and evaluate investment opportunities in these start-ups.

With this MoU, HDFC Bank and 100X.VC will work together in mutually beneficial areas. The venture capital firm will recommend HDFC Bank as the primary Bank for all its investee companies. Through such collaboration, the bank hopes to enhance the ecosystem by supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

HDFC Bank and 100X.VC will also conduct joint programs for start-ups such as Master Classes. Additionally, the bank will evaluate start-ups referred to it by 100X.VC for investment and extending loans.

The MoU was signed by Abhishek Deshmukh, Branch Banking Head - Maharashtra, and Yagnesh Sanghrajka - Founder & CFO, 100X.VC in the presence of Sanjay Mehta, Founder & Partner, 100X.VC; Ninad Karpe - Partner, 100X.VC, and other senior bank officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Abhishek Deshmukh, Branch Banking Head - Maharashtra, HDFC Bank, said, "India is among the largest and fastest-growing start-up ecosystems in the world. In the first half of 2022 alone, 15 start-ups have emerged as unicorns. In the past decade, we have seen the rebirth of the start-up ecosystem with a more sustainable business model in the form of venture capital."

Yagnesh Sanghrajka, Founder and CFO at 100X.VC said, "We are excited to join hands with HDFC Bank in line with the Bank's 'SmartUp' initiative. Under this program, we will jointly nurture emerging start-up ideas, cultivate them with 100X.VC first cheque seed capital and HDFC Bank's banking services and access to credit seamlessly."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Encounter In Bemina

Wagah border.

Divulging more details of the encounter, the spokesperson said that police established a checkpoint in Bemina area on the basis of specific information about the movement of militants, who had earlier escaped from an encounter in Sopore.

The militants, he said, were being tracked continuously.

During naka checking, the spokesperson said that two suspects opened indiscriminate fire upon the policemen when the latter challenged them at the checkpoint.

"The fire was however effectively retaliated, leading to a brief encounter. In the initial exchange of fire, five police personnel received minor injuries who were immediately evacuated to hospital for the treatment of their injuries," he said.

In the ensuing brief encounter, he said, the two militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

While interacting with media, the spokesperson said that Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said that Pakistan based "terror handlers" had sent two Pakistani LeT militants alongwith the local militant Adil Hussain Mir where the directions to carry out attacks on Amarnath Yatra.

"However, all the three terrorists have been killed now in two separate encounters i.e; one at Sopore & in today's brief encounter at Bemina, Srinagar," Kumar added.

The IGP, as per the spokesperson, appreciated the role of police for tracking & neutralizing the militants who had recently escaped in Sopore encounter.

"He further said it is a big success for us as they were planning to attack Amarnath Yatra however the prompt & timely action by the police led to the elimination of both the terrorists and thereby averting the possible major threat," he added.

The police claimed recovery of incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 2 AK-47 rifles, 10 magazines, 165 live cartridges, Y-SMS device, Matrix sheets, Pakistani medicines etc from the site of encounter.

"All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes," he said.

"In this connection, Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

Encounter Breaks

presence of militants in the area. The hiding militants, they said, fired upon the search team when they started advancing towards the suspected spot.

The officials said that joint team returned the fire triggering off an encounter.

"The exchange of gunfire continues intermittently. The cordon has been further tightened to prevent militants from fleeing taking cover of the darkness," the officials added.

Def Minister

about the overall situation in the Valley, including counter-insurgency and counter-infiltration operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Defence Minister will also visit Jammu apart from Kashmir Valley. (KDC)

Justice Desai

72, is a former judge of the Bombay High Court.

An official notification on Justice Desai's appointment as the PCI chief will be issued soon, they said.

Other members of the media watchdog will

also be appointed soon, the sources said.

They added that a recommendation for appointment of MPs on the panel is also awaited.

The post was lying vacant since Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad (retd) completed his term as the PCI chairperson and demitted office in November last year.

Govt Orders

academic session(2021-22). "All CEOs/ Principals/ZEOs shall facilitate the admission of these students," the order further noted.

However, in its order, the Government hasn't mentioned anything about the teachers who will be rendered jobless after the academic activities are shut down in these institutions.

Notably, the Government has also directed the school education department that no new admissions shall be taken in these banned FAT institutions and has also directed the chief and zonal education officers to widely publicize, in newspapers, that these institutions are no longer recognised.

Pertinently, the order has come in the backdrop of an FIR filed by Jammu & Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) which alleges that FAT was involved in gross illegalities, outright frauds, and mass scale encroachment of government lands.

The Government has also alleged that in spite of a ban on FAT, these institutions were being illegally operated in the pretext of an order of the High Court.

As per the Government, there are approximately 11000 students who are studying in these schools.

However, contrary to the Government claims, authoritative sources in the education department confirmed to Kashmir Observer that FAT is currently operating only 8 schools across Kashmir valley which include less than 2000 students and about 300 teachers.

"The government is creating an unnecessary issue out of nothing. Education has nothing to do with politics. It's absolutely futile on part of the Government to shut down these institutions. They're jeopardizing the future of students as well as teachers. On one hand, they [Government] say that they're ready to admit students in Government schools but at the same time, they're silent on the future of these 300 teachers who will be rendered jobless after this ban," says an authoritative source in the education department.

