

'Buy Kangri From Him': Orphan's Ordeal Moved, Mobilized Kashmir 'Fire Of Hunger', A Netizen Wrote, Is Compelling This Kashmiri Child To 'Sell Warmth Of Life'.

Zaid Bin Shabir

A child kangri-seller on the streets of Srinagar has caught web and triggered a community campaign as Kashmir braces up for the season of firepots in the impending winter.

The virtual support that stemmed in the afternoon of October 28 even involved a mayor and a bureaucrat—throwing their weight behind the preteen engaged in a street survival pursuit.

"Rafaqat Ali, an orphan, class 5th student in Govt Middle school Shodma Hawal sells firepots (kangris) at MK



6 THIS BOY FROM BADAMWARI colony attends school till 3pm every day before arriving at Mirza Kamil Chowk with his small stock of kangris."

Chowk Hawal to support his family of 5 including his mother and two sisters," tweeted Mohsin Hussain War, a veterinarian.

"If you want to buy a kangri in Srinagar, kindly buy a few from him to support him."

However, while amplifying the support, many netizens cautioned against mishandling the case: "Buy from him to keep his dignity."

The support call soon received a massive public traction involving mayor Junaid Azim Mattu who marked the case to his colleague. The appeal was curly supported by IAS officer, Yasha Mudgal.

Arguing that his schooling comes first, many netizens petitioned the child's case to higher authorities for immediate assistance.

A Kashmiri netizen, however,

asserted that a better solution would be a "welfare state" which can provide social security to the child and many others like him who suffer on a daily basis.

"Poor children," he wrote, "need their rights; their right to a dignified life and to education." A quick background story, however, revealed that Rafaqat was rendered orphan some four years ago—when his father, according to his neighbour, became a victim of blood cancer.

"The poor family had no means to save their ailing headman," the neighbour said. "They saw him dying each day in front of their eyes." **| More on PIO**

PM Suggests 'One Nation, One Uniform' For Police

Press Trust Of India

Surajkund (Haryana): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday mooted the idea of "One Nation, One Uniform" for police, saying it is just a suggestion for consideration and he is not trying to impose it on the states.

Addressing a "Chintan Shivir" of state home ministers through video-conferencing, Modi also warned of forces that are increasing their intellectual sphere to push the youth towards extremism and pervert the minds of coming generations.

"Every form of Naxalism, be it the one with guns or the one with pens, have to be uprooted to prevent them from misleading the youth of the country," he said.

Modi said for the sake of the unity and integrity of the nation and with the inspiration of Sardar Patel "we can not allow any such forces to flourish in our country".

He said such forces get significant help internationally.

About his "One Nation, One Uniform" suggestion, the prime minister said he thinks that the identity of the police forces across the country could be identical. **| More on PIO**

Blaze Renders 23 Kishtwar Families Homeless

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Fifteen houses were gutted in a massive fire in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

No one was injured in the blaze that broke out in Chag-Gandhari area of Paddar tehsil on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, they said.

Army and police personnel along with the locals launched an operation to douse the fire. By the time the blaze was extinguished, 15 residential structures were gutted and 23 families **| More on PIO**

Human Trafficking Gang Busted In Budgam

2 Women Among Three Arrested, 14 Others Rescued; More Arrests Likely

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Friday busted a human trafficking gang in Central Kashmir's Budgam district by arresting three people, including two women, besides rescuing 14 victims, many of them minors.

Shamim Ahmad Bhat and his two women accomplices' Shagufta and Asmat, all residents of Dulipora Parthan were arrested after a police team carried out a raid based on information about of human trafficking being operational in the district, a police spokesperson said Friday.

The police team, he said, also rescued 14 women victims,

including some minors from the Bhat's house in Dulipora and its adjacent places.

During preliminary investigation, the spokesperson said, it has been found that the three accused persons are involved in human trafficking by means of procuring the girls from different places and exploiting them in district Budgam and other parts of the valley.

"Further investigation into the case is going on and more arrests are expected," he said, adding that the rescued human trafficking victims have been shifted to Nari Niketan Rehabilitation Centre, Chadoora and process **| More on PIO**



KO staffer Tauseef Khaliq captures A MESMERISING VIEW OF SRINAGAR'S OLD CITY, including the centuries old Zaina Kadal bridge built by Sultan Zainul Aabideen.

