

25th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

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As Guns Fall Silent, Gurez Emerges As Top Offbeat Tourist Destination In Kashmir

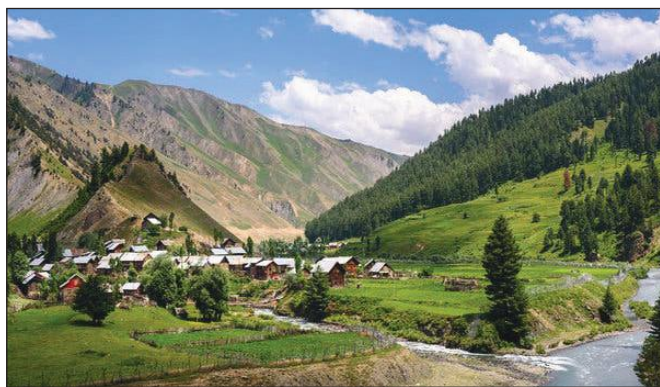
Auqib Javeed

Bandipora: Once known for death and destruction due to cross-LOC shelling, and frequent firefights between militants and soldiers, the picturesque Gurez Valley in this North Kashmir district has emerged as a favourite tourist destination, drawing thousands of visitors from the country and abroad.

Nestled in the Himalayas and surrounded by beautiful lush green forests, the Gurez Valley

falls along the ancient Silk Route which connected Kashmir with Gilgit. It also falls on the military Line of Control (LOC) that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan. People here speak the Shina language and are mostly living in wooden houses.

Last week, Gurez Valley bagged the best offbeat destination award 2022. The award was given to the Tourism Department for promoting Gurez in the category of offbeat tourism destinations.



File Photo

The Outlook Traveller Awards are the benchmark of quality in the travel and tourism industry for the last two decades and felicitate the best of the best each year, a J&K tourism department official said.

"Credit goes to hard working officials and especially to young volunteers and entrepreneurs for creating such a tourist friendly environment within a short span of time," tweeted Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad Ahmad tsoon



CREDIT GOES TO HARD WORKING OFFICIALS AND especially to young volunteers and entrepreneurs for creating such a tourist friendly environment within a short span of time."

after the award was announced.

From the past two years, Gurez has become a favourite tourist spot for the locals and domestic travellers and **More on P6**

Two More Tremors Hit J&K, 13 In Five Days

Observer News Service

Jammu: Two mild earthquakes struck Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.

The tremors of magnitude 2.9 and 3.4 were reported within a span of over four-and-a-half hours in the morning, they said.

With this, a total of 13 earthquakes having mild intensity had hit Doda, Kishtwar, Katra (Reasi) and Udhampur districts of the Jammu province since Tuesday.

There was no report of any loss of life or damage to property, the officials said.

They said the epicentre of the first earthquake, which occurred at 4.32 am, was 26 kilometres south west of Bhaderwah town at latitude of 32.87 degrees **More on P6**

Azad To Launch His Own Party, From J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad is all set to launch his own party and its first unit would come up in Jammu and Kashmir within a fortnight, his close confidant G M Saroori said on Saturday.

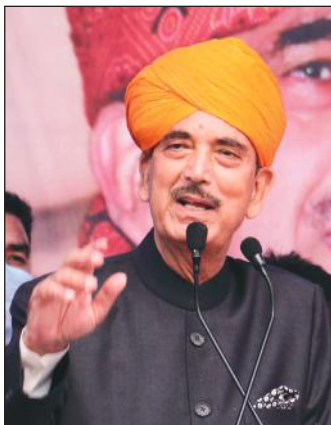
Saroori asserted that the restoration of the pre-August 5, 2019 position of Jammu and Kashmir will be part of the party's manifesto.

A former minister who was among several prominent Congress leaders of Jammu and Kashmir who resigned from the basic membership of the party in support of Azad, Saroori said their leader was ideologically secular and there was no question of him working at the behest of the BJP.

He also claimed that hundreds of senior Congress leaders, Panchayati Raj Institution members and prominent workers have tendered their resignations after the former chief minister ended his over five-decade-long association with the national party.

"Azad is coming to Jammu on September 4 to hold consultations with his well-wishers before the launch of our new party," Saroori, a former vice-president of the J-K unit of the Congress, told PTI.

Hours after his resignation



on Friday, Azad said he would launch a new party soon and that its first unit would be set up in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I am in no hurry as of now to launch a national party but keeping in mind that elections are likely to be held in Jammu and Kashmir, I have decided to launch a unit there soon," Azad, who hails from the Bhaderwah township of Doda district, had told PTI on Friday night.

Saroori, who along with several former legislators met with Azad in New Delhi on Friday to extend their support, said the veteran politician was going to announce the launch of the party within the next fortnight. **More on P6**



Scores of people on Saturday turned up at Imambargah Zadibal to donate blood during a world-wide blood donation drive organised by global charity group 'WholsHussain'. KO Photo, Syeda Sakeena

Read full story on Page 3

Make Strategies For 'Uprooting Terror Ecosystem': DGP

DGP Complimented Police, Army, And Capfs For Successful Conduct Of Amarnath Yatra, Muharram-ul-Haram And The Event Of Independence Day Across Jammu And Kashmir.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Just two days after Home Minister, Amit Shah directed security forces to intensify anti-militancy operations, the Jammu and Kashmir police chief Dilbag Singh on Saturday asked his officers to prepare strategies and plans for uprooting the "terror ecosystem" to consolidate peace in the Union Territory.

"Though contribution of Jammu and Kashmir Police on different fronts is being appreciated at highest levels of the country yet we need to further improve our investigation work



to hit the ecosystem of terrorism hard," Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said.

He made these remarks while chairing a high level crime review meeting at Police

Headquarters here on Saturday, a police spokesperson said. The DGP also launched the IOS version of the JK-eCop mobile app, developed by J&K Police.

At the very outset, the spokesperson said, the DGP complimented Police, Army, and CAPFs for successful conduct of Amarnath Yatra, Muharram-ul-Haram and the event of Independence Day across Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh, he said, conveyed the appreciation of Union Minister, Amit Shah to officers and jawans working collectively for peace in J&K. **More on P6**

Exam Session For Class 10, 12 To Be March Now

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Instead of November-December session, the government is all set to commence with the annual regular board examinations of 10th-12th standard from March.

Quoting senior officials KNO reported that the government has shifted the examination session from November-December to March.

"In order to bring uniformity in the academic calendar with the national academic calendar, we have decided to conduct all board exams in March," the official said.

"Official order in this regard will be issued in a week's time," the official added. Pertinently, the School

Education Department earlier in May has sought a detailed report from the panel constituted for preparing the uniform academic calendar for both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier the Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta has said that Jammu and Kashmir will fully implement the National Education Policy (NEP) from the current academic session.

Mehta has also said that the implementation of NEP-2020 will also move to a uniform academic calendar which in turn will be synchronized to the national academic calendar.

In July, the Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department (HED) said that Uniform Academic Calendar shall be **More on P6**

J&K Cong Downplay Resignation Spree

Putting up a brave face in the wake of a spate of resignations by its leaders in support of Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress on Saturday said only those who were hibernating for eight years have deserted it and they will meet the same fate as that of former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh. It lashed out Azad, a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister who resigned from the primary **More on P6**

I AM IN NO HURRY AS OF NOW to launch a national party but keeping in mind that elections are likely to be held in Jammu and Kashmir, I have decided to launch a unit there soon."

S H O R T T A K E S

Intruder Arrested Along IB In Jammu

A Pakistani intruder was arrested along the International Border here by the Border Security Force (BSF) in the early hours of Saturday, officials said. BSF personnel picked up on the movement of Mohammad Shabad (45), a resident of Sialkot, while he was trying to sneak into the Arnia sector from across the border, they said. They fired a few warning shots and took the man into custody, the officials said, adding that no incriminating material was found in his possession. On August 25, the BSF **More on P6**

Patwari Charged For Land Fraud

The Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir on Saturday produced chargesheet against a patwari (revenue official) and other person in connection with fraudulent mutation of land at Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Besides cheating and forgery, the two accused persons— Ghulam Rasool Bhat Son-in-law of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat of Repora Namthal Chadoora and Assadullah Baba (Patwari) son of Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din of Batpora Wathora Patwan—have been accused of **More on P6**

10 Absent Govt Employees Suspended

The authorities on Saturday suspended ten government employees for remaining absent from duties in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. The employees were found absent from duty by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat while conducting surprise checks of various offices in Mattan, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, an official spokesperson said. "The ADC inspected the attendance of employees at Tehsil Office, Block Development Office and GHS Mattan among other offices. **More on P6**

J&K Logs 185 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir registered 185 new cases of Coronavirus on Saturday while no fresh fatality due to the virus was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, Kashmir Valley detected 148 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while 37 others were registered from different districts of Jammu Division, thus taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 477304. Giving district wise-details, they said that Srinagar reported the highest 45 new cases of virus **More on P6**

Elderly Man Injured In Bear Attack

A sexagenarian man was attacked and critically injured by a black bear in Lolab Valley of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, reports said Saturday. 68-year-old Saifullah Mughal was attacked by a black bear in his native village Kawari of Lolab on Friday night, reports said. Mughal sustained serious injuries before the villagers chased away the beast. The elderly man, reports said, was removed to sub-district hospital Sogam by his family for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to District Hospital **More on P6**

2 Drug Peddlers Booked Under PSA

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday booked two alleged notorious drug peddlers under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Awantipora after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent authority. Tawseef Ahmad Masoodi and Mehran Ahmad Malik, both residents of Pampore were arrested by police for promoting drug abuse by supplying drugs to local youth of Police District Awantipora especially in Pampore area, a police spokesman said. "Subsequently, the cases were duly processed and after obtaining sanctions from **More on P6**



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2

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CIVILWORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender Fresh NIT No.149 of 2022-23 issued under endorsement No.9737-46

Dated:26.08.2022

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs)	Cost of T.Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of comple- tion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contactor
	2	3	4	5	6		8
1.	Upgradation of Hilpatti road and incl. repairing of cement concrete Drain under MH-3054 Special Repairs..	Rs.1.40 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.2800/=	10-Days	MH-3054 Special Repairs	DEE

Position of AAA-Accorded,
Position of funds-Available.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-08-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	26/08/2022 from 4:00 PM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	26/08/2022 from 4:00 PM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	31/08/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	31/08/2022 at 4:05 P.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1. The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal and 3% of the allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG by the successful bidder pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The Performance Security i.e. 3% shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance Security/ after award of the contract for the Work is issued.

2.1 Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.

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

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified timeline.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically (by registered post /through courier before the dates specified in Para-1.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

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

6.6(B) Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are forged/fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be recommended for blacklisting and debarred from taking part in tendering in which the PWD/Other Departments for a period of one year in the first instance, besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

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

8. For item rate method the unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

9. The Wage rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above/below at par at the bottom of the BOQ percentage prevailing for the work. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

11. Price escalation on and Taxes:- deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor of the gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" are in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.

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

15. Instructions to Bidder (TB)

15.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria qualification in form with their bids:-

- Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with
- Cell No and Correspondence address.
- Scanned copy of E-challan /Treasury receipt.
- Scanned copy of Registration Card with latest renewal.
- Scanned copy of Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
- Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest Quarter i.e. April-June 2022/Qualifying Month i.e. July 2022.