"Banned organization Jel mostly draws its sustenance from the vast network of FAT schools, seminaries, orphanages, pulpits of mosques and other charities. Such institutions played a destructive role in large-scale unrests of 2008, 2010 and 2016 bringing huge miseries to common people and forcing them for shut-downs by threat, intimidation and street violence," officials told an agency.

They have also alleged that almost all FAT schools numbering over 300 have been found to be existing on illegally acquired government and community lands.

J&K Govt Takes

the then State Government vide Govt order No.118 of 1981 dated 17.10.1981 leased out a piece of land measuring 13 acres to the Hotel Corporation of India Pvt. Ltd. for a period of 99 years and accordingly a lease agreement was executed on 10.03.1982. The terms and conditions in the agreement stipulated that the ownership rights over the structure on the land shall be equally held by the parties, the use whereof shall be determined by the parties by mutual undertakings and it was also agreed that for matters not covered by the agreement the laws of the J&K State will apply.

Meanwhile, the government on Tuesday evening took control of the Centaur Hotel and sealed the gates of the building.

However, many employees of Centaur Hotel

are refusing to leave the premises of the Hotel after the government decided to seal the building.

"The decision would render 160 employees jobless. We are not against the move, but the employees should also be owned by those who are going to take over the hotel," said Fayaz Ahmad, president of Centaur Hotel Employees Union.

Pertinently, an order issued by Tehsilard concerned reads that it is hereby informed that the Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar has been sealed today on 14th June, 2022, under JK Public premises (eviction of unauthorized occupants Act, 1988) before me under my seal and signature. "Therefore, no one is allowed to enter the main gate till further orders otherwise stern action shall be taken under prevalent law," it reads—(KNO)

Maharashtra ATS

in Jammu and Kashmir and will produce him in a court on Tuesday.

"The suspect is accused of transferring funds into the accounts of Juanid Mohammad Ata Mohammad, another accused who was arrested by the ATS on May 24. We are conducting further probe into the case," the official said.

Junaid was arrested for his alleged role in the recruitment of operatives for the banned outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), according to officials.

On Monday, a Maharashtra ATS official said they had on arrested one Inamul Haq from Uttar Pradesh.

Haq was already arrested by the Uttar Pradesh ATS in March this year for his alleged links with the Pakistan-based LeT and radicalising youth. He was in a jail in UP, from where the Maharashtra ATS took his custody.

As per police, Junaid, a native of Khamgaon village in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, who had been working in Pune for the past few years, was in touch with some active members of the LeT's militant network through social media platforms.

Following Junaid's arrest, the Maharashtra ATS had also nabbed one Aftab Hussain Shah from Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir.

Beast Kills

possibly a leopard, however the beast disappeared in the dense forests with the child.

After strenuous efforts, the child was found dead by the locals.

Notably, two minor boys fell prey to wild animal(s) in two incidents in last few days at Cholan Kalsi Ghati and Trikanjan Boniyar areas respectively. Meanwhile inhabitants of Boniyar blocked Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road for several hours after the girl was mauled to death by the wild beast.

Reports said that the family of the victim accompanied by locals kept the corpse on the highway outside Tehsil headquarters for several hours. The protestors shouted slogans against the Wildlife Department and civil administration for their alleged failure to contain the incidents in the area. "The authorities are not taking any strong steps to tackle the issue which unfortunately has led to back-to-back killings", a protestor said.

A Wildlife Department official said that they have already sent several parties to the area to trace the animal. "It happens that such beasts frequently change locations making it relatively difficult for us to catch them", he said adding nonetheless we are upping our efforts to catch or if required kill the beast in the shortest possible time.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar this afternoon directed the concerned authorities to capture or eliminate the man eater leopard by mobilizing all the available resource.

She issued these directions during a meeting convened in her office chamber with the

concerned stakeholders in order to discuss the immediate and necessary action plan to hunt the man eater leopard for averting further any kind of untoward incident.(GNS)

Make Use Of

deployment of quick response teams to provide immediate assistance to the pilgrims as and when required.

Stressing for coordination mechanisms and communication systems among the counter-parts of all the stakeholders of Army, CAPFs, police and civil administration, the DGP said close coordination is a must for better results.

He directed for putting in place effective mechanism and planning for smooth and peaceful conduct of the yatra.

The police chief emphasised that local and highway security grids need to be kept fully geared up at all levels and joint efforts of all security forces must continue to smoothly conduct the pilgrimage.

He also reviewed the additional security measures being taken on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

Singh said adequate manpower has been made available to the jurisdictional officers and reiterated that the identified routes of travel and movement, do's and don'ts for the yatris and helpline numbers should be made public so that the pilgrims could take note and ask for any assistance effortlessly.

The officers representing different forces apprised the DGP regarding the arrangements with regard to security and deployment of manpower in their respective areas of jurisdiction to ensure peaceful yatra and keep the routes leading to the holy cave hassle-free and safe for pilgrims, an official spokesman said.

Andrabi Proposes

"She further presented her roadmap of transformation within Waqf Board throughout J&K," he said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG appreciated the decision of Waqf Board to establish a Cancer Hospital in J&K and expressed hope that many such public welfare initiatives will be undertaken by Waqf in future.