DM Rajnath Launches Rs 2,180 Cr Infra Projects In Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects including bridges, roads and helipads built at a cost of Rs 2,180 crore in strategically key areas of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim among others.

He inaugurated the projects at a function held at the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DS-DBO) road that provides connectivity to India's northernmost outpost of Daulat Beg Oldi in eastern Ladakh.

The highlight of the event was the onsite inauguration of 120-metre-long 'class-70 Shyok Setu' on the DS-DBO Road at an altitude 14,000 feet, the defence ministry said.

The bridge will be of strategic importance as it will facilitate logistics movement of the



armed forces. Other projects inaugurated virtually by Singh included two helipads, one each in Hanle and Thakung, in Eastern Ladakh, it said.

These helipads will enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force in the region.

The rest of the projects were inaugurated virtually by Singh.

The 75 projects included 45 bridges, 27 roads, two helipads and one 'Carbon Neutral Habitat' and they are spread across six states and two Union territories.

Twenty of the **| More on PIO**

Searches In Jammu After Detonators Recovered



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A massive search operation was carried out in and around the railway station here on Friday after 18 detonators were found in a drain near it, officials said.

The railway police on Thursday evening foiled a plan of militants to possibly trigger an IED blast by recovering 18 detonators and explosive material packed in a bag near the station.

The bag was found in a drain near a taxi station.

Slueths of railway police and Railway Protection Force (RPF) conducted a search operation at the railway station, platforms and parking areas, they said.

Trains were checked and patrolling on the tracks has been intensified in wake of the threat perception due to recovery of the explosive material, they said, adding sniffer **| More on PIO**

No Salary For Employees Not On JKHRMS List

Agencies

Srinagar: The Government on Friday said that a sizable number of its employees have not yet registered themselves with JK Human Resource Management System and reiterated directions to the DDOs not to release October month's salary in favour of them.

"With a view to streamline Human Resource Management System across various Departments of

Government of Jammu & Kashmir, instructions in terms of Circular No. 35-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 12.10.2022 were issued with regard to implementation of JKHRMS. It was advised that employees shall register themselves on the Jammu & Kashmir Human Resource Management System (JKHRMS) on <https://hrms.jk.gov.in> by using CPIS Numbers and check/modify their basic as well as other service related

SHORT TAKES

Accused Held In Hit And Run Case

Police on Friday claimed to have solved a hit and run case in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district by arresting the accused in just three days.

According to a police spokesperson, an unknown vehicle on Wednesday hit a biker Manzoor Ahmad Kaloo of Nesbal, Sumbal at Derand area of Ganderbal district, leaving him on the spot dead. The driver, he said, fled from the scene along with his car. Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a case FIR number 306/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered in **| More on PIO**



Biker Dies In Tangmarg Accident

A 25-year-old youth died in a road accident in Drung area of Tangmarg in North Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said here on Friday. Saqlain Rashid, son of Abdul Rashid of Zanigam village of Berwaah was critically injured on Friday when he lost control over his bike, officials said.

Soon after the incident, the injured was rushed to a nearby health facility where doctors declared him dead on arrival, he said. After medical legal formalities, the body of the deceased was handed over to family for last rites, official added.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and a case has been registered—(KNO)

Army Pays Tributes To Slain Soldier

Army on Friday paid tributes to rifleman Kulbushan Manta who was killed in an encounter with terrorists in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir earlier this week.

"Lt Gen ADS Aujla, GOC Chinar Corps, on behalf of all ranks, paid rich tributes today to Rifleman Kulbushan Manta who had made the supreme sacrifice on October 27 in a joint cordon and search operation of Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in Washran village, Baramulla district," a defence spokesperson said here.

The anti-militancy operation was launched on Wednesday during which one **| More on PIO**

DM Lays Foundation Of BRO Museum

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday laid the foundation stone of a museum in Leh dedicated to the men and machines of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

"To honour the sacrifices of its personnel and institutionalise and put on record the achievements of BRO, a museum in Leh is being set up which will be a source of information and inspiration," a defence spokesperson said.

The museum building will be constructed using 3D printing technology and, on completion, will become the world's highest 3D printed building, the spokesperson said. Singh also laid the foundation stone of Himank Air **| More on PIO**

'Fake Ghee' Recovered In A'nag

The food safety officials on Friday recovered fake ghee during a raid in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Acting on a tip off, Food Safety Officer (FSO) Anantnag along with D.O Sher Bagh on Friday raided the premises at Nazuk Mohalla, Anantnag and found the culprits processing ghee like substance from fat spread and vegetable fat, an official spokesperson said.