Illustrations:-

The bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of the Latest quarter i.e. April-June 2022/Qualifying Month i.e. July 2022.

All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card

15.2 The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

15.3 Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be a cause of disqualification of the bidder.

15.4 All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

15.5 Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

No.9737-46
Dated-26-08-22

DIPK-8763/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: Legrand Empowering Scholarship Program 2022-23

Description: Legrand invites applications from meritorious girl students who have applied to pursue B.Tech/BE/B.Arch., other courses (BBA/B.Com/BSc- Math and Sciences) across India. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious students to pursue a career in Engineering, Architecture, Finance and Sciences.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open to girl students across India. Applicants must be applying to courses in B.Tech/BE/B.Arch., other graduation courses (BBA/B.Com/BSc- Math and Sciences) in India. Applicants must have cleared their Class 12 in 2021- 2022 and scored 70% and above in their Class 10 and 12. Differently-abled girl students and transgender students shall be considered.

The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must be less than INR 5,00,000.

Prizes & Rewards: Girl students are awarded 60% course fees up to INR 60,000 per year till the completion of course based on academic performance. Students in the special category will be awarded 80% fees up to INR 1,00,000 per year till the completion of the course based on academic performance.

*Special Category: Differently-abled students/transgender students/students with single parents/students who lost their parents due to COVID.

Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2022

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LFL5

Scholarship Name 2: The Tata Capital Pankh Scholarship Programme



Description: Tata Capital Limited invites applications from students studying in Class 6 to 12 and undergraduate (general and professional) courses. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious students who belong to economically weaker sections of society.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The applicants must be studying in Class 6 to 12 and undergraduate (general and professional) courses. They must have secured at least 60% marks in the qualifying examination. The annual family income of the applicant must not exceed INR 4,00,000 from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to 80% of the tuition fees

Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2022

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TCPSI4

Scholarship Name 3: Rolls-Royce Unnati Scholarships for Women Engineering Students 2022

Description: Rolls-Royce India Private Limited invites applications from girl students who are pursuing undergraduate engineering courses. The scholarship is meant to financially support meritorious girl students in completing their engineering programme.

Eligibility: Open for Indian girls who are currently pursuing 1st/2nd/3rd year of engineering courses in fields like Aerospace, Marine, Electronics, Computers, etc. at an AICTE-recognized institution. Applicants must have scored more than 60% marks in their Class 10 and 12 board exams. Prizes & Rewards: INR 35,000

Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2022

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UNSA4

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

Attention Please

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his qualification certificate/s issued, as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 348235

Class: 10th

Registration No: N12441020037

Name : Mohammad Yaseen Mir

Father's Name: Hafizullah Mir

Mother's Name : Muglee Begum

Date of Birth:- 30-10-1998

Residence:- Sangrama Sopore

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

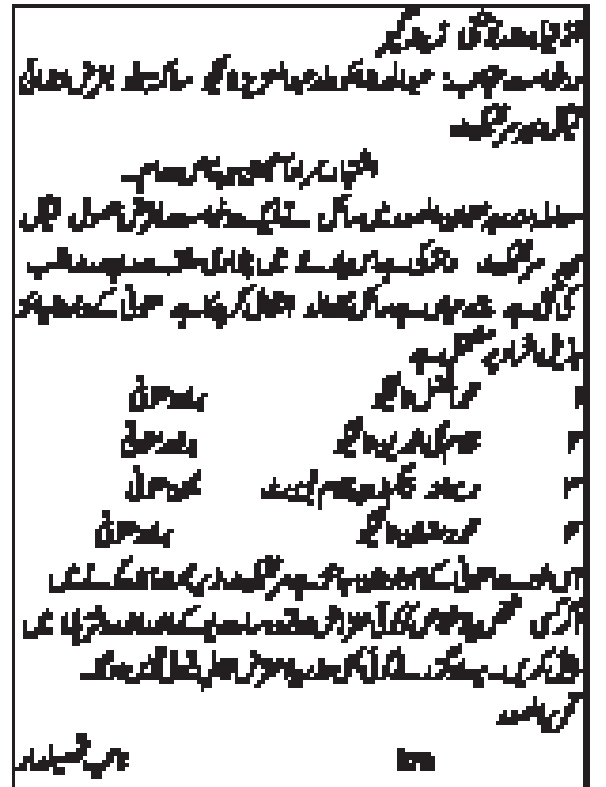
(Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate/s" bearing No: 13ARKAM - 1012178 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22

Dated



Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.



خاندان رضوی کو صدمہ

یہ اطلاع نہایت افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ سید مہدی (ولد سید مرتضیٰ رضوی مرحوم ساکن شیش گری محلہ خانپار) حال لال بازار (محلہ باغ محمد) 26 اگست 2022ء مطابق 27 محرم الحرام 1444ھ بروز جمعہ بوقت فجر اس جہان فانی سے رحلت کر گئیں۔ اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع رنگہ پرستان سورہ بینک رینا داری میں 29 اگست 2022ء ہومو وار کوئٹج ساڑھے 6 بجے انجام دی جائے گی۔ اس کے بعد دن بھر ان کے سکون واقع لال بازار (محلہ باغ محمد) پر مجلس تعزیت برپا رہے گی۔

سوگوار: سید مہدی رضوی (لال بازار سرنگر)

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

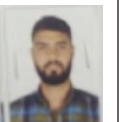
The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars

Mohammad Yaseen Mir

Father's Name: MHafizullah Mir

Mother's Name: Muglee Begum

Roll No: 348235 Year 2013 Session Annual



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore

KRC

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TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
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AIJAZ NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL	YASIR NEWS AGENCY	ZAKOORA

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Admin, Police Initiate Action Against 'Bunking Menace'

Agencies

Srinagar: Continuing with its drive against school bunkers, the Srinagar district administration on Saturday raided several parks in the city to catch hold of students staying away from classes.

This is for the umpteenth time that the district administration and police have stepped in to address the problem that stake-holders say has only worsened over time.

On Saturday, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar Haneef Balki along with Superintendent of Police (SP), Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and SHO visited various spots in Srinagar city, mostly parks where students were found roaming during school hours.

"The trend is not good at all, besides school authorities, we also appeal to parents to keep a vigil on their kids and bring in them some sense of responsibility," ADC Srinagar said.

He said they visited various spots where students from colleges and schools were passing their time during school hours. An official said not only boys but girls in equal number were roaming in parks and other river side areas and had bunked their classes.

"The situation is going from bad to worse as the students are seen freely bunking their schools. It seems that either there is no accountability in schools or the parents do not remain watchful of the situation as well," the official said.

'Who Is Hussain's Blood Donation Drive Evokes Massive Response'

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The blood donation drive organized by the Kashmir chapter of globally renowned social justice organization 'Who is Hussain' evoked massive response across Kashmir Valley on Saturday.

People were seen waiting in long queues to get themselves registered to donate blood.

In Srinagar city, blood donation camps were set up at Imambara Zadibal and Imam Bargah Ayatullah Yousuf, Bemina besides Markazi Imam Bargah Budgam, Imambargah Gamdoo in Bandipora and at Nowlari Pattan.

Volunteers associated with 'Who is Hussain' said 1832 blood points were collected across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Sageer Abbas, who donated blood at Imambara Zadibal said he had to wait in a long queue because of the huge rush of donors.

"It is heartwarming to see people from other communities have joined the blood donation drive which restores our faith in human-



ity" he said.

Abrar Ali, one of the organizers, said the blood donation drive was a massive success as hundreds of people lined up to donate blood at every blood donation center.

"We had set a target of collecting around 2000 blood points and people who registered to donate blood were around 5000. There was an overwhelming response" Abrar said.

"As per our figures 600 Blood points were collected at Imambara Bemina, 310 at Imambara Zadibal, 540 at Budgam, 240 in Bandipora,

72 in pattan and 70 in Jammu", which makes the total count at 1832 blood points".

Ilyas Rizvi, coordinator at Nowlari, Pattan said that the blood donation drive was a unique initiative in the sense that it was a global event with people from across six continents participating in it.

"Hussain-Ibn-Ali is a unifying force across the globe. By donating blood, people have shown that we are one in humanity, blood which flows in our veins is the same no matter which religion we follow" Ilyas said.

"The drive has unified everyone and that is the uniqueness of this campaign", he added.

Volunteers also voiced their appreciation for the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, SKIMS, GMC Srinagar and GMC Baramulla for the support they had extended to make the event a success.

It is pertinent to mention, 'Who is Hussain' has its chapters in 60 Global locations worldwide including Srinagar where around 25 volunteers worked in order to aware people about Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussain ibn Ali.

The blood donation camp was part of the global campaign 'Be a global blood hero' being held across several countries. The aim of the campaign was to set a world record-breaking challenge of collecting 50,000 units of blood in one calendar day.

Organizers said donating blood was a way of paying tribute to Hussain Ibn Ali who was martyred along with his family and companions in the battle of Karbala around 1400 years ago.

NIT Bags 1st Prize In SIH Software Edition 2022

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Saturday bagged 1st prize and a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2022 software edition which was held at Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT) Aurangabad.

SIH is a nationwide initiative to provide students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem-solving.

It was jointly conducted by the Union Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, All India Council for Technical Education, Persistent Systems, and i4c at MIT Aurangabad Nodal Centre.



Around 26 teams participated from different parts of the country with various problem solutions.

'Team Wheel AI from NIT Srinagar' which was led by Basar Munim Qari (Final Year Metallurgy and Material Engineering Department bagged the

first prize. He was accompanied by team members Tanveer Gulzar, Manick Showkat (Mechanical Engineering Department), Hina (CSC-III Year).

Dr Dinesh Kumar Rajendran of SPOC, SIH NIT Srinagar, and Dr.Dinesh W Rathod were the mentors of the team.

The competition was of three rounds and the team from NIT cleared all the rounds in online and participated in Grand Finale organized at MIT Aurangabad, Maharashtra. The participants received a certificate of appreciation and a cash prize of rupees 1 lakh from the organizers.

On securing 1st position and Rs. 1 lakh cash prize, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal congratulated the entire team of 'Wheel AI'.

"NIT Srinagar has done well in the SIH 2022 and it was a joint effort and all have performed well," he said.

Prof. Sehgal appreciated the whole NIT Srinagar team for the achievement. "This competition will boost up the growing startup culture and its craze among students and youths in

the valley," he said.

"The idea of team Wheel AI would drastically improve the profit of local apple farmers by connecting with optimized harvest and logistics," he said.

The Director also commended the work put in by Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, who was the Nodal Officer for SIH 2022. He said there is a lot more to do and such results are encouraging.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari extended his greetings to all participants and stated that NIT Srinagar has performed well in all parameters.