"Dr Andrabi also presented a proposal for formation of a Tribunal as per Central Waqf Act to address to the legal matters related to Waqf in J&K. She also sought the intervention of the Lt Governor for resolution of various public issues," he said.

The LG, he said, assured redressal of genuine issues. Sinha, he said, further urged Dr Andrabi to continue her endeavours of public service.

Never Seen Before

can see potholes near Natipora, Shalteng, Bemina, Qamarwari and other places which lead to traffic jams. We've raised the issue with the concerned department many times, but there's no response.

Likewise, while SMC needs to free the footpaths from vendors, PDD needs to remove electric poles in the middle of roads for smooth traffic flow.

In short, all the departments need to chip-in to help our department to ease the traffic mess. But sadly, it's our department which is being blamed for everything. People need to understand the whole scenario as well as actively participate in ensuring the smooth flow. Public welfare demands public participation.

Did the traffic department take-up the issue with the government?

Yes, we've done it already.

But then, people complain that the surge in pickets and checkpoints in the city adds to traffic mess. In many places, vehicles need to slow down to navigate the curves on barricades. How is the department dealing with it?

I can't comment on that, but under the Smart City Project, SMC is making smart, good-looking

and presentable bunkers. This is being done so that the security is not compromised.

But how're you dealing with the surging volume of vehicles in the city?

See, the fact is Srinagar is witnessing a massive footfall of tourists. This tourist number is exceptional. Last month, as per official figures, over 4 lakh tourists visited the city. Srinagar has never witnessed this amount of traffic and isn't used to this kind of vehicular footfall.

There's also a dearth of infrastructure in place. Parking spaces remain full, forcing people to park their vehicles on the road leading to congestion. For pedestrians near the city center, there're four bridges but for vehicles there's only one bridge. Number of cars is increasing by the day. You've to have bridges across Jhelum for vehicles to cross to the other side of the river.

Plus, many unknown vehicles coming from other states are daily adding to the strain in the city. And don't forget that Srinagar also receives a good number of vehicles from other districts.

So, you need to understand the roads are the same, the vehicles are increased manifold. There're 23 lakh registered vehicles in J&K. A huge number of vehicles have been purchased from Delhi, Chandigarh, Punjab and other states and they are not-registered. I estimate the number of vehicles plying on the city roads to be around six lakh.

But you aren't talking about the solution to this mess.

Look, when I took over the traffic management of Srinagar, we started a massive drive against the un-registered vehicles. In these five months, we filed over 1.25 lakh challans for wrong parking in the last five months. This is being done to deter people from creating traffic jams.

We implemented the order of Honourable High Court and banned commercial cabs to enter the city at Panthachowk and Parimpora Mandi. That saved us a lot of space. We tried to decongest the city by barring unwanted vehicles.

Also, we've stopped the unnecessary storage of commercial vehicles. We called heads of Tata minibuses and other cab operators and counselled them regarding the issue. We even filed 15,000 challans against Tata minibuses for obstructing traffic.

We also shifted to e-challan, which is proving very helpful for us in fining the people for wrong parking. We've 40 machines and it's done in a matter of seconds.

But the ideal situation for me will be less challans. It means least traffic violations. We're trying to change the mindset of people. But it won't happen overnight. It'll take some time.

We will also seize vehicles without High-security registration plates (HSRP) after 15 June. It will help us in decongesting the city from the un-registered vehicles.

People coming from North Kashmir and Central Kashmir have a lot of complaints regarding traffic jams near Shalteng, Parmipora, Qamarwari and Bemina-Bypass. Although we have witnessed new diversions and rerouting of traffic on longer routes to manage the traffic flow, it has created new bottlenecks. Your response?

The government is constructing grade separators in these areas. In the phase-I, the work on grade separation is underway at Nowgam Chowk, Lasjan By-pass and Bemina Chowk.

In the phase -II, the government is likely to cover other junctions.

People also complain that the traffic signals aren't working in the city. Why is it so?

There're some technical issues in some places that are being addressed.

Soldier Dies Under

Singh, a resident of Malikpur Punjab. He was affiliated with 22 Rashtriya Rifles.

LCMA Conducts Demolition Drive In Srinagar Areas



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Wing of Lake Conservation & Management Authority on Tuesday launched a special demolition drive in the areas of Baba Demb, Burzehama, Shalimar, Doji Mohalla, Dar Mohalla Nigeen and Saida Kadal Ashaibagh on Tuesday.

During the demolition drive, two houses, one Shed, two shops, and one single storey column structure were demolished.

Also some truckloads of illegal Earth filling were removed at Baba demb and Saida Kadal, an official of the LCMA said.

Meanwhile, all the public residing within the LCMA jurisdiction and in the lake have been directed not to go for any sort

of illegal encroachments, as the Enforcement wing will continue its demolition drives of illegal construction, LCMA in a statement said.

Moreover, the Tipper owners have been advised not to ferry any construction material in the prohibited area of Dal and Nigeen Lakes without getting proper permission and in case anybody found shall be dealt with as per law.

Also, CCTV Cameras have been installed and barricades have been erected in order to curb the transportation of illegal building material in the LCMA jurisdiction.

Locals residing in the area of LCMA are informed to apply for online building permissions through LCMA online official website.