During the preliminary investigation, he said, it was found that the same substance was being sold to the general public as 'ghee'. Meanwhile, FSO Anantnag, as per the spokesperson, has requested the general public to **| More on PIO**

SIA Charges 3 Lashkar 'Terrorists'

State Investigation Agency Kashmir on Friday said that it has produced chargesheet against three uncategorised terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba in a special court.

In a statement, the SIA said that today Police Station CIK/SIA Srinagar produced challan (Charge-sheet) before the Court of Spl. Judge Designated under NIA Act (TADA/POTA) Baramulla u/s 7/25 I.A Act, 18, 23, 38 UA (P) Act r/w 121, 121-A IPC of Police Station Tarzoo, Sopore against three accused namely 01) Rahid Mushtaq Ganie son of Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie resident of Amargrah Sopore. (Juvenile), Amir Shafat Mir son of Mohammad **| More on PIO**

21 Healthy High-Protein Foods You Should Be Eating

Need more protein in your diet? It's time to look beyond the usual meaty suspects (looking at you chicken breast)

Protein-Rich Foods

Whether you're trying to fit more protein into your diet or are just looking to freshen up your choices, we have top-tier, high-protein foods you should be eating.

Lean Beef

To hit your recommended intake of protein per day (55 to 70 grams for a 150-pound person), turn to sources like beef, which provides 25 grams of protein per 3-ounce portion when cooked. Ideally, you should be seeking out cuts that are lower in fat including sirloin, tenderloin, flank steak and 90% lean ground beef.

Chickpeas

From hummus to crunchy baked chickpeas, these beans — which contain about 12 grams of plant-based protein per cup — are certainly a legume to love. Prepare dried beans quickly and efficiently with an electric pressure cooker, or simply rinse and drain canned chickpeas.

Lentils

An underappreciated legume, lentils can fortify salads, soups, casseroles and tacos with an ample dose of protein power. One cup of cooked lentils provides 18 grams of protein plus nearly 65% of your daily fiber requirement.

Tofu and Tempeh

When it comes to tofu or tempeh (which both contain about 15 grams of protein in just three ounces) you have a lot of options. These versatile, soy-based foods contain the same amino acid profile as other animal-based protein sources (think beef, poultry and fish). Smoother tofu known as 'silken' can be easily blended into sauces and smoothies. But the nuttier flavor and firmer texture of tempeh is ideal for grilling, stacking in sandwiches or sautéing in stir-fry.

Cottage Cheese and Greek Yogurt

Dairy products like cottage cheese and Greek yogurt provide plenty of bone-building minerals and pack in the protein. With 30 grams per cup for cottage cheese and about 20 grams for Greek yogurt, they're ideal, hunger-fighting additions to any smoothie, breakfast or snack.

Hemp Seeds

Believe it or not, three tablespoons of these



tiny hemp seeds (aka hemp "hearts") contain 10 grams of protein (plus plenty of minerals and omega-3 fats). Sprinkle on salads, smoothies or add to baked goods and granola.

Eggs

The goodness inside these shells lives up to the hype. Scrambled, baked, hard cooked, poached and even whisked into the occasional batch of crême brûlée, eggs have a lot to offer. But please don't skip the yolks — that's where nearly 50% of the protein is hanging out.

Salmon

There's no denying the nutritional prowess of this superfood fish. A three-ounce piece of cooked salmon contains 20 grams of protein

and about 1,000 milligrams of omega-3 fats. If that's not enough to convince you, studies eating seafood regularly has been associated with heart and brain health and might even help you live longer.

Quinoa

This versatile, gluten-free grain can be used for anything from a cereal substitute, veggie burgers, salads and stuffed peppers. When opting for this substitute, you ensure 10 grams of protein per cup as well as a full profile of the 20 amino acids your body needs — the same as animal protein.

Black Beans

Boasting 15 grams per cup, black beans make

your chili, soup and dips a perfect source of protein. If you choose canned beans, we recommend rinsing and draining them to reduce the sodium content by as much as 40%, or choose low-sodium or sodium-free varieties.

Chia Seeds

Each ounce of these tiny seeds offers up more than 4 grams of protein, plus almost 5,000 milligrams of inflammation fighting ALA omega-3 fats.