He heartily congratulated the team 'Wheel AI' and stated that it is a proud moment for the entire institute. Such events inspire and motivate young minds to do better, he said.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	4 :33
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:13
Magrib	7:06
ISHA	8:30

This Day In History

- 476- German ruler Flavius Odoacer captures Pavia
- 1521- Belgrade captured by troops of Turkish Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent
- 1542- Turkish-Portuguese War (1538-1557) - Battle of Wofla: the Portuguese are scattered, their leader Christovão da Gama is captured and afterwards executed.
- 1789- William Herschel discovers Saturn's moon Enceladus
- 1845- Scientific American magazine publishes its first issue.
- 1849- Venice under Daniele Manin surrenders to Austrians under Radetsky, having been under siege since July 20 after proclaiming independence
- 1859- A geomagnetic storm causes the Aurora Borealis to shine so brightly that it is seen clearly over parts of USA, Europe, and even as far afield as Japan.
- 1861- Battle of Fort Hatteras, NC
- 1862- Battle of Thoroughfare Gap, VA
- 1864- The first Geneva Convention, governing rules of warfare, signed by 26 nations.
- 1884- First known photograph of a tornado is made near Howard, SD
- 1910- Nicholas I, who first assumed power in 1860 and had his reign interrupted by Turkish rule, again proclaims himself king
- 1916- Germany declares war on Romania
- 1916- Italy declares war against Germany

From KO Archives

Troops resume offensive against Hizb

There Are No Talks On Now: Advani

Agence France Presse

NAGPUR: Union Home Minister L.K. Advani said Monday that counter insurgency operations had been resumed against the Hizbul Mujahideen militant group in Kashmir following the collapse of ceasefire talks.

"Operations had been suspended only against the Hizbul Mujahideen during the talks. The forces had been asked not to attack the Hizb militants. This (policy) has been reversed as there are no talks on now," Advani told AFP on the sidelines of a ruling Hindu nationalist BJP party convention.

"Our forces are back to searching and destroying all militant bases in Kashmir," Advani said.

The government had previously refused to confirm the resumption of full operations against the Hizb, amid signs that the two sides were still in contact.

Hizb announced a unilateral ceasefire on July 24. But their Pakistan-based supreme commander Syed Salahuddin revoked the decision 15 days later, citing Indian intransigence over demands that Pakistan be involved in the talks.

Advani told delegates at the BJP convention that the number of Muslim militants killed by security forces in Kashmir in July was the highest in recent times. "There is no lowering of guard whatsoever on our part. The killings of (Hindu) pilgrims in Kashmir in August were largely the result of the proxy war being waged against us (by Pakistan). They did not happen due to any security lapse on our part," he said.

Advani said Indian forces would "relentlessly unearth and bust" bases being set up in the country by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency.

"In 1998 we busted 80 such bases and arrested 80 people, in 1999 we destroyed 25 ISI bases and arrested 49 people.

"This year, so far, we have unearthed seven bases and arrested 20 people. "There will be no let-up in this effort.

We will uproot them from every part of the country." BJP's newly-elected president Bangaru Laxman said Pakistan would pay a heavy price if it continued supporting terrorist and disruptive activities in Kashmir and other parts of India. "We want strong and tough action from the government against Pakistan.

"They should be warned that we will not keep quiet for long," Laxman told AFP, while adding that the BJP did not advocate "hot pursuit" of Kashmir terrorists across the disputed Kashmir border.

A resolution adopted at the end of the BJP convention said a clear message "needs to be sent to terrorists and their masters across the border that ... cross-border terrorism cannot continue to remain a cost-free option."

(Kashmir Observer, August 28, 2000)

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO 63 OF R&B/Qazigund/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/5611-25 DATED 26-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the Divers Association /State Motor Garage/NGOs/Agencies/Consultancy Agent/Public Private Partnership firms/Individuals, under (Single cover system) for allotment of Contract for Hiring of vehicle OI no for a period upto 30-April-2023

S.No	Name of item	Cost of tender Documents (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs)	Class of Contractor
1.	Providing of 01 light Vehicle not less than Engine capacity 1400-CC and 18 Model for official Purpose in the office of Executive Engineer RnB Division Qazigund (with Driver).	Rs 200/- (Rupees Three Hundred Only)	Rs 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only)	Registered Tour and Travel Operators/ Registered Sumo/Taxi Stand Owners.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-08-2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 27-08-2022 (12:00 PM) To 02-09-2022 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 27-08-2022 (12:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 02-09-2022 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	02-09-2022 (04:20 PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Qazigund.

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ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Cabinet and Bureaucrats

The Finance Minister Muzzafar Hussain Beig has taken a strong exception to a senior bureaucrat having taken suo motto a policy decision regarding Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation without taking cabinet into confidence. Whether action will be taken against the erring bureaucrat or not is not of much concern to us but it speaks volumes about the credibility of the government in office in its own bureaucracy. Secretary Tourism is not the first officer who has shown disrespect to the cabinet there are many others who have been ignoring cabinet.

Even officers appointed on contractual basis in the Industries Department have been taking decisions which fall under the purview of cabinet. He has appointed people on top positions without following laid down norms and procedures. So is the case with other departments.

Arrogance in the state bureaucracy is not a new phenomenon. The role of bureaucracy was also expected to undergo a sea change with the change in government. Instead of watching the interests of few at the top it was believed to serve the people of the state. True during six years rule of the National Conference the office of chief secretary in the state had become more powerful than the cabinet. The office of the Chief Secretary was misused. When Mufti government took over it was believed that it would institute a commission to inquire into the misuse of office by the previous bureaucracy.

The public bureaucracy over past few decades has undergone a metamorphosis. New concepts have been introduced to modernize government. A lot of emphasis is being laid on ensuring a genuine partnership between those providing services and those utilizing them. There is need to deliver services and programmes that are not only efficient and effective but also joined-up and responsive. The bureaucrats shall have to shun their hackneyed ideas about governance and start learning from listening and understanding people. The divisional and district administration should set up public panels to assess performance of the government.

The state cabinet is meeting today after about four months to effect what it calls major administrative reshuffle. The past experience with the Mufti Government has been that it has been carrying administrative reshuffles only to provide coveted positions to kith and kin of ministers. No doubt Mufti Government was successful to sell some clichés to the public for some time but it is now fully exposed before the public. Cosmetic administrative changes and selected PR exercises cannot repair the damage suffered by the government unless it takes steps to bring in a responsive administration in real sense.

The article is an editorial from KO's Archives and was originally published on April 21, 2005

Any random Friday sermon and for that matter any religious sermon is considered incomplete if it doesn't incorporate the elements of women bashing and imposing such laws and restrictions on women which find no mention in Quran or the Sunnah

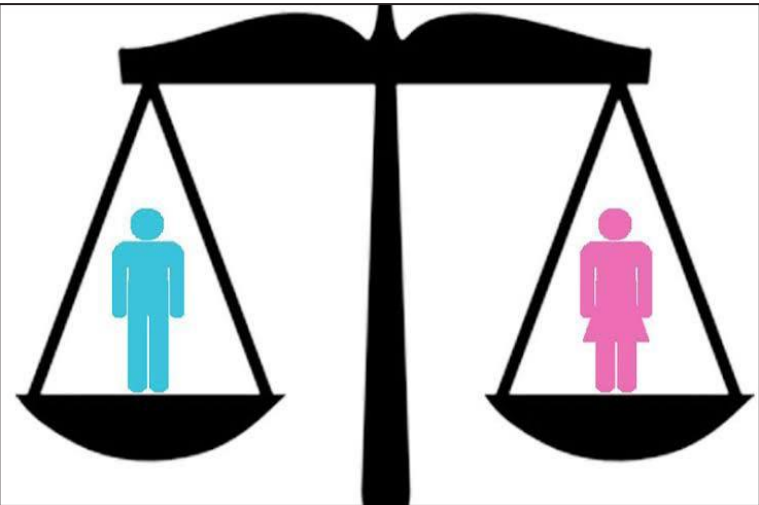
Amir Suhail Wani

Blaming Eve

Women in our society or elsewhere are usually caught in the double whammy of abuse and policing. When a girl goes out at night there are fears and apprehensions surrounding her family that something untoward may happen to her – this represents one aspect of our collective social behaviour. At the same time, if somebody spots the girl out at night, they go on to pass all sorts of judgements and pre-emptive conclusions about her conduct and character – another dismaying social outlook. There is no dearth of incidents nearer home or elsewhere to demonstrate the challenges women have to face while they live in a society. These things do not apply to boys or men – they are somehow deemed as “more moral, more ethical, less erroneous” and even if they commit an error or two, they do not invite criticism or social backlash. As a typical example, an example oft-quoted, imagine a boy and a girl smoking under the same conditions of space and time. While most people will take it for granted to see a boy/man smoking, but in case of girl/women, all sorts of extrapolations will be made and judgements of moral order will be passed in her regard. Same holds for jogging, sports, driving and other activities of life, where these are deemed normal or obligatory for men, they come to be seen as taboo when women participate therein. From what they wear to where they go and from what profession they chose to what hobbies they want to pursue, women/girls are almost invariably subjected to criticism, moral derision and religious backlash. This last denomination of religious backlash deserves particular attention and we shall engage with it in the following.

To invoke religion and to use it as a whip to lash out at women under one pretext or the other has been the misfortune of religion itself. This trend has been on prowl endlessly across the divides of space and time and has brought such a bad name to Islam that it is now by default seen as misogynist and patriarchal religion by its critics and the common masses.

In our own land, women bashing behind the veneer of religion (Islam) has now become a standard paradigm and is almost seen as normal. Any random Friday sermon and for that matter any religious sermon is considered in-



complete if it doesn't incorporate the elements of women bashing and imposing such laws and restrictions on women which find no mention in Quran or the Sunnah.

The mediation of religion, as it has undergone here has assumed particular antagonism and crusading spirit of criticism against women. The roots of this prejudice are to be seen in two centres of origin – one that our religion and its interpretation and explication has been male dominated across centuries and secondly, that some apocryphal and detrimental biblical stories have entered our religious corpus which see women as agents of evil and corruption. It were men who explicated religion for women historically and this led to the subtle seeping in of male chauvinism in the interpretation of the religion. The inability of women to interpret and actively participate in the historical construction of religion construed them as marginal elements and at times deprived them of their divinely gifted liberties and dues, not to speak of the excesses committed against women under the false pretext of violating the norms of Shariah. Kecia Ali, in her article, has vividly demonstrated the malice and marginalisation that women suffer due to their ignorance of Shariah and Islamic laws pertaining to women and various domains of their lives. As they say in a different context that “knowledge is power” , but here in case of women and their representation in religious affairs by men, knowledge is indispensable, for only then will women know their legitimate rights and voice for the same. This enlightenment can't undo the errors of history

and the blaze of marginalization which women have been subjected to, but it will play a seminal role in disarming man's monopoly of religion and the misappropriation of religion by women to subvert, subdue and subjugate the women.

Islam restored to women the glory they had lost in the myrrh of history and carried out its legislation in a way that secured marital, social educational and other rights for women – rights which were hitherto unknown. Karen Armstrong, a reputed scholar in comparative religions notes, “Muhammad was a great advocate of the emancipation of the women and women liberation was an ideal close to his heart”. This is amply testified by the legal and practical precedents set by prophets and his companions in a regressive and degenerative society like Arabia for the betterment of women – and some of these legislations shocked the Prophet's contemporaries. We often speak of the rights and liberties that the Quran and Sunnah advocate for women. But how many of our women folk know these details and how many of our pulpits speak of these themes in liberating and emancipating spirit? What an irony that the religion of liberation be deployed as the religion of subversion and those bestowed with a manifesto of change and enlightenment shall foster and perpetuate the darkness of misogyny and misosophy.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is a Srinagar based columnist

Can AI Trump Human Brain?

Barhdadi Hassan

Digitisation, automation, high-performance robots ... everyday, advertisements in media anticipate the great disruption and replacement of humans by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In the 19th century, Andrew Ure (Scottish economist, doctor and founder of the Andersonian Institution) asserted that perfect factories would be without workers. More recently, Jeremy Rifkin (American essayist, specialist in economic and scientific forecasting) prophesied “The end of work”.