KU To Reschedule Entrance Test Dates Clashing With Other Universities

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The clash in University of Kashmir and Jamia Millia Islamia University Entrance Test, scheduled both June 22 has left the aspirants of Kashmir Valley at a crossroads.

A group of aggrieved aspirants said that Kashmir University and Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi have scheduled entrance tests for various postgraduate programs on the same date (22 June this month), creating a situation where the aspirants who wish to appear in both the exams have been left to make a hard choice.

The candidates from Kashmir Valley are in a fix as they cannot appear in both the examinations

on the same date.

Some of the aspirants appealed to the University of Kashmir to delay the exam by one week which will enable them to appear in both exams.

When contacted, the Registrar, University of Kashmir, Professor Nisar Ahmed Mir said that they have arrived at a decision to reschedule all the entrance test dates that clash with other Universities.

"We request students to give feedback and mail directly to me or Kashmir University so that all the entrance test dates clashing with other universities will be rescheduled," he said adding that KU is for the benefit of students that will always take decisions in their interest. (KNT)

Anti-Corruption Court Convicts Ex-PA To CE I&FC In Trap Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An anti-corruption Court, Srinagar on Tuesday convicted former PA to Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control, Kashmir in a trap case and sentenced him to two years imprisonment.

"The Special Judge Anti-Corruption Srinagar convicted Mohammad Amin Baba, son of Late Abdul Ahad Baba of Buchpora, Srinagar in case FIR number 02/2005 of P/S VOK (now ACB). The accused was sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for the period of two years under Section 5 (2) PC Act and one year simple imprisonment under section 161 RPC. The

Hon'ble court also pronounced the fine .penalty of Rs. 10000 to the accused in each offence," ACB in a statement said.

"The accused Mohammad Amin Baba, then in the capacity of PA of Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control had demanded and accepted money to the tune of Rs. 2000 from the complainant for affecting his transfer. Accordingly a trap team was constituted and the accused was caught red handed and the bribe money of Rs. 2000 was recovered from his possession in front of independence witnesses," it said.

"The PS VOK (now ACB) has successfully caught red-handed

the above-mentioned accused. After conduction of investigation, presented the charge sheet after obtaining sanction from Govt, before Hon'ble Court for judicial determination," it said, adding that the Judge C. L Bavoria sentenced the accused to undergo simple imprisonment for the period of two years under Section 5 (2) PC Act and one year simple imprisonment U/S 161 RPC.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau was represented by Special Public Prosecutor, Ghulam Jee-lani and Wajahat Jameel, Public Prosecutor. The case was then investigated by Superintendent of Police Ghulam Qadir Mir, the statement said.

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

Lalla Ded Hospital Organizes Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A blood donation camp was organised at Lalla Ded (LD) Hospital Srinagar on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day Tuesday. The camp was conducted under the guidance of Medical Superintendent (MS) LD, Dr. Muzaffar Sherwani.

Inaugurating the camp, Blood Bank Officer, LD, Dr. Javaid Iqbal Khan, said that the camp was organized to create awareness among the general public about the importance of blood donation. It is a global call for people to come forward and donate blood voluntarily. He further said that the donation camp was organized in collaboration with Good Morning Kashmir, J&K Red Cross Society, HOPE Trust etc.

In addition, students, Journalists, doctors, as well as paramedical staff of LD, also donated blood voluntarily. After proper donor screening and medical examination of all vol-



untary donors, more than 40 donors donated blood for the noble cause.

Azhar Hajini, a well-known Television Presenter and Broad-caster while donating the blood for the maiden time expressed satisfaction over the organization of such camps which help saving many precious lives. "Turns out that donating blood doesn't just benefit recipients, there are health benefits for donors too, on top of the benefits that come from helping others,"

Hajini said.

Hajini further said that the day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation and the crucial role it plays in saving lives across the world.

Medical Superintendent (MS) LD, Dr. Muzaffar Sherwani who was also present on the occasion said that the blood donated by volunteers including employees will be of great help in meeting the requirements of needy patients.

BJP Delaying J&K Assembly Polls As It Is Scared To Face People: AAP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged on Tuesday that the BJP was delaying the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir as it was scared to face the people.

Referring to reports in a section of the media that the revision of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be taken up before August 15 in view of the Amarnath pilgrimage, AAP leader Harsh Dev Singh said it was "yet another frivolous excuse" given to delay the assembly polls.

"Having failed to deliver on its promises, the BJP is trying to postpone elections on one pretext or the other. Scared to face the people...it preferred repeated postponement of polls and continuation of its proxy rule in

the union territory," Singh said.

Calling for early elections to the assembly, the AAP leader said any further delay would not only amount to subversion of democracy but also violate the orders of the Supreme Court.

He said that militancy which had erupted in Jammu and Kashmir in the early 1990s had gradually subsided under elected governments.

"It had almost died down during popular governments but unfortunately it got revived during the Centre's proxy rule," he claimed.

With hardly any forum to ventilate their grievances, the people were suffering badly in the absence of a popular government thereby resulting in growing alienation amongst the masses, he said.

Union MOS Jal Shakti Visits Ganderbal

Reviews Implementation Of JJM In District

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel on Tuesday visited district Ganderbal and reviewed implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district during a meeting held at Meeting Hall Manasbal.