Pistachios

Sprinkle a quarter cup of crunchy pistachios on top of yogurt, salad or even a rice bowl and add 6 grams of plant-based protein and a hefty dose of vitamin B6 which helps facilitate

metabolic processes body wide.

Canned Tuna

Looking for an affordable, convenient and uber high protein option? Just 3 ounces of canned tuna (which also comes in pouches!) provides about 30 grams of protein, and tuna is one of the best sources of omega-3 fats you can eat.

Fresh Mozzarella Cheese

Often overlooked as a stellar protein source, reach for fresh mozzarella cheese on sandwiches, salads and pizza for 15 grams of protein in a 3-ounce portion. Your bones will thank you for giving them 45% of the daily requirement of calcium.

Chicken Breast

The winning protein of weeknight dinners, the old reliable protein source is low in fat, super versatile and a fairly standard 5 ounce piece of grilled chicken gives you more than 40 grams of protein.

Edamame

Not only is this buttery bean fabulous for snacking, much like tofu, this plant based protein options contains all the essential amino acids. You'll get 10 grams of complete protein in every half cup serving you add to salads, stir fry and burritos.

Pumpkin Seeds

These tasty seeds aren't just for Halloween. Toss pumpkin seeds into baked goods, granola or even desserts like barks and brittle. Snack on seasoned seeds by the handful, each 1/4 cup portion boasts 9 grams of protein.

Peanut Butter

Whip up a peanut sauce or a good old PB+J — this classic butter has more protein than most other nut options. Two tablespoons provides heart healthy fats and 8 grams of protein.

Shrimp

This quick cooking seafood can boost the protein total in salads, pasta dishes, tacos and stir fries. Once considered taboo for high levels of cholesterol, shrimp are naturally very low in saturated fat — the real culprit for high "bad" cholesterol numbers. Three ounces of cooked shrimp will deliver 18 grams of lean protein.

61% Of Gen Z Workforce Comfortable Sharing Pay Details With Family Members: Report

Press Trust Of India

Your salary slip may be a confidential document but a report has revealed that 61 per cent of Gen Z professionals are more comfortable sharing their pay details with a family member.

A further 23 per cent of the professionals of this generation are ready to share the details with their close friends, according to LinkedIn 'Workforce Confidence Index'.

LinkedIn Workforce Confidence Index is based on responses of 4,684 professionals, from June 4-September 9, 2022, in the country.

The report further revealed that around 72 per cent of Gen Z and 64 per cent of millennials in India are comfortable sharing their pay information with family members, while 43 per cent of Gen Z and 30 per cent

of millennials are also willing to confide in their close friends.

It also finds that Gen Z professionals are most likely to share their pay information with co-workers they trust (23 per cent), distantly followed by millennials (16 per cent) and Gen X (10 per cent).

Generation Z or Gen Z are those born during the period between mid to late 1990s and the early 2010s, while those born between 1981 and 1996 are called millennials.

"Professionals are still not comfortable to have conversations about pay in the workplace, however our data reveals that a generational shift is at play. Family and friends remain India's closest confidantes when it comes to sharing the size of their paychecks, but the current generation of young professionals are more willing to share pay information with their coworkers and industry



peers as compared to other generations," LinkedIn News India Managing Editor Nirajita Banerjee said.

In fact, she stated that Gen Z professionals are found most likely to share their pay across their whole network as compared to

any other age group.

"Gen Z are keen to influence change and eager to lead these conversations in the workplace," she added.

The report finds that 45 per cent of professionals in India say pay discussions among peers are discouraged at their workplace.

Further, 36 per cent of professionals in India say they feel anxious sharing their pay information with anyone, the report found.

Millennials are more likely to feel this anxiety (42 per cent) when compared to Gen Z (33 per cent) or Gen X (32 per cent) professionals, it said.

This is despite over a third (36 per cent) of India's respondents believing that pay transparency would lead to better pay equality, the report added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my registration Card bearing No: N17440110011. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Budding Bloom Experimental School Khawaja Bagh Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Sufyan Jamal
 Father's Name: Mohammad Jamal-ud-din Dar
 Mother's name: Naseema Akhter
 R/o Palhallan Pattan



fko

DEMISE

With a deep sense of loss and bereavement, it's informed that Nida Shafat Lone w/o Shafat Ahmed Lone (Sr J&K Bank Officer) R/o Khanday Colony Nowgam Srinagar passed away on 27th Oct, 2022. She was a highly affectionate person, full of piety and the best of human qualities. Her loss has left our family in utter shock. Her Congregational Fatiha khwani would be held on 30th October 2022 (Sunday) at 10.30 AM at our ancestral graveyard located at Chandapora Habba Kadal Srinagar. Thereafter a condolence meeting would be held at our residence at Khanday Colony, Nowgam.