First, what exactly is AI and what's the process based on?

Conceptualised in 1955 in the US under the leadership of young researchers, wishing to have computers perform what the human brain does, especially tasks deemed to require intelligence.

These researchers had backgrounds in psychology, mathematics, logic and electronics.

The idea was to create a form of intelligence that comes from machines. It is therefore a process of imitation of human intelligence, which is based on the creation and application of algorithms executed in a dynamic computing environment, and whose purpose is to allow computers to think and act like human beings.

Currently in accordance with ISO 2382-98, Artificial Intelligence is the “ability of a functional unit to perform functions usually associated with human intelligence, such as reasoning and learning”.

With Artificial Intelligence, we are entering a brave new world. Currently scientists have a phenomenal amount of data and the

computational power required to operate them, without forgetting the recent advances in neuroscience which have perfected the algorithms on which Artificial Intelligence is based.

Work, media, health, finance, economy, weapons systems, computers, transport, communications, human services ... you name it. AI is already disrupting our daily lives. And it won't stop there. Artificial neural networks are making significant progress in image recognition, text analysis. It can identify skin cancers, prostate or respiratory diseases with a high hit rate.

AI detects legal anomalies in contracts of several dozen pages faster than a seasoned lawyer. It drives autonomous cars in the dense traffic of big cities with an extremely low probability of accident. Coupled with other learning systems, these neural networks are also beating our best champions in chess and video games.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig Van Beethoven, for instance, an AI set out to finish the 10th Symphony of this German prodigy, who wrote only the first notes before his death.

The multiplication of AI will mainly increase the domination of GAFA (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple) and serve as a springboard for the Chinese web giants Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent. It is no coincidence that Google and Facebook employ the majority of data scientists in the world. It's the battle for Artificial Intelligence, and for technology in general.

The French government is expected to invest more than 2 billion over five years as part of a “ChooseFrench” strategy. This programme also aims to attract

foreign talent and high-level international scientists in AI, in order to ensure the teaching of the subject matter.

Today we are also witnessing an academic and media bubble around AI. Global research in this field is exploding, as currently demonstrated by the number of scientific articles, advancing promising success.

AI has critics also, who highlight the pitfalls of technology, all of which brings us to the question: Are we really in danger? Will machines win? Responding to these fears leads us to ask where does the human brain get its intelligence?

The brain is a network of nearly a hundred kilometers of blood vessels. It is also two hundred billion cells, the whole weighing about a kilo and a half.

In the brain, everything always starts with two cells communicating with each other at a given point and which then diffuse in a circuit.

A single cell can make five thousand contacts.

Multiply this number by the two hundred billion cells and you will have what generates brain intelligence. Or about a million billion interactions, in three words: very nice machine.

But the brain is also, feelings, emotions, and the memorisation of the complex interactions of social, family, spatial and cultural life. A mind that is not only mathematical, but also polymath and critical.

On the other hand, the brain spends its time anticipating possible situations from the information it perceives from our senses. It puts them intoperspectively with what it already has in memory.

Thanks to this, brain constantly tries to predict and antici-

pate what is going to happen. The brain is also busy 24 hours a day as it analyses sugar levels, need to sleep, eat, drink and exchange emotions.

The brain is a consciousness correlated to the choices it must make between the possibilities that may arise.

According to the Salk Institute, our brain could store one petabyte (memory or data storage capacity that is equal to 2 to the 50th power of byte) of data.

The Artificial Intelligence of each GAFA would store a thousand times more data. Certainly, AI systems are capable, in their areas of specialisation, to surpass us. They reason faster, from more information, and more reliably than humans.

But in reality, algorithms are content to respond to extremely precise tasks and are unable to have reasoning outside their domain, encouraging researchers to work actively for the development and improvement of intelligent machines.

AI has a much wider spectrum of interests and the reason is simple: the human brain has multiple capacities, which range from reflex activities to “reflective” activities.

It is difficult to imagine the coding and algorithms reproducing an Artificial Intelligence equipped with analytical and critical consciousness that can substitute human brain. A robot reasons, but it has no soul. A neurone is alive, a silicon component is not.

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 in Gulf News



MOVIE REVIEW

House Of The Dragon's Debut Might Win Back Alienated GOT Fans



Jennifer Ouellette

Making a prequel to a beloved series is never easy, especially when it's a prequel to one of the most influential blockbuster series of the last decade—one that whiffed its finale so badly that it alienated some of its most devoted fans. HBO's *House of the Dragon* rose to the challenge, debuting last night with a solid, promising pilot episode. Granted, it suffers a bit in comparison with *Game of Thrones* (especially the earlier seasons). But this was an eminently watchable and entertaining pilot that might even win back some of those alienated fans if the rest of the season lives up to that promise.

As I've written previously, *House of the Dragon* is set about 200 years before the events of *Game of Thrones* and chronicles the beginning of the end of House Targaryen's reign. Those events culminated in a civil war and the extinction of the dragons—at least until Daenerys Targaryen came along. The primary source material is *Fire and Blood*, a fictional history of the Targaryen kings written by George R.R. Martin. The book begins with Aegon I's conquest of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros, thanks to the family's advanced weaponry: dragons. This is followed by a period of relative peace before the inevitable succession crisis. The final two sections of *Fire and Blood* deal with the fallout of that crisis and serve as the primary source material for *House of the Dragon*.

Anyone who has read *Fire and Blood* will find the opening of *House of the Dragon* very familiar, since it hews very closely to the source material. We basically get a Westeros history lesson, as a voiceover explains how a council of lords selected King Viserys I Targaryen (Paddy Considine) to succeed Jaehaerys I (Michael Carter), passing over the other potential heir, Princess Rhaenyra (Eve Best), a dragonrider known as "the Queen Who Never Was"—because patriarchy. The lords simply won't accept a woman as their ruler, no matter how

capable and deserving she might be.

Fast-forward several years into Viserys I's reign, and nothing much has changed. The king once again lacks a male heir, oblivious to his fierce dragonrider daughter, Rhaenyra's (Milly Alcock), potential as anything other than an ornament to the court. His brother, Daemon (Matt Smith) is heir presumptive, but that might be about to change. Queen Aemma Arryn (Sian Brooke) is once again pregnant and nearing her due date after a stillbirth and five miscarriages. Viserys is confident that he will soon have a son—so confident that he organizes a jousting tournament to celebrate the coming blessed event.

The jousting sequences are first-rate, which shouldn't be surprising, since the pilot's director (and co-showrunner of the series) is none other than Miguel Sapochnik, who filmed some of the most eye-popping, complicated battles on *Game of Thrones*. After more than 60 years of peace in Westeros, the knights are a wee bit bloodthirsty, and it's just a matter of time before the tournament descends into a brutal, blood-drenched free-for-all. (The sight of a squire vomiting off to one side amid the carnage is a nice touch.)

Those violent sequences are skillfully interspersed with the brutality of the queen consort's increasingly difficult labor. It's a breached birth, and given the dismal state of obstetrics in Westeros, that's often a death sentence for the mother. Viserys loves his wife, but he's so desperate for a male heir that he grants permission to perform what amounts to a primitive C-section. Aemma gets no say whatsoever as her belly is ripped open against her will. As always, it sucks to be a woman in the Seven Kingdoms.

It shouldn't be much of a spoiler that Viserys ends up naming Rhaenyra as his heir, cutting his brother Daemon out of the line of the succession. Or that Daemon and his allies do not take kindly to the king's decision. It's this decision that sets a chain of events in motion that we know will ultimately lead to civil war. As Rhae-

nys Velaryon knows all too well, "Men would sooner put the realm to the torch than see a woman ascend the Iron Throne."

Overall, this is a very able cast, although Considine and Smith give the standout performances here, despite being hampered by some pretty disastrous blond wigs. They only have a few scenes together, but it's enough to establish the complicated relationship between brothers with markedly different temperaments. Viserys is the peacekeeper. He leads with his heart and is heavily influenced by his advisers, keen to keep Westeros stable. And for some reason, he keeps pricking himself on the sharp edges of the Iron Throne (which is far more elaborate in this earlier incarnation). One suspects those infected wounds might turn out to be significant.

Daemon is a ruthless warrior and an agent of chaos, whose idea of establishing law and order is to brutally maim (and, in one case, castrate) miscreants. Smith does an excellent job finding a sliver of vulnerability in his character's arrogant swagger and vaulting ambition.

House of the Dragon's pilot episode is not without flaws. The expository opening is a bit ham-fisted, as if the writers didn't trust their viewers enough to plunge them back into the world of Westeros without a history lecture. (The *Game of Thrones* pilot, by contrast, was a master class in how to show, not tell—although it was famously re-cast and re-shot.) The characters are less complex, and the political intrigue seems a bit obvious and thin, but that could change as the season progresses.

Those nagging criticisms aren't enough to dampen the strength of Martin's rich world-building. Whether this will develop into anything approaching the emotional power and spectacle of *Game of Thrones* at its pinnacle remains to be seen. But color us sufficiently intrigued to tune in for subsequent episodes. It's nice to be back in the world of Westeros again.

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Toxic Self-Love Is The Girlbossification Of Mental Health

Simar Deol

There's a scene in season two, episode two of *Euphoria* where Kat (Barbie Ferreira), arguably the show's most relatable character, is alone in her bedroom, spiralling into the depths of self-hate. She's interrupted by various super hot femmes regurgitating cheesy motivational one-liners that have populated social media over the last few years: "You have to smash the beauty standards," says one. "Kat, this isn't you talking, it's the patriarchy," stresses another. At this point, Kat is basically smothering herself with a pillow in an attempt to drown out these voices. "I don't care that society makes me feel this way," she says, "I feel like shit."

The scene reminded me of the many nights I've spent trying to tune out the same overwhelming voices. The only thing worse than feeling bad about yourself is being reminded that those feelings are the result of years of patriarchal beauty norms – and there's nothing you can do about it.

As someone who struggles with body dysmorphia and spends an embarrassing amount of time on social media, I'm often confronted with similar self-love campaigns that leave me feeling riddled with shame. The fact that, in those moments, I'm succumbing to societal ideologies that I know I should "rise above" only makes me feel more inadequate. Introducing toxic positivity's sneaky younger sibling: toxic self-love.

As Harriet Frew, an eating disorder therapist and member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), explains, forcing self-loving thoughts, behaviours or feelings when you're feeling kind of crap can actually be super harmful. As Frew puts it, toxic-self love can be reductive because "it glosses over deeper emotions and needs, and can also bring about a sense of isolation

and disconnection from others."

It's hard to determine when exactly toxic self-love became such a big part of our lives. Some professionals trace toxic positivity back to the early days of the pandemic, when we had to collectively push through feelings of fear, mourning and loss. The proliferation of both phenomena, however, are largely due to social media. The rise of TikTok in particular has created the perfect conditions for such messaging to dominate our feed, resulting in the current girlbossification of mental health.

For example, there's a strand of content on the platform of (mostly) women sharing videos of themselves in traditionally "skinny girl" outfits (cue low-rise jeans), with voice-overs stating "this is my body, it is fantastic and I know it is enough," or "this is my body and I don't care what you think about it." The hashtag #self-love has over thirty billion views on TikTok and, while not all of the content is toxic, it does stand to show the scale at which pseudo positive affirmations are influencing our way of thinking.