During the meeting, a thorough review of the Jal Jeevan Mission was taken in general while focusing primarily on District Ganderbal. The MoS was briefed about the progress achieved under JJM in the district through a Power Point presentation and was informed that the district has achieved 100 percent implementation of JJM on 13th August 2020. The achievements of the Rural Water Supply Division Ganderbal were also highlighted on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the MoS said that the mandate of Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide functional household tap connection to every rural household that will significantly improve quality of life, particularly of women and children and assist in ODF-sustainability as water is important to sustain Swachh Bharat Mission's gains.

The Minister also enquired about the augmentation of infrastructure under the scheme. The Minister was apprised of the status of coverage, water supply schemes and other related aspects of water supply in the district. The main focus was on implementation of JJM in order to realize the vision of JJM in letter and spirit.

While reviewing the infrastructure created under JJM, the minister directed the Chief Engineer to carry out inspections by empanelled third party agencies for all infrastructures created under the JJM at an earliest.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Jal Shakti, Ashok Parmar, Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti, Basharat Kawoosa, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/ Ganderbal, Gircharan Singh, Technical Advisor JJM, Kuljit Singh, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Rural Water Supply Division Ganderbal/ Srinagar and other officers from Rural Development Department. Chairperson District Development Council Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq was also present on the occasion.

‘Pratham Puja’ Held At Amarnath Cave Shrine In South Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Pratham Puja (first prayer), marking the ritual beginning of the annual Amarnath yatra, was held on Tuesday on the occasion of Jyestha Purnima at the holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The formal yatra will begin on June 30 and culminate on August 11, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

"To mark the beginning of annual #AmarnathYatra, Pratham

puja was performed on Tuesday on the occasion of Jyestha Purnima at the holy cave shrine of Lord #Shiva," the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) tweeted.

It said Nitishwar Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of the board, along with other office bearers, participated in the prayers.

More than 10 Lakh pilgrims are expected to pay obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, 45 kilometres from tourist resort

Pahalgam.

The Amarnath Yatra, which has been opened to the general public this year after a gap of two years, will commence on June 30 and conclude on August 11.

The yatra was cut short as a precautionary measure in 2019 after the Centre imposed severe restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370. Only ritualistic aspects of the yatra were conducted in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals In Collaboration With LOGY.AI Introduces India's First AI-Based Cataract Screening Solution

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: A pioneer in world-class eye care, Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals in collaboration with Logy.AI envisions has introduced AI-based screening solution to identify cataracts on the spot with 92 percent accuracy.

As Cataract is responsible for 70% of blindness in India. However, with early intervention at the right stage, it could be avoided. The AI solution shall help in early screening and treatment at the right stage to avoid blindness.

This is the first time; just the smartphone has been used for cataract screening leveraging artificial intelligence (AI).

It is set up with the aim to build cutting-edge AI products in the healthcare domain and bridge the gap between clinical medicine and technology by training healthcare professionals in AI.

Meanwhile, the AI-based screening solution is present as a simple chatbot on WhatsApp, so that it can be used for mass screening. It wouldn't require anyone to download any separate application as only WhatsApp is required on the phone. Also, the solution works with very low internet connectivity in rural areas.

Speaking on how technology is transforming the healthcare system in India,

Deepshikha Sharma, CEO, Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals, said, "The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has brought breakthroughs in many areas of medicine. In ophthalmology, AI has delivered robust results in the screening

and detection of diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and retinopathy of prematurity. Cataract management is another field that can benefit from greater AI application."

"With the use of AI, doctors and medical providers will now be able to deliver a more accurate diagnosis in the fastest possible time, which can aid the treatment journey. Also, AI would be a big leap toward predictive and proactive data analytics, which will improve preventive care recommendations for patients. We are really glad to partner with Logy.AI envisions, which will open doors for healthcare professionals to undertake research and better utilize AI tools to understand their patient's disease patterns and improve treatment outcomes significantly," she added.

"SharpSight hospitals have been one of the most pro-active partners which synergises with our vision of using new-age technologies like Artificial Intelligence for promotion of population health screening. Both our teams have been working very hard to ensure elderly people receive the treatment at the right time. We are grateful to the top leadership of Sharp Sight for providing us the opportunity to collaborate in this journey. I am sure that this is just the start of even greater things to come in the future," said Priyanjit Ghosh, Co-founder, and CEO, Logy.AI.

As pioneers in eye care for over 20 years, Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals believes in providing quality eye care for all.

NIT Student Bags Cash Prize For Detecting Bug In Payment App



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 6th-semester student from the Department of Information Technology at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday received a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate of appreciation for detecting bug in a digital payment application.

Tabrez Alam, an IT student, had detected a bug in MobiKwik application for which he has been awarded a cash prize along with an appreciation certificate by the company under the Responsible Disclosure Program (RDP).

Hailing from Dhaka Champaran district of Bihar, in March this year, Tabrez had claimed that MobiKwik was facing huge financial losses from online shopping websites. Then he contacted the company officials and after proper verification, he received appreciation from the CEO of the company.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said that the student has helped the company from further financial losses through various e-commerce platforms calling it a matter of pride for the institution.

"There is no dearth of talent here but there is a need for a vibrant platform for such students to nurture and excel in their higher studies," he said.