Bereaved:
 SHAFAT AHMED LONE (HUSBAND)
 ASHAQ LONE
 SHAHJI AHMED LONE (BROTHERS IN LAW)
 And all other members of our family

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the certificates in respect of the under - mentioned shares of J&K Bank have been lost/misplaced and the holders of the said shares have applied to J&K Bank Ltd/ M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. (Share Transfer Agent) for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.

S. No.	Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.'s	No of Shares	Address
1.	Naseer Ahmed Mir	JKB036688	503973	8117621-8120620	3000	Z Akhzar Avenue, Opposite Power Grid Station, Elahi Bagh, Buchpora, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190020
2.	Hamida Bano	JKB016885	507553	14519301-14520300	1000	Shum Nag, Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir-193224.
3.	Abdul Hameed Qureshi & Sajid Hussain Qureshi	JKB012980	503677	7419621-7420620	1000	Qureshi Mohalla, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, Kashmir-190011
4.	Abdul Aziz Dar	JKB013333	503986	8146621-8147620	1000	S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar, 36 Lasjan, Lasjan, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-191101.
5.	Sheikh Abdul Rashid	JKB031650	504280	8642721-8644720	1000	C/o Mukhtar Traders, Brein Bazar, Srinagar, Kashmir-191121.

The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way with above share Certificate(s). Any Person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/objection in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim(s)/objection with the Bank at the Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road, Srinagar/Share Transfer Agent at the address given below, within fifteen days from the date of Publication of this notice, after which no claim(s) will be entertained and the Bank/Share Transfer Agent will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

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 Board Secretariat
 Corporate Headquarters
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Share Transfer Agent
 M/s KFin Technologies Ltd.
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 Serilingampally Mandal,
 Hyderabad 500 032

For Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
 Ref. No.: 6/2022-23

Place: Srinagar
 Date: 28th October, 2022

Sd/-
 (Mohammad Shafi Mir)
 Company Secretary

DIPK-NB-4646/22

انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلبیت شہید احمد بٹ ساکنہ دلال محلہ زینہ کدل سرینگر 27 اکتوبر 2022ء کو اس دار فانی سے دارالبعثت کی اور کوچ کر گئیں۔ مرحومہ شریف النفس ہونیکے ساتھ ساتھ نیک سیرت، بلند ارادہ و خوش اخلاق تھیں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جو رحمت میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا فرمائیں۔ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی بروز اتوار مورخہ 30 اکتوبر 2022ء کو ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع گوجوارہ متصل اولاد اسلامیہ کالج میں صبح 10:30 میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

نوٹ:- مستورات سے التماس کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی قسم کی مشروبات وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔

سوگواران

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فون نمبر 9906111187, 700628683Z

Admin Conducts Market Checking In Various City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to prevent profiteering and black marketing by business establishments operating in Srinagar, the special Market Checking teams of District Administration Srinagar Friday conducted market checking in various parts of Srinagar City to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with sufficient availability of consumables.

The drive was conducted on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar (DC), Mohammad Aijaz Asad to curb the practice of illegal profiteering in markets ahead of the winter season.

The checking squads comprised of senior officials from Revenue, Police, Food Safety, FCS&CA and Legal Metrology Departments under the supervision of SDM

East and SDM West conducted intensive market checking in Hari Singh High Street, Maharaj Bazar, Amira Kadal, Sanat Nagar, Rawalpura, Natipora, Channapora, Qamarwari, Parimpora, Shalteng and other adjoining markets of the City.

During the drive dozens of food business units were inspected, while several erring shopkeepers were also booked found failing to maintain the quality of food items, not displaying rate lists of essential commodities, selling expiry products, besides indulging in practices of illegal profiteering and sale of underweight products.

A fine to the tune of Rs 40000 was also imposed on the erring shopkeepers for violating different provisions of Acts.

During the market checking rotten vegetables, fruits and other food items were also destroyed on the spot.