Yet this new expectation to consistently feel positive about ourselves and live in a constant state of happiness is simply too much pressure. Sure, negative feelings shouldn't permanently permeate our lives, but it's also important to remember that emotions ebb and flow. Having a few hard days – whether they're because of our relationship with our bodies, our partners, our friendships, or our careers – is normal. They can already be difficult to cope with, without slathering another layer of guilt and shame on top.

The toxicity of self-love campaigns has always existed in some proverbial form. Who can forget the hundreds of women's magazines we read in dentist waiting rooms, which ironically explained to us how beauty shines from within? Or Ru Paul yelling, "If you can't love your-



self, how in the hell you gonna love somebody else?" But our current addiction to social media has amplified this to the extreme. Whether we like to admit it or not, we're heavily influenced by the content we consume, and the artifice of perfect images and endless motivating captions we're surrounded by does, at some point, seep into our psyche.

"Absorbing this content can result in the invalidation of emotions, creating a disconnection from others and feelings of failure," says Dr. Frew. "This ultimately impacts mental health: low mood, increased anxiety, poor body image and low self-

worth."

The proliferation of self-love messaging is also problematic because it phrases structural oppression through a lens of individualism. It tells us that the problem lies not in people struggling because of societal pressures, but in them not finding the willpower to understand their oppression and then rise above it. We're not only expected to cope with the pressures of modern life, but excel in spite of them, framed as a defiant way to stick it to the man. Yet in reality, bending to accommodate unreasonable expectations only benefits the status quo.

This type of ideology is rampant in many aspects of our post-feminist world (the current era in which feminism is deemed unnecessary since women have "gained" economic and social equality), where we are both the problem and the source of our own solution. Most of us work long hours, get very little rest and spend our free time unknowingly consuming content that is constantly geared towards self enhancement. Self-love, in the way that it's marketed today, has just become another chore on our endless list for self-improvement.

Notions of what is "normal" in terms of beauty, fitness, productiv-

ity, relationships and mental health are all fluid. We've seen how they've changed over the years and we should know by now that, no matter how hard we work to attain the current ideal, that goal is inherently unachievable. Working towards self-love shouldn't feel like a race against time. There will always be someone on Instagram who seems to have hacked it when, in reality, it's a deeply personal journey. And for many of us, it's a long work in progress.

Dr. Frew has noticed that symptoms of toxic self-love ideology have become increasingly common in her clients. Is there a way that we can distance ourselves from these campaigns without having to do the unthinkable: deleting social media? Potentially – and it begins with following more authentic accounts.

"Following therapists or professionals instead of just influencers is a good start, as it encourages engaging with content that is more focused on authentic and genuine connection," says Dr. Frew. Ultimately, you want to find content that gives you space to express yourself and your vulnerabilities, where authenticity is more than just a buzzword pasted onto a TikTok video. "After all, social media is only a snapshot [of people's lives]. No one feels positive or self-loving all the time," reminds Dr. Frew.

Of course, a lot of our beliefs around health, relationships, work and self-worth are conditioned into us from an early age. Unpacking and unlearning these behaviours is important work to do. But in doing this work, we have to remember to be compassionate and empathetic, not only towards others, but firstly towards ourselves.

And let's be honest, being positive all the time is extremely exhausting. The last thing we need is to feel bad about feeling bad.

The article was originally published by The Face

Ahead Of CWC Meet, Cong Leaders Reject Azad's Criticism Of Rahul; Bjp Says He Has Asked Valid Questions

Agenceis

New Delhi: With Ghulam Nabi Azad's exit casting a shadow on the meeting of the Congress' apex decision-making body, party leaders on Saturday slammed him for "targeted personal vilification" of Rahul Gandhi while the BJP said the veteran leader has raised valid questions. Azad, who ended his five-decade association with the grand old party on Friday, accused Rahul Gandhi of demolishing its entire consultative mechanism and also pinned the blame on him for the 2014 electoral debacle.

Congress leader Sachin Pilot said when the party is preparing to take on the "misgovernance" of the BJP government, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister had not fulfilled his responsibility.

"He (Azad) held various posts for over 50 years and now, when there is a need for the country and the party to raise people's issues, this was uncalled for," said Pilot.

He said there was "targeted personal vilification" of Rahul Gandhi in Azad's resignation letter.

Asked about Azad's statement blaming Rahul Gandhi's action of tearing up a government ordinance in "full glare" of the media for the loss of the Congress in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Pilot said it was wrong to single out an individual.

"All of us in the Congress were associated with and part

of the UPA government, including Mr Azad. So singling out a person for the defeat in 2014 would not be right," he said.

Azad, who named Rahul Gandhi in his stinging resignation letter, said a "remote control model" had demolished the institutional integrity of the UPA government and now the Congress party. He said decisions are taken by either Rahul Gandhi or rather worse by his security guards and PAs.

"Ghulam Nabi ji bhaijaan, which PA or security personnel of Rahul ji took the decision to make you the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha? Tell us this too," former chief minister Digvijaya Singh tweeted while condemning Azad's remarks. Indian Youth Congress president B V Srinivas alleged Azad had hammed the state units wherever he was the incharge and questioned why he did not quit the UPA government if he was unhappy with Rahul Gandhi's decisions.

"Azad did not say anything earlier because of his lust for power. He became angry only because he lost the chair," he alleged.

Sources said besides approving the polls schedule for the election of the next party president, the members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, could at their virtual meeting on Sunday also express confidence in the leadership provided by Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in a bid to counter Azad's attack.

134 Ex-IAS Officers Write To CJI On Bilkis Bano Case



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A group of as many as 134 former civil servants Saturday shot off an open letter to the Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit, asking him to quash the Gujarat government's order granting premature release to 11 persons convicted for the murder of 14 persons and gangrape of Bilkis Bano, during 2002 post-Godhra riots in the state.

The seven-page letter by the Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG) says that the members are particularly puzzled by the manner in which the Apex Court asked the Gujarat

government to urgently take a decision on a plea by one of the convicts for remission as per Gujarat's 1992 policy, and not its current one.

The letter said: "Surely the Supreme Court could not be unaware of the major changes in the punishment for rape and murder and the policy for remission which were made much more severe in 2014 after the Nirbhaya case.", wondering, "Can persons who committed rape and murder in 2002 be less liable than persons who rape and murder at the present time?"

The group had pleaded to the CJI and requested him to rectify this horrendously wrong

decision. "Like the overwhelming majority of people in our country, we are aghast at what happened in Gujarat a few days ago, on the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. The premature release has outraged the nation. We write to you because we are deeply distressed by this decision," they said.

The group contended that it is only the Supreme Court that has the prime jurisdiction, and hence the responsibility, to rectify this "horrendously wrong decision". The retired bureaucrats who signed the letter included Harsh Mander, Aruna Roy, T K A Nair, Amitabha Pande, K Sujatha Rao and Wajahat Habibullah.

Congress Rule At Centre Reminds Of Scams: Rajnath

Agenceis

Lucknow: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday slammed the previous Congress government at the Centre for corruption, saying its rule reminds of scams.

While under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, not even a single penny from the funds given by the Centre is being siphoned off, he claimed addressing a gathering here.

"Whenever we think of 2G, 3G and 4G, we are reminded of scams of the Congress government," Rajnath said as he credited Prime Minister Modi with the elimination of corruption.

Mentioning former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, Rajnath said he doesn't want to criticise him but the leader had once said that of the 100 paise sent by the government, only 15 paise reach people.

"Now, we can say that if 100 paise are sent from Delhi for the last person in society, not a single paise falls prey to corruption," claimed the minister, who inaugurated and laid the foundation of 161 projects worth Rs 187.48 crore here.

"Till the time we have Modiji as our prime minister, nobody can attempt to indulge in a scam," he added. This "magic" has been brought about by the prime minister, who has brought a change in the system, Rajnath said.

The defence minister also claimed that India's reputation at the global level has increased under the leadership

of PM Modi.

"I had an opportunity to visit the most developed country-the USA--a number of times. As per information received from them, my chest swells (with pride) that the perception of India has changed," he said.

"Earlier, when India used to speak at the international platform, India's point of view was not taken seriously. There was a perception that India is a big country from the point of view of population but was weak from the economy's point of view," he said.

"But today the perception has changed completely. When India speaks at the international platform, people listen to it with attention," he added.

Rajnath said while other countries could not come out of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, India not only overcame the crisis but also emerged as the fastest growing economy. There are 300 defence equipment, which will now be made in India, he said.

"India is no longer a weak India, and it has become a strong India. I would like to remind you that when some terrorists from Pakistan had attacked our forces, our prime minister displayed strong will-power and India conducted surgical strikes and air strikes on Pakistani soil," he said.

Referring to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Rajnath said, "Our government is the one, which not only thinks about those living in India but also about its citizens who live in other countries."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

As Guns Fall Silent

has witnessed record breaking tourist footfall.

"However, this wasn't possible without the help and cooperation of local youth volunteers who put up every means to facilitate the tourists," said Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Bandipora, Imtiyaz Ahmad.

Ahmad said the volunteers put-up tent colonies which gave a lot of boost to tourism, although the concept was floated by the administration. The tents can accommodate around 250 people per night.

"The private-youth entrepreneurs of the Gurez came forward and the administration helped them to establish tent colonies in scenic places," Ahmad told Kashmir Observer, adding that the administration has also encouraged home-stays and registered over 200 houses from Gurez sub-division for the same.

"The concept of home-stays has boosted the economy of the region and the youth are also able to earn their livelihood," Ahmad added.

The locals have also started a number of restaurants and are earning their livelihood.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gurez Mudasir Ahmad told Kashmir Observer that around 25000 tourists have visited the valley so far this year, while around 12000 visited last year.

"The administration is holding various road shows, car and bike rallies to promote tourism in the Gurez," the SDM said.

He further added that the award will boost more tourism in the valley.

Officials and locals attribute the rise in tourist footfall to the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan that came into effect in February 2021.

The last time Gurez witnessed the cross border shelling was in the month of September 2021, when six structures including a government school and a madrasa were partially damaged in shelling along the Bagtore area of Gurez.

"Since then there has been no shelling," said Javid Ahmad Khan, resident of Dawar, Gurez.

The border villages off the Valley which used to be a no-go zone for the people, are now witnessing a spurt in tourism.

According to Chief Planning Officer Ahmad Gurez is witnessing unexpected tourist footfall this year. On 15 August eve, he said, over 502 tourist vehicles crossed Razdan top to Gurez.

He said the administration is gearing-up to cater the footfall of tourists with more infrastructure and other facilities. He said a number of hotels have come-up but the administration is focusing more on tent colonies keeping in view the ecologically fragile zone.

"We have made it clear to the young entrepreneurs that their tent house won't be received next year if they don't take care of solid waste management," Ahmad said.

The administration has also blacktopped over 90 percent of the road from Bandipora town to Gurez which is 80 kilometres in length.

"Besides we have also blacktopped the internal roads of the Gurez and

have installed hot mix plants in Gurez, which have made us easy to macadamise the roads," the CPO Bandipora said.

Earlier, the administration had to get the material from other districts of the region which was time consuming and expensive.

The administration is spending around 35 crores on the developmental works in Gurez.