Prof. Sehgal also encouraged Tabrez to work hard in his studies and make NIT Srinagar more proud in the country in future.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari praised the efforts of Tabrez in detecting the bug and urged him to work hard to accelerate in the IT field.

"To support students on campus, we have developed state-of-the-art facilities for research and will continue to expand our activities in future. We will always stand for our students," Prof. Bukhari said, adding that such students are an inspiration for others.

In his message, Tabrez expressed his gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Registrar, and faculty members for supporting him during the entire process.

"I am also thankful to my parents, especially to my father and mother who consistently supported and prayed for me," he said.

Following identification of the bug, he had informed MobiKwik Company about the same. "It was a very critical bug because it could have led to further financial loss of worth Crores to the company," Tabrez said.

"After verification and authenticity of my claims, the Co-Founder and CEO, MobiKwik application Bipin Preet Singh had awarded me 1 lakh cash prize and appreciation letter from the company," he said.

3 Day Selection Process For Various Academic Positions At SCERT Concludes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A three day selection process wherein several J&K Education Department lecturers participated for various academic positions at the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) concluded here on Monday.

According to Principal Secretary School Education Department, B K Singh, a rigorous interaction procedure was employed for the first time in the history of Education Department to choose the academic staff in order to make SCERT as

the "Number one institution" of the country.

The interaction panel, besides Singh, was comprised of Director School Education Kashmir, Dr Tasaduq Hussain, Joint Director, SCERT, Kashmir Division, Mohammad Sharif Dedhar, Joint Director, SCERT, Jammu Division, H R Pakhroo and Associate Professor, SCERT, Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz.

Singh emphasized the importance of teacher training while commenting on the selection process, saying it is 'critical to assess the potential of individuals who would be chosen for the job'.

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JAWAHAR NAGAR NEAR J&K BANK

JKFA To Depute Women's U-17 Team For National C'ship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Tuesday said that it has selected a women's under-17 junior team for the upcoming National Football Championship set to take place at Guwahati, Assam in mid-June.

In a press release the JKFA stated, "J&K Football Association is deputing J&K Women's U-17 Junior Football Team for participation in the upcoming National Football Championship scheduled to be held at Guwahati, Assam from 15th Jun to 27th June 2022."

"In this connection the selected players of both the provinces attended 21 days Coaching Camp at TRC Srinagar from 25th of May to 14th of June 2022," the JKFA statement added.

"The Screening of the team was done by Nusrat Gazala, Sports Officer (C) J&K Sports Council today the 14th of June 2022 (Tuesday) at Synthetic Turf TRC Srinagar. 20 girls from both the provinces of J&K UT were selected for participation in the Championship."

"Nadiya Nighat will accompany the team as Coach and Dr. Ritasha Bharti as Physio," the statement concluded.

Degree College Bemina Wins Inter-College Cricket Tournery



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: AAAM Degree College Bemina on Tuesday beat IASE College of Education by 45 runs in the finals of the Inter-College Cricket Tournament Boys 2021-22 organised by Cluster University Srinagar.

The tournament was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Qayyum Husain in the month of November 2021, in which all the constituent and affiliated colleges participated and was played on knock-out basis with the first semi-final played between S.P College and IASE College of Education, in which latter booked its place in the finals of the tournament.

In the second semi-final AAAM Degree College Bemina booked its place in the final by defeating A.S College. However due to inclement weather and some unavoidable circumstances, the final match remained pending and was played today in the AS College ground.

IASE college of Education after winning the toss decided to bowl first. In the allotted overs, Bemina College managed 110 runs on the board for the loss of 10 wickets. Auznain scored 34 runs and Rayees Ahmad bowled an extra-ordinary spell of 4 overs and took 3 crucial wickets.

In reply IASE college of College was bundled out at 65 runs. Auzanin took 3 wickets while Aqib and Junaid took 2 wickets each.

For an all-round performance of 34 runs and 3 wickets, Auznanin was adjudged as Man of

the match while Aqib was proclaimed as Man of the Tournament with his brilliant overall performance of 185 runs and 12 wickets.

The Vice Chancellor CUS Prof. (Dr.) Qayyum Husain and Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Javaid, Former Vice Chancellor CUS chaired the presentation cum felicitation ceremony as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively.

Vice Chancellor, who was the chief guest on the occasion said that the university will provide an opportunity to the sports persons from constituent and affiliated colleges of the university to showcase their talent at national and international level and appreciated the efforts put in by the Secretary Sports and Physical Education Staff of the constituent colleges.

Former and Founding Vice Chancellor of CUS, Prof. Sheikh Javaid on the occasion expressed his good wishes to the budding players and emphasized the developments of the CUS.

The other notable personalities who graced the occasion include Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Registrar Prof. (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Mir, Secretary Sports CUS, Prof. Tariq Ashai. Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges Prof. (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad, Prof. Mir Mashooq Special Guest of the occasion, Principals of Constituent and affiliated colleges, Deans of various facilities of CUS, sports committee members of various colleges and other dignitaries of CUS.

India Qualify For Asian Cup After Palestine Oust Philippines

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Indian men's football team on Tuesday qualified for the Asian Cup Finals after Palestine defeated Philippines 4-0 in a group B match in Ulaanbaatar.