Workshop On 'Role of Artificial Intelligence In Surgery' Inaugurated

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Friday inaugurated Two days International Workshop on 'Role of Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology in Surgery and Medical Research' at Government Medical College (GMC) here.

The workshop is being organised by the Department of Surgery, GMC Srinagar in collaboration with Open Source Research (OPSORE) and Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Kashmir.

Addressing the inaugural session of the workshop, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that Artificial intelligence is relevant to the present day world and it is an established fact that our lives are being positively impacted with the advent of technological advancements. He underscored that the role of AI is amplifying tremendously and numerous aspects in our daily lives are assisted by it.

While divulging about different applications of AI and Information Technology, Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that we as a nation are shifting towards digitisation and the present day technological interventions have helped in establishing Hospital Management Systems as well as database of medical records of patients.

The Advisor also highlighted that Universal Health coverage of citizens of Jammu and Kashmir has opened new possibilities. Advisor Bhatnagar further maintained that various societal issues like Drug Abuse, Psy-

chiatric disorders depression and other related issues can be addressed with the help of Artificial Intelligence based web enabled outreach efforts and robust medical care and research can benefit from it

Highlighting about the significance of the workshop, the Advisor remarked that this workshop will be huge platform for informative exchange of ideas and will help in taking leaps in field of medical surgeries and medical research with the help of AI and IT technology.

On the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar also said that the present LG's Administration is committed to improving the medical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir and in the last three years Two AIIMS, seven new Medical Colleges, two State of Art Cancer Institute's, and other infrastructure has been established in J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakeel A. Ramshoo said that with the advancement of technologies, it is imperative upon the health intuitions to use Artificial intelligence for the benefit of mankind. He remarked that medical research will tremendously benefit from AI as it will help giving best possible medical care to people.

In her address, Principal GMC Srinagar, Dr. Samia Rashid said that Artificial Intelligence is set to become defined future technology in medical sciences as AI is changing the dynamics of surgery and medical research. She remarked that AI can determine the best practices and treatment for patients



Agha Syed Mehdi Musawi Ali Zadeh, rep. of Imam Sayed Ali Khamenei ties a ceremonial turban on the late Maulana's heir Masroor Abbas Ansari. KO Photo

Thousands Attend Fateha Ceremony of Maulana Abbas Ansari

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: All roads leading to Khanqah-e-Sokhta, the ancestral residence of late Kashmiri leader Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari, in Downtown Srinagar remained clogged with people arriving from all across to pay their respects on the 4th day of his demise on Friday.

Earlier in the morning thousands offered congregational Fateha at his gravesite at Baba Mazar, Zadibal and later made their way to his Khanqah-e-Sokhta residence where Fateha service continued till late evening.

Speaker after speaker paid glowing tributes to the late Maulana recalling his contributions in the diverse fields of politics, education and other social services.

His politics was based on the ideals of truth and honesty as propounded by the Prophet of Islam (Pbuh), a rare trait in

“His politics was based on the ideals of truth and honesty as propounded by the Prophet of Islam (Pbuh), a rare trait in today's materialistic world”

today's materialistic world", said Agha Syed Mehdi Musawi Ali Zadeh, representative of

Imam Sayed Ali Khamenei. Agha Mehdi had arrived here to tie a ceremonial turban on the late Maulana's heir Masroor Abbas Ansari. Emotional scenes were witnessed on the occasion.

Many speakers recalled Maulana's relentless struggle to forge unity between Muslim sects of Kashmir.

Representatives of various Social, Educational and Religious organizations besides former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti visited the Ansari house to extend their condolences.

Many Pandit leaders also joined the service and paid tributes to the late leader for his close bond with the community.

Hundreds of students from Madina Public Schools, a chain of schools which Maulana Abbas Ansari has established in far flung areas of Kashmir, also visited Maulana's gravesite to pay their final respects.

With Winter Approaching, Doctors Ask People To Take H1N1 Jab

Agencies

Srinagar: With winter approaching, experts have advised people to get flu vaccine shots to prevent soaring viral infection in Kashmir.

Flu shots are vaccine doses that help prevent people from catching influenza like H1N1. Getting annual flu shots is considered to be the best bet of defense against catching the infection especially during winters in Kashmir. Kashmir being a cold region is prone to H1N1 outbreak.