Although the valley remains abuzz with tourists in the summer, however as the snow falls it remains cut-off from the rest of the world. The locals maintain that there is a good scope of winter tourism but the roads get blocked due to snow.

"The only way out is the tunnel from Bandipora town to Gurez and for that the Center needs to take a call," Ahmad added.

The scenic views of hills and famous Neelum (Kishanganga) River, Gurez Valley is being promoted as a prime tourist destination. Other places to visit in the Gurez are Habba Khatoon Peak, Habba Khatoon Waterfall, Khandiyal Top and Tulail.

With more tourist footfall, the environmentalists of the district have expressed their concern that it might disturb the ecological sensitive zone.

However the administration is coming up with a mega solid-waste management plant at Bandipora town that will cater the waste management of the entire district.

"We are working on a solid-waste management plant and the issue will be resolved once for all," Ahmad said, adding that they are going to ban the use of Polythene in Gurez and will be enforced strictly.

Two More Tremors

north and longitude of 75.46 degrees east at a depth of 10 kms.

It was followed by another tremor at 9.06 am, five kms southeast of Doda town.

The quake hit at a latitude of 33.10 degrees north and a longitude of 75.57 degrees east at a depth of five km, the officials said.

Most parts of Kashmir come under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. Experts give varied reasons for earthquakes in J&K including various faults run through Kashmir and exploding of gases. Kashmir valley is vulnerable to disasters. At least 13 districts out of 100 districts in India have been identified as 'multi hazard districts'.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, most parts of Kashmir covering the districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Budgam, Anantnag and parts of Jammu region, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar come under Seismic Zone V and are prone to earthquakes. While the rest part of the Union Territory comes under Seismic Zone IV. (With PTI inputs)

Cloudburst Damages

schools besides orchards in the villages, located downhill.

He said the increase in muddy waters created panic among the people of Check-i-Watoo and Asnoor villages.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner

Development (ACD) Kulgam, Mohammad Imran Khan said that around 150 people have been shifted to safer places and around 30 houses and orchards suffered damage due to the cloudburst.

He said that soon after the incident, all assistance work was started and "we have provided a little relief to affected families while as more steps are being taken in this regard"—(KNO)

Azad To Launch

"We are happy that he is returning to J-K where he served as chief minister (from November 2, 2005 to July 11, 2008). People view his rule as a golden era and want him back to pull out Jammu and Kashmir from the present situation," he said, adding that his support base is spread across Jammu and Kashmir.

Saroori said the new party would focus on development, unity among all sections of the society, and would struggle for restoration of the pre-August 5, 2019 position.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union territories.

Saroori said the Congress is almost finished in Jammu and Kashmir with the departure of Azad.

"There is a beeline of leaders (from J-K) coming to meet with Azad to extend their support. We have received hundreds of resignation letters from PRI members, including district and block development council members, and several municipal corporators," he said.

Over a dozen leaders, including several former ministers and legislators, resigned from the basic membership of the Congress in support of Azad and many more such as former deputy chief minister Tara Chand are likely to resign after meeting with Azad in New Delhi on Saturday.

Referring to the statement of the Congress accusing Azad of "collaboration" with the BJP after his resignation, Saroori said those criticising him were shutting their eyes to the ground realities or were finding the earth beneath their feet slipping away.

"He is a secular leader who worked to strengthen the Congress over the past five decades. In fact, all of us have given our blood and sweat, but how can you stay back in a party which is insulting and humiliating you," he asked, blaming the Congress leadership for compelling them to take such a decision.

J&K Cong Downplay

membership of the party on Friday, for targeting Rahul Gandhi and said every Congressman is behind the central leadership of the party as Gandhi is the only politician in the country who has courageously stood up against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "fascist regime".

"We see Azad's resignation as an attempt to harm the growing popularity of the Congress, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.... Modi's tearful farewell to the former leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha (in February 2021)

was an indication of the recent developments," working president of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress Raman Bhalla told reporters at the party office here.

Flanked by party leaders, including senior vice-president Mulla Ram, general secretaries Yogesh Sawhney and Manmohan Singh and Jammu and Kashmir Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib, Bhalla said Azad's five-page resignation letter was timed to harm the interests of the grand old party.

"Rahul Gandhi is the only mass leader who is talking about the fate of the poor under the Modi regime. He is trying to wake this deaf-and-dumb government up," he said, adding, "He is speaking about Bharat jodo but the forces that are creating the walls of hatred are being supported."

"The cat has finally come out of the bag as Azad's letter has benefitted the communal forces. It is disappointing as it was the Congress that groomed him over the decades, but he walked away at a time when the party is looking forward to helping people overcome the present crisis," the former Jammu and Kashmir minister said.

Describing Azad's resignation letter as "unfortunate" and "condemnable", Bhalla said the former Union minister chose a time to make it public when Congress chief Sonia Gandhi is in the United States for a medical checkup.

"The Congress is an ideology and a movement and those linked to it will always stand behind the leaders who have made numerous sacrifices for the country," he said.

Asked about the spate of resignations by Congress leaders in support of Azad, Bhalla said, "The party is strong and this is not a setback. People come and go but if you see, only those leaders who were in hibernation for the last eight years have deserted the party."

"They will meet the same fate as that of former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh.... In the coming weeks, you will see a strong Congress. We are united and will not allow the communal forces to damage the country," Bhalla said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir is facing a challenging situation due to the "wrong policies" of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led (BJP) government at the Centre.

"We will continue to play our role with full might and live up to the expectations of the people," the Congress leader said.

Responding to a question on National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah criticising the Congress over Azad's resignation, Bhalla said he should concentrate on his own party instead of making unnecessary comments on other parties.

Make Strategies

"The DGP said that with the joint efforts of J&K Police and other security forces the graph of terrorism has decreased in Jammu and Kashmir during past few years. He however, directed the officers to prepare the strategies and plans for uprooting the terror ecosystem to consolidate peace in the region. He stressed for alertness and

area domination for better results," the spokesperson said.

With regard to the investigations, the spokesperson said, the DGP directed the officers to prioritize the pending cases on the basis of their sensitivity and devise plans to dispose of them on merits in the shortest possible time.

Singh, he said, stressed for upgrading and strengthening the SIUs at every district headquarters and directed for identifying the investigators and supervisory officers to be posted keeping in view the workload. The DGP also directed the officers to submit proposals to PHQ for improvement in the functioning of SIUs.

According to the spokesperson, the DGP advised that all the probationary DySPs placed in Kashmir zone be also made part of these Units so as to train them appropriately and equip them with knowledge and skills of investigation during their practical training.

Singh, he said, emphasized that investigation and challaning the cases are not enough and investigators have to ensure the conviction of the accused.

"Though contribution of Jammu and Kashmir Police at different fronts is being appreciated at highest levels of the country yet we need to further improve our investigation work and skills to hit the ecosystem of terrorism hard," the DGP added.

As per the spokesperson, the DGP directed the officers to conduct investigations efficiently taking into account all the technicalities and parameters of the investigation so that culprits do not go scot free.

Singh, he said, directed the officers to identify professionals; officers to be hired or placed at every district head-quarter as resource persons.

"The senior officers present in the meeting gave their suggestions regarding improvement in the investigation process. The district heads of Kashmir zone apprised the meeting regarding various measures being taken to improve investigation skills and conviction rate," he added.

Earlier, the spokesperson said, the DGP inaugurated the IOS version of "JK-eCop" Mobile App.

Among other officers of police and CRPF, the meeting was attended by Special DG CID R.R Swain, Special DG Crime A.K Choudhary, IG CRPF Ops Kashmir, Manvinder Singh Bhatia, ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ, M.K Sinha, ADGP (Coordination) PHQ, Danesh Rana, IG CRPF Srinagar Ops Sector, Miss Charu Sinha, ADGP Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar,

Exam Session

followed from academic year 2022-23.

Besides, the department has also said that the calendar shall be prominently displayed on the college website.

The HED had also said that in line with the vision of the NEP 2020, it has initiated a series of reforms for improving the quality of learning and teaching in all government institutions.

Intruder Arrested

foiled a major smuggling attempt when its troops seized eight kg of suspected heroin from a Pakistani intruder along the IB in Samba district.

The intruder was shot at and injured, but he managed to crawl back to the Pakistani side. (PTI)

Patwari Charged

criminal conspiracy.

According to a statement, the Crime Branch said that the case (FIR No. 43 of 2015) was filed in 2015 following a written complaint, alleging that Ghulam Rasool Bhat in connivance with revenue officials has "illegally and fraudulently encroached upon the land of the complainant and mutated the land in his name in the revenue records after producing fake and forged power of attorney."

Subsequently, the Crime branch said, a Preliminary Verification was conducted which culminated in the registration of the case under section 420/511, 468,120-B RPC of Police Station Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir.

"The investigation established that Assadullah Baba (Patwari) in league with Ghulam Rasool Bhat has made false revenue extracts i.e. Jamabandi in favour of Ghulam Rasool Bhat U/S 4 & 8 of Agrarian Reforms Act, as such, caused loss to state the exchequer," the Crime Branch said. The evidence has "substantiated" commission of offence under section 420/511, 468,120-B RPC by the accused persons, it said. Accordingly, the charge sheet was produced in the Court of Sub Judge Chadoora, it added.

10 Absent Govt

During the inspection 4 employees of BDO Office and 6 employees of Tehsil Office were found absent and have been placed under suspension pending enquiry by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag," he said.

As per the spokesperson DC Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom said that the inspections are being carried out to ensure that employees are present in offices during duty hours.

"He said that all district officers have been directed to ensure their employees are accessible to the public to ensure responsive governance. He said such surprise inspections will continue," he added.

J&K Logs 185

in Valley followed by Baramulla with 27, Kulgam 19, Budgam and Bandipora17 each, Kupwara 9, Pulwama 5, Anantnag 4, Ganderbal 3 and Shopian 2.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 23 new cases of infection, Ramban 7, Samba 3, Kathua 2, Doda and Reasi one each. No new cases were reported from the remaining four districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Kishtwar and Poonch.

Elderly Man

Handwara for specialized treatment.

2 Drug Peddlers

the competent authority, the arrested drug peddlers were detained under Public Safety Act," he added.

Northern Army Commander Visits LAC In Eastern Ladakh



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday visited forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and exhorted all ranks to remain vigilant and maintain high order of operational readiness, a defence spokesperson said.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, who is currently on a five-day tour of the Union Territory, interacted with troops during his visit, the spokesperson said.

He said the Army Commander complimented the troops for guarding the borders along the most inhospitable and difficult terrain while maintaining a high standard of morale and professionalism.

Assuring the soldiers of the nation's support, Lt Gen Dwivedi exhorted all ranks to remain vigilant and maintain high order of operational readiness, he said.

On reaching Ladakh on Friday, the Army commander was briefed by chief of staff, Fire and Fury Corps, Maj Gen Manjeet Singh Mokha on the prevalent security situation along the LAC, the spokesperson said.

He interacted with the senior

officers of the Fire and Fury Corps and lauded the operational preparedness of the formation, he said.

The Army commander complimented the Fire and Fury Corps for the conduct of people-friendly operations and assisting the civil administration in improving the quality of life of people in the border areas, he said.

He also witnessed a demonstration on modernisation of infantry soldier' at Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre followed by a briefing by the commandant, Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre, the spokesperson said.

He said the Army commander later visited Trishul Division and was briefed by General Officer Commanding, Trishul Division on the operational preparedness.