The result meant that the Palestinians directly qualified for the 24-team Finals finishing as group B toppers, while Philippines, with four points, were eliminated despite finishing second.

It is the first time India have qualified for the Asian Cup in two successive editions, having made a group league exit in 2019.

The 24 teams in the qualification third round were divided into six groups of four each.

The matches of each group were played across different venues with India hosting the group D games.

All the group winners and the five best second place finishers across the six groups will qualify for the Asian Cup.

As things stand now, Hong Kong

(six points) lead group D ahead of India on goal difference as both teams cross swords in their final round clash later in the day.

Afghanistan and Cambodia, who are yet to open their respective accounts and are already eliminated, face each other in the other group D match.

So, even if India lose to Hong Kong, they will still have more points than Group B runners-up Philippines (4 points) and will thus make the cut for the Asian Cup as one of the best five runners-up teams.

In their group opener, India rode on captain Sunil Chhetri's brace to blank Cambodia 2-0, while they secured a last-gasp 2-1 win over Afghanistan in their second match.

Super sub Sahal Abdul Samad struck a brilliant stoppage time goal to seal the issue after Chhetri's 83rd international goal was cancelled out by Afghanistan's Zubayr Amir in an action-packed last 10 minutes.

Clinical India Keep Series Alive With 48-Run Win Over SA



Press Trust of India

VISA KHAPATNAM: India ticked all the boxes when it mattered the most and crushed South Africa by 48 runs in the must-win third T20 International to stay alive in the five-match series here on Tuesday.

Yuzvendra Chahal (3/20) and Harshal Patel (4/25) led the way with the ball after sizzling half-centuries from Rituraj Gaikwad (57) and Ishan Kishan (54) powered India to 179 for five.

The bowlers came good after opener Gaikwad turned things around with a scintillating knock and Ishan scored his sec-

ond fifty of the series.

Under the scanner for his patchy form of late, Gaikwad hit two maximums and seven fours in his 35-ball knock, and Ishan too scored his runs in 35 balls after being asked to take first strike.

Defending the total, skipper Rishabh Pant introduced the spinners early and Axar Patel produced the first breakthrough with a fuller delivery as Temba Bavuma (8) holed out to Avesh Khan in the 4th over.

Chahal was rewarded for bowling quick as he got extra bounce from the wicket to get the better of Rassie van

der Dussen (1), Dwaine Pretorius (20) and Heinrich Klaasen (29).

Harshal mixed his deliveries well to first remove Reeza Hendricks (23) and David Miller (3) and then returned to finish things off with the wickets of Kagiso Rabada (9) and Tabraiz Shamsi (0) as South Africa were bundled out for 131.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/21) too bowled with a lot of heart.

Earlier, Gaikwad and Ishan hit two sixes each and shared 12 boundaries to set the platform but South Africa tightened the screws in the second half to keep India inside 180.

IPL Media Rights Deal Fetches BCCI Rs 48,390 Crore

Viacom18 ends Disney Star's monopoly

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI on Tuesday reaffirmed its status as a cricketing behemoth by securing one of the biggest broadcast deals in the history of the sport, fetching an eye-popping 48,390 crore (USD 6.20 billion) through IPL media rights for a five-year period, starting 2023.

While Disney Star retained their Indian sub-continent TV rights with a figure of Rs 23,575 crore (Rs 57.5 crore/game), the most sought-after India digital rights deal was acquired for Rs 20,500 crore by the Reliance backed Viacom18, which also won the non-exclusive Package C, paying another Rs 2991 crore.

The deal for package A and B is for 410 matches across five years with 74 matches each in 2023 and 2024 and 84 each in 2025 and 2026. The 2027 edition will have 94 games.

Viacom18 entered the fray through a consortium which has former Star India head Uday Shankar (Bodhi Tree) and James Murdoch (Lupa Systems) in it.

"I am thrilled to announce that STAR INDIA wins India TV rights with their bid of Rs 23,575 crores. The bid is a direct testimony to the BCCI's organisational capabilities despite two pandemic years," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted.

"Since its inception, the IPL has been synonymous with growth & today is a red-letter day for India Cricket, with Brand IPL touching a new high



with e-auction resulting in INR 48,390 cr value. IPL is now the 2nd most valued sporting league in the world in terms of per match value," Shah added.

The IPL, in terms of sheer valuation, will now be bracketed in the top-most sporting properties alongside National Football League (USA), National Basketball Association (USA) and English Premier League (England), the most watched sporting event in the world.

The new deal also ends the monopoly of a single broadcaster. Sony had acquired the rights by paying Rs 8200 crore for the first 10 years (2008-17) while Star with a bid price of 16347.50 won it for the next five years.

There was also a Package C,

where digital rights of 18 non-exclusive marquee games per season were up for grabs and Viacom18 won it with a winning bid of Rs 2991.6 crore at the rate of Rs 33.24 crore per match. There are 90 matches in this package.

Package D with a base price of Rs 3 crore per game with overseas TV and Digital Rights on offer was sold for more than 1300 crore to Viacom18 and Times Internet.

The value of per IPL match made more than a 100 per cent jump from previous Rs 54.5 crore to above Rs 114 crore (approx). Globally, the per match value (USD 14.61 million) in IPL is second only to NFL where every match is worth USD 17 million.