The spokesperson said the Army commander is scheduled to visit formations and units of Strike 1 in Eastern Ladakh on August 28 and 29.

He is also scheduled to visit headquarters of the Fire and Fury Corps to get an update on the prevalent security situation along the LAC by General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps, Lieutenant General A Sengupta, before winding his tour on August 30.

Missing Hungarian Trekker Rescued In 30-Hour Op In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A 38-year-old Hungarian trekker was rescued in a joint search operation by the Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) from the snow-bound upper ranges of Machhail in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said on Saturday.

The solo traveller, Akkoos Vermes from Budapest, had lost his way in Umasila Pass in Himalayan ranges while on a mountaineering expedition and was left exposed to inclement weather for five days, Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said.

Upholding the finest traditions of the Army of selfless service, he said, a team of the Rashtriya Rifles deployed in Dool and the IAF Udhampur, in coordination with the district administration, carried out 30-hour-long search and rescue operation in the upper reaches of Machhail, Paddar, which is snowbound and remote.

The team of the Indian Army recovered Vermes from the

treacherous glaciated heights of Umasila in sumcham valley, the officer said.

Lt Col Anand said the traveller was located by a joint effort of ground and aerial surveillance teams who conducted the search operation.

The foreigner was examined medically by a doctor of the Army and the district hospital at Kishtwar, which provided immediate medical assistance to him, he said.

Vermes thanked the Army for his timely rescue.

"I was in a very difficult situation...I am very thankful to the Indian army for finding and taking me to safety, the tourist said in a message shared by the Army.

The spokesman said once the traveller was stable, a video call to the Hungarian embassy in Delhi was made by the Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar to inform it about his well-being.

He said the efforts of the Army and the Air Force were highly appreciated by the district administration and the Hungarian embassy.

RECOVERY OF SIX BODIES IN JAMMU

Police Probe Points Towards Depression, Drug Overdose

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Six people, including five members of a family, who were found dead inside two houses here 10 days ago, died of an overdose of drugs, which they decided to take to end their lives, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

Noor-ul-Habib is believed to have convinced the five members of the family -- an elderly woman, her specially-abled daughter and son, another daughter and grandson -- to commit suicide as both the families were under depression due to pending court cases and medical reasons, Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Chandan Kohli told reporters here.

He said two people -- a health worker and a plumber -- were arrested for not informing police on time, which could have saved their lives.

Flanked by the four members of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) that was formed to crack the mysterious deaths in the Tawi Vihar locality of Sidhra on August 17, the officer lauded their hard work and professional investigation.

"According to our investigation, Habib moved to Jammu in 1997. He used to financially help his next-door neighbour Sakeena, who worked as a domestic help at his home. Hailing from Doda district, Sakeena was facing several court cases and two of her children were specially-abled," Kohli said.

He said after appearing in a court case in the first week of August, Habib convinced Sakeena, her daughter Rubeena and grandson Sajad Ali to end their lives.

Police recovered the bodies of the four from Habib's house on August 17, while the bodies of Sakeena's differently-abled children -- Zaffar Salim and Naseema -- were found in their house after Habib's sister Shahzada, a resident of Srinagar, informed police that her brother was not answering the phone.

"The bodies were taken to the GMC hospital where the autopsy was performed by a board of doctors in the presence of a magistrate and the process was videographed. The viscera samples were sent for a chemical examination in the Forensic Sciences Laboratory,"

Kohli said, adding that the final autopsy and FSL reports are still awaited.

Referring to the investigation during which police obtained CCTV footage, call recordings and bank account details, he said Sakina's specially-abled children were the first to die of a drug overdose on August 12, followed by Sakeena on August 14 and the others on August 15. "They started working on their plan on August 5 by bringing cannulas, drips and medicines from chemist shops and deactivating the CCTV the next day. The services of health worker Sanjeev Kumar, who was known to Habib, were utilised to fix the cannulas on all of them, while plumber Vijay Kumar was paid Rs 2.5 lakh by Habib to dig a pit in Sakeena's house.

The SSP said the health worker and the plumber were arrested for not informing police on time and a portion of the money paid to the latter was also recovered.

He said Habib, along with Rubeena and Ali, visited the city for buying medicines. They ordered food on August 14 and called the health worker in the evening.

Azad's Resignation Shows 'Lack Of Internal Democracy' In Cong: Jitendra Singh

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said Ghulam Nabi Azad's resignation from Congress was an internal matter of the party, even though it showed lack of internal democracy in the party.

He said BJP is the only option left in the country with its democratic values.

It is an internal matter of Congress but as a responsible citizen of a democratic country, one expects that there should be internal democracy in every party, just as we follow the democratic values, Singh, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's office, said here on Azad's resignation.

If internal democracy is not followed in the party, then it is a cause of concern for its leaders and they should think over it, he said.

The minister said a recent survey

put Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the top of the list of the most popular world leaders with an approval rating of 75 per cent and Congress too should be proud of the fact.

BJP is the only option left in the country, Modi is not only popular in the country but a recent survey at the international level put him at the top spot once again, which is a proud moment for all of us.

Congress should also be proud about it as an Indian leader has emerged as the most popular leader at the global level, he said.

Asked whether BJP will welcome Azad in its fold, he said it is up to him to decide his next course of action. It will be his decision what to do next.

On the timing of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, he said it is the prerogative of the Election commission of India to decide the date of the polls and BJP has no role in it.

Earlier, addressing a seminar on waste to wealth organised under Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam programme here, he said there is a need to create awareness about several waste products which can help people generate income with little effort.

He said cooked oil from kitchens could be sold at about Rs 20 per litre to the industries which have the technology to convert it into alternative fuel.

He also said that fly ash, produced during combustion of coal, could be used for making bricks for construction.

Referring to the Amrit Kaal', the PM's buzzword for great times ahead, the minister said that India will see a surge in its economy in the next 25 years, and this will come on the back of resources, which have yet been unexplored or couldn't be utilised because of lack of technology.

Azad Resigned Over Personal Differences: Tariq Karra

SRINAGAR: Ghulam Nabi Azad's resignation had nothing to do with ideological differences with the party but was mainly due to personal reasons, Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Tariq Hameed Karra said on Saturday.

He also said Azad's resignation was not surprising because for the "last two years, there have been murmurs about it".

Talking to reporters here, Karra said, "Rather than having convictional or ideological differences, Azad's resignation was on

personal differences or animosity. When he says he was not being taken onboard, he should remember he was onboard for the last 50 years. When he says sycophants were there, perhaps it would have been said about him also before."

He said there was no mention of ideological differences anywhere in Azad's resignation letter "but it was purely on personal grounds".

The Congress leader claimed that the prime minister "gave a tearful send off to Azad after he retired from Rajya Sabha

and made it clear that he (Azad) will not be wasted and will soon be appointed on a special mission".

Karra said was working independently in Jammu and Kashmir for the last few months and had raised questions on the leadership of the party.

"Why does Azad choose to show his resentment whenever Congress president is not well, is hospitalised, or outside for treatment," he asked.

Karra said the public perception is that the BJP will benefit from Azad's resignation.

ADC Poonch Inaugurates 3 Day Multimedia Exhibition By CBC Jammu



Observer News Service

POONCH: Taking forward the Series of Outreach Programmes Under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Regional Office Jammu. J&K and Ladakh on Saturday organized a 3 Day Multimedia Exhibition in border area Poonch.

The Outreach Programme was organised with the aim to generate mass awareness regarding the ongoing campaign of Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the bureau.

The 3 day Multimedia Exhibition was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Dr. Basharat Hussain today.

Speaking on the Occasion, Dr. Hussain said that the spirit of Patriotism must be kept alive for the development of the nation. While appreciating the efforts of CBC, Jammu for displaying the Exhibition here at border area, Dr. Hussain said that the pictorial representation of the Freedom Fighters have more impact on people especially students.

In his address, Ghulam Abbas, Joint Director, Central Bureau of Communication, J&K and Ladakh region said that Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign is an opportunity to celebrate achievements and identify the unaccomplished dreams.

Abass further added that "Every person can serve the nation at its own level by performing his duties with honesty and dedication. He further said that the real patriotism in the message of AKAM Campaign is to realize our responsibilities for the development of society at large.

Prof. Mushraf Shah, Principal Government Degree College, Poonch while delivering ad-

dress during the event said that celebrations of the 75 Years of Independence gives us opportunity to remember the sacrifices, Contributions and freedom Struggle made by the heroes of the Indian Freedom Movement.

While delivering address on Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Man Mohan Singh, Sr. Lecturer DIET Poonch urged the students to carry forward the work for the development of the nation.

Khursheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, Field Office, Udhampur presented an overview, structure and working of the CBC, J&K during the event. He said that, CBC is engaged in generating awareness in rural, far flung and Media Shadow zones regarding the Welfare Schemes of Government of India.

Others present during the event were Khalid Hussain, Programme Officer, ICDS, Poonch, Ranjeet Singh, Station House Officer, Poonch, Gurmaam Singh, In charge CBC Field Office, Rajouri, Rajesh Sharma, In charge CBC, zero Field Office, Doda, Teachers, representatives from Health department, District Industries Center, Poonch and police.

During the event Drawing/ Painting Competition, Open Quiz Competition, Patriotic Songs, on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was also organised to generate awareness of these components and to motivate masses to become part of these campaigns.

CBC, Regional Office, Jammu installed informative standees on Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav for the awareness of the people. Cultural Programmes showcasing the importance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations enthralled the audience.

Earlier similar type of outreach Program were organised in the districts of Kathua, Doda, Leh, Ramban, Rajouri, Anantnag, and Baramulla.

One Injured In Ganderbal Blaze, House Damaged

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A residential house was damaged, while a man was injured in a fire incident in Ramwari area of Gund in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday morning.

News agency KNO quoting an official reported that a fire broke out in the house of Gulzar Ahmed Khan son of Khan Zaman Khan of Ramwari Gund.

He said that the house got damaged in the fire incident,



while a man identified as Ashiq Hussain Hajam son of Ghulam Mohammad Hajam also got injured and he has been shifted to a hospital for treatment.

The official said that fire was later controlled by fire tenders.

Union Minister Reviews Implementation Of CSS In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal began his two day tour of Anantnag on Saturday.

On the first day of his maiden tour to the district, the MoS held a detailed review of the implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the district. The MoS interacted with various beneficiaries of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, with first time voters and youth.

The MoS reviewed the implementation of CSS in the district. Reviewing the entire process of project execution in detail, the chair discussed several aspects and time taken at each step.

He directed the implementing agencies to spend minimum time in sanctioning and estimation to ensure timely execution. Under PM SVANidhi, he discussed the coverage of vendors and timely disbursement of tranches to the vendors. He was appraised that more than 50% vendors have received the install-



ments of credit tranche and the others will be covered in the coming month. The chair was appraised that for promoting self employment, more than 1300 cases have been sanctioned under PMEGP. The chair laid emphasis on coverage of farmers under KCC. He was informed that while 100% saturation has been achieved by Agriculture department and beneficiaries are being covered by Animal Husbandry and Fisheries department.

The MoS inquired regarding issues in implementation of schemes. He assured the officers that Govt of India is committed to ensure rapid development in the UT and all necessary support will be provided to achieve that.

Presenting the achieve-

ments of the District in the previous fiscal and status of works during the present fiscal, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag informed the MoS that the several important projects are being implemented in the district and are being executed with strict adherence to timeline. He informed the chair that work plans for the flagship scheme MGNREGA have been discussed and approved by the Gram Sabhas and estimation has been completed.

Most of the works are presently under execution. He said that several initiatives like SUKoon, PUKAAR, PMSVANidhi, etc have been implemented in the district in a bid to bring marked im-

provement in public delivery of services. He said that special emphasis has been laid on employment generation through PMEGP, MUMKIN and several youth have setup units in the district and are not only earning their livelihood but are also generating jobs. Emphasizing on skill enhancement, he said that a special training program is under progress in Anantnag to impart necessary skills for manufacture of bats through local industry.

The Deputy Commissioner presented the physical and financial progress under various CSS including PMGSY, MGNREGA, PMAY (G), PMAY (U), PMDP, Linguishing, JIM, PMEGP, MUMKIN, PM POSHAN, Samagra Shiksha, National Social Assistance Program, PMMSY, PM KISAN and PM SEHA. He said that IEC activities are regularly being held in the district to achieve citizen awareness and engagement for better implementation of schemes. He said that social audits are being held regularly to ensure accountability and transparency in public expenditure.

GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD SPILL CHANNEL DIVISION NARBAL

Fax/Phone: 01951-260223

Email:floodspillchannelnarbal@Gmail.com
exenfscnarbal@ifckashmir.com

Sub: E- NIT 22 of 2022-23 Dated: 25/08/2022

Ref:- This office endorsement No. FSCDN/CS/ FSCDN/CS/ 4553-76 dt: 25/08/2022.

CORRIGENDUM

Sr. No. 01	Please read:- Construction of Gabion /crate protection wall on Sukhnag Nallah DIS Makhama Bridge at Spots (Sunderabad). work figuring at Sr.No.01 of above mentioned E-NIT	Instead of Construction of crate toe protection on Sukhnag nallah at Makhama near Gooriwan at spots.
02	Please read:- Position of funds as budgetary provision as 100% and 50% funds available	Instead of Position of funds (100% available)
03	Please read:- Installation of Statutory Sign Boards on the Embankments of Flood Spill Channel from RD 6554m to RD 11950m at spots (Fresh e-NIT to No. 07 of 2022-23 Sr.No. 04.	Instead of Installation of Statutory Sign Boards on the Embankments of Flood Spill Channel from RD 6554m to RD 11950m at spots

However, all terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

No. FSCDN/CS/4662-67

Dated. 26-08-2022

DIPK-8806-22

Executive Engineer,
Flood Spill Channel Division,
Narbal.

Sports Activities Continue Under 'MYMP' Banner



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Sports Council's 'My Youth My Pride' sports program was in full swing on Saturday with the final match of the cricket tournament played at the picturesque Jablipora Sports Field in South Kashmir. In the final knockout clash, Anantnag Royals locked horns with Anantnag Spartans.

Anantnag Royals won the toss and elected to bat, but the team kept losing wickets at regular intervals and folded at a meagre total of 108 runs. Adnan Tak with 38 and Shoaib with 14 runs were the main scorers for the team. Owais Hilal for Anantnag Titans was the pick of the bowlers as he claimed 3 wickets while Suhaib took one wicket.

Chasing a small total was never an uphill task and Anantnag Titans scaled the target in the 19th over and claimed the title. Zeeshan top scored with 31 runs. Owais Hilal was awarded player of the match for his brilliant bowling skills.

Meanwhile, in the ongoing 28th Master's Table Tennis Championship being played in Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Stadium hundreds of matches

were played for the 4th consecutive day, on Friday. Prakash Kelkar of Maharashtra outplayed Gopal Chakraborty of West Bengal in the Men's 65+ singles final to win gold and lift the trophy.

In the 70+ category men's doubles final, Maharashtrian pairs clashed with each other. Yogesh Desai and Ulhas Shirke defeated Satish Kulkarni and Pinakin Sampat 11-9, 11-5, 11-4.

In the 75+ and 80+ category men's doubles final, Arun Singh Barhat and Mukund Dev Agarwal of Rajasthan had to toil a little more than they would have anticipated against a determined Dr. B. Sainath Iyer and Prabhakar GY from Karnataka.

Other districts of J&K also remained abuzz with various sports activities. Cricket matches for the visually impaired were played in Jehlum Stadium Baramulla. J&K Sports Council collaborated with J&K Blind Cricket Association for the event. In the meantime, Indoor Sports Hall, Pologround Srinagar hosted Kashmir Province Powerlifting Championship in both Women and Men categories.

The sports activities under the MYMP banner are scheduled to continue for the coming days.

YSS Anantnag Kick Starts U-17 Cricket Competition



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports on Saturday launched Under-17 Boys District Level Inter Zonal Cricket Competition at Sports Stadium Nanil Anantnag.

The inaugural match was played between Zone Vaillloo and Zone Qazigund in which Qazigund won the match. After winning the toss, Qazigund elected to bat first and scored 155 runs. Chasing the target Zone Vaillloo was bundled out for 80 runs, handing Qazigund the match.

The second match was played between Zone Anantnag and Zone Ashmuqam.

Ashmuqam won the toss and elected to field first. Anant-

nag scored 99 runs. However, Ashmuqam failed to chase the target, ensuring Anantnag won the match.

The tournament is being organised by the Department of YSS Anantnag under the patronage of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Dr. Basharat Qayoom (IAS) and under the Chairmanship of Subash Chander Chibber (JKAS), Director Youth Services and Sports J&K, and under the guidance of Joint Director YSS Kashmir.

Teams from twelve educational zones of District Anantnag are taking part in the tourney.

All the arrangements were put in place in advance by the Department of Youth Services and Sports office Anantnag, who deployed its Technical Officials to start the competition.

FIFA Lifts Ban On AIFF

Press Trust of India

ZURICH/NEW DELHI: World football governing body FIFA on Friday lifted the ban imposed on the AIFF after the Indian Supreme Court terminated the mandate of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), clearing the decks for India to host the Women's U-17 World Cup in October.

FIFA had suspended the AIFF on August 15 for "undue influence from third parties" and had said the U-17 Women's World Cup "cannot currently be held in India as planned."

The suspension, the first time in AIFF's 85-year history, lasted just 11 days after the Supreme Court on Monday dissolved the three-member CoA, constituted by it in May, while modifying its earlier orders to ensure that India hosts the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup from October 11-30.

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council



has decided to lift the suspension that was imposed on the All India Football Federation (AIFF) due to undue third-party influence," the FIFA said in a statement.

"The decision was taken after FIFA received confirmation that the mandate of the committee of administrators that was set up to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee had been terminated and that the AIFF administration had regained full control of the AIFF's daily affairs.

"As a consequence, the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 scheduled to take place on 11-30 October 2022 will be held in India as planned."

Asia Cup 2022: India Face 'Unfamiliar' Foes Pakistan



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: A captain with a new batting philosophy and a master batter standing at the crossroads, trying to reinvent himself, will aim to create a new narrative when India get ready to settle scores with Pakistan in the marquee Asia Cup match here on Sunday.

With no bilateral contests between the cross-border neighbours for 10 years now and nothing on the anvil in near future, the geo-political tension does always make for a heavy build-up.

But the lack of regular games mean that Indo-Pak rivalries are rather held between unfamiliar foes rather than familiar ones.

One can't plan a lot against an opposition whom a team plays once or twice a year, while one has to expect the unexpected.

Deepak Hooda, although against Ireland, was audacious as an opener but with Kohli and KL Rahul available, it will be experience that will get first preference going into a high-profile game.

A lot, however, will depend on how the trio of Suryakumar, Pant and Hardik Pandya per-

form between overs 10 and 20. Babar Azam is very different from some of the Pakistani greats who have led the national team over the years.

Along with Mohammed Rizwan, he forms a formidable combination at the top but both have respective strike-rates of less than 130.

While Fakhar Zaman at No. 3 also lends solidity, the rest of the batters haven't shown enough consistency.

This promises to be a better contest than the last one. The match stars: 7:30 pm IST.

Afghanistan Beat Sri Lanka In Asia Cup 2022 Opener

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Afghanistan defeated Sri Lanka by 8 wickets in the opening match of the 15th edition Asia Cup in Dubai on Saturday.

Afghanistan thrashes the five-time champions Sri Lanka with 59 balls to spare in the Group B match.

Chasing a target of 106 runs, openers Hazratullah Zazai (37 not out off 28) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (40 off 18) set the stage with an 83-run stand. Earlier, Mohammad Nabi won the toss and opted to bowl first, then Fazalhaq Farooqi rocked Sri Lanka with a two-wicket opening over. Bhanuka Rajapaksa top scored for Sri Lanka with a 29-ball 38, while Chamika Karunaratne made 31.

Fazalhaq Farooqi (3/11), Mohammad Nabi (2/14) and Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2/24) shared seven wickets among them for Afghanistan.



Disney Star Wins ICC Media Rights For Indian Market



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Disney Star has won the rights to broadcast all ICC events on a four-year deal from 2024 to 2027 for the Indian market, the sport's global governing body said on Saturday.

Disney Star will be the home of all ICC cricket in India for the next four years having won the TV and digital rights of both men's and women's global events till the end of 2027, the ICC said in a statement.

"As per information, Disney Star is paying around USD 3 billion for the rights," a senior ICC Board member told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

Disney Star won following a single round sealed bid process which has yielded a significant uplift to the rights fee from the previous cycle, continuing the impressive growth and reach of cricket, the apex body said.

The decision followed a robust tender, bidding and evaluation process, which started in June 2022.

ICC Chair Greg Barclay said: "We are delighted to continue to partner with Disney Star as the home of ICC cricket for the next four years which has delivered an outstanding result for our Members and will support our ambitious growth plans.

"They will play a crucial role in the future of our sport and connecting and engaging with more fans than ever before."

K Madhavan, Country Manager & President of Disney Star said: "With the acquisition of the ICC Digital and TV broadcast rights, Disney Star has further strengthened its status as the premier destination for marquee cricket events in the country."

Liverpool Score 9 Goals, Equal English PL Record



Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool equalled the biggest win in English Premier League history after a 9-0 hammering of promoted Bournemouth on Saturday.

It's only the fifth time a team scored nine goals in the league, with Man United (twice) and Leicester the only previous teams to win 9-0.

Liverpool's fearsome attack looked back to its best at Anfield as the team recorded its first

league win and Roberto Firmino and Luis Diaz both grabbed two goals. Firmino then provided the assist for Harvey Elliott's first league goal, which was followed by a stunner by Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Virgil van Dijk powered home Liverpool's fifth on the stroke of halftime, while the onslaught continued just after the break in the form of Chris Mepham's own-goal. New signing Fabio Carvalho also got his name on the scoresheet.

Haaland Hat Trick Rallies City Past Palace

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland scored his first Premier League hat trick as Manchester City came from two goals down to beat Crystal Palace 4-2 on Saturday.

City trailed 2-0 after just 21 minutes against a clinical Palace side — which was looking to its 2-0 win at the Etihad Stadium last season — after an own-goal by John Stones and a header by Joachim Andersen.

However, after Bernardo Silva pulled one back eight minutes into the second half, Haaland took over as his first home goals for City came in a hurry. He net-



ted three in the space of 20 minutes to make it six in his first four Premier League matches.

City now has 10 points from four games, with Palace left on four points.

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