Father Reveals Root Practised Batting On One Leg To Achieve Balance



Press Trust of India

LONDON: When sporting activities including cricket came to a halt under the COVID-19 pandemic, English maestro Joe Root started practising batting on one leg to achieve better balance, his father Matt has revealed.

One of the greatest modern-day batters, Root has been in phenomenal form in the ongoing Test series against New Zealand in which he not only scaled the 'Mount 10K' peak, but also surpassed Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar in the list of top run-getters in the traditional format.

Giving an account of Root's dedication towards become one of the best in the world, his father spoke about his preparation, especially during the pandemic.

"During COVID, he (Joe) got one of the Root Academy ball feeders that we have and he'd be there for an hour batting on one leg for balance. There's a video somewhere of him doing it," Matt said on the Test Match Special.

"Joe just loves batting," added Matt.

"As a kid, wherever someone would bowl at him he'd be there with a bat. He just loves doing it, he just loves batting."

The former England skipper recently became the second English batter after Alastair Cook to score 10,000 runs in Tests during his 115 not out in the second innings against New Zealand as the hosts romped home by five wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

In the ongoing second Test here, Root went past Gavaskar and reached 10191 runs with his knock of 176 in the first innings. Root has jumped to 12th spot in the elite list led by Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar (15921).

Meanwhile, England were on the cusp of winning their second test against New Zealand on Tuesday. The Englishmen needed another 27 runs with 26.4 over remaining. Johnny Bairstow 136* (91) and Ben Stokes 60* (58) were on the crease when the report was last filed.

Roger Federer Hits 22-Year Low In ATP Rankings



Agencies

LONDON: Swiss tennis player and former world Number one Roger Federer is now ranked 68th in the world in the ATP Rankings after missing multiple tournaments due to injury, his worst ranking in over 22 years.

The last time the Swiss maestro was this far down in the ranking was in February 2000, when he was 18 years in age. He was ranked number 67 back then. He currently sits at 68 with 850 points. At the top is Daniil Medvedev of Russia. At number

two is Germany's Alexander Zverev. And at number three is Serbian Novak Djokovic.

Notably, 103-time tour-level titlist most recently competed at Wimbledon 2021. In August, Federer had announced on Instagram that he will miss "many months" after undergoing knee surgery.

Notably, the Swiss star underwent arthroscopic right knee surgeries in February 2020 and May 2020. Federer has played five tournaments since having those surgeries, all of which came in the 2021 season. (ANI)

Australia Beats Peru To Qualify For World Cup



Agencies

AL RAYYAN (Qatar): Australia qualified for a fifth straight World Cup after a 5-4 penalty shootout win over Peru in their intercontinental playoff on Monday.

The teams failed to score in regulation and extra time at Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, and goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne, sent on as a substitute for captain Mat Ryan in the dying seconds of extra time, proved to be the star for Australia by saving the last penalty from Alex Valera.

"I'm not a hero," Redmayne said. "I just played my role like everyone else did tonight. I'm not going to take credit for this."

Taking off established No. 1 Ryan for Redmayne, who had made just two previous international appearances, was a major gamble from Socceroos

coach Graham Arnold.

Redmayne's unconventional dancing and jumping along the goal-line with his arms and legs flailing as the Peru players stepped up, however, worked.

Australia qualified the hard way in a campaign played mostly away because of travel restrictions in place for the COVID-19 pandemic, finishing third behind Saudi Arabia and Japan in their group in the last round of qualifying and then beating United Arab Emirates in the Asian playoff last week.

Australia finished regulation as the only team creating chances.

Peru substitute Edison Flores headed against the foot of Australia's post early in the second period of extra time, but that was as close as 12,000 Peruvian fans in the stadium came to celebrating a goal and as close as either team went to breaking the deadlock. (AP)

FIFA Prepares To Name 2026 World Cup Host Cities

Reuters

The countdown to World Cup 2026 kicks off in earnest on Thursday, as soccer fans across Canada, Mexico and the United States learn whether their cities made the coveted cut to host the 48-team tournament.

Four years after FIFA selected the tri-country North American bid, world football's governing body will announce the host cities after a lengthy process shrouded in mystery.

With 22 host cities still in the running this week, according to FIFA, many expect the United States to see 10 of its candidates chosen with Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto in contention to the north.

In Mexico, where soccer is less a sport than a religion, three candidate cities - Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey - are all but assured the gig. Of course, anything can hap-

pen ahead of Thursday's media spectacle in New York City.

"Some of the cities understood probably from the beginning they were a longer shot than others ... Five or six cities, almost anybody in the world would say, 'Well, clearly they're part of the package,'" former U.S. Soccer President Alan Rothenberg, now chairman of Playfly Premier Partnerships, told Reuters.

"So the scramble in many ways is for the other slots." Los Angeles, with its glitzy new \$5.5 billion SoFi Stadium is widely considered a n-

obvious candidate, as is global hub New York, whose joint bid with New Jersey is anchored on the 82,500-capacity MetLife Stadium.

Other contenders include former 1994 World Cup host cities Boston, Dallas, San Francisco, Orlando and Washington, D.C., which combined its bid with Baltimore this year.

"There's an awful lot of pent up excitement because then we start the four year sprint to the (games)," said Rothenberg, who served as CEO of the 1994 World Cup.