Dr Manzoor Khan, a physician, said the ideal time for the flu vaccine is October. "It takes 2-3 weeks to develop antibodies. It's recommended that we take an annual shot of flu vaccine these days. We get most cases like H1N1 in winters and

springs," he said. He said that cold, body aches, fever, headaches, muscle aches, are the symptoms of H1N1. "It is not necessary; a person suffering from these diseases is having H1N1. Even mild cold or fever could also be symptoms of the influenza," he said.

He said that people should maintain hygiene to prevent the virus. "It may not be fatal for healthy people. Those suffering from respiratory problems or asthma, elderly people, shall take proper medication and influenza to prevent H1N1," he added.

Another physician Dr Adil Ahmad said flu shots are important to prevent influenza and its associated morbidity and mortality.

"Flu shots as such will not prevent from Covid but it is very imperative to control the

frequency of influenza cases by vaccinating all people in general and vulnerable in particular," he said.

He said the illness caused by Covid-19 and influenza has almost similar clinical presentation.

"Since the virus keeps on mutating every year, people are asked to get flu shots every year. H1N1 virus emerges during winters. Cold weather is aggravating the problem," he added.

The H1N1 influenza was detected for the first time in Kashmir in 2010, claiming two lives. In 2013, 76 cases were detected and two died of H1N1 influenza. During 2017, 23 people died from the virus in the Valley. Before that 21 people died in 2015. At Least 250 H1N1 patients have been reported in 2018. Since then cases are reported every year and claim many lives.

Union MoS Rao Inderjit inaugurates Investors Education Conference

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, Planning, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Rao Inderjit Singh on Friday inaugurated day-long Investors Education, Awareness & Protection Conference here at SKICC.

The conference was organised by the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The event was also graced by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Member of Parliament from Srinagar; Anita Shah Akella, CEO IEPFA

Authority & Joint Secretary, MCA; Sanjay Shorey, Regional Director (Northern Region), Ministry of Corporate Affairs; Haamid Bukhari, Registrar of Companies (ROC) Srinagar and other dignitaries from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir along with senior officials from IEPFA Authority, India Post Payment Bank and Department of Posts, CSC e-governance, Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce, Central Reserve Police Force.

During the inaugural session, the Chief Guest Rao Inderjit Singh and Guest of Honour Dr. Farooq Abdullah released

various major initiatives of IEPFA Authority and Ministry of Corporate Affairs which include:

IEPFA Mascot "Fundoo" which was selected through Jambhagidari after a month-long open contest on MyGov platform. The mascot is conceptualized with an idea symbolizing IEPFA's vision of taking investor awareness to the last miles with the objective of making it easier to connect with its message, mandate and initiatives.

"Niveshak Didi" which is a unique endeavour of IEPFA Authority with India Post Payment Bank wherein Investor Education will be promoted in "By the women, for the women" concept.

The Niveshak Didi i.e. female Dakiya has intense social connect to the rural population especially women. Three representatives Niveshak Didi from the valley were given certificates by the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour during the Conference.

"Niveshak Sarathi", an investor awareness van was flagged by MoS and MP and is an initiative by IEPFA to promote financial literacy among people in far-flung areas by spreading knowledge through dedicated audio-visual and print material & a specially designed van equipped with a TV display, public announcement system, internet connectivity etc.

The Minister during his keynote address appreciated IEPFA's initiative of conducting the Conference on Investor Education & Awareness in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.

He also shared ideas, need and significance of spreading inclusive financial literacy, investor awareness & protection for overall economic growth and nation building.

MP from Srinagar, Dr Farooq Abdullah also spoke on the occasion and thanked IEPFA for organizing the conference in Srinagar and hoped that the conference will help to make people aware about the online frauds in J&K.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:25
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4:04
Magrib	5:45
ISHA	7:07

This Day In History

- 539 BC- King Cyrus "the Great" of Persia marches into Babylon, freeing Jewish captives and allowing them to return home
- 1268- Conradin, the last legitimate male heir of the German Hohenstaufen dynasty of Kings and Holy Roman Emperors, is executed with Frederick I, Margrave of Baden by Charles I of Sicily
- 1390- First trial for witchcraft in Paris
- 1467- Battle of Brusthem: Charles the Bold defeats Liege
- 1508- Gelderse troops occupies Kuirne
- 1552- Tsar Ivan IV returns to Moscow after conquering the Khanate of Kazan in the Siege of Kazan
- 1591- Giovanni A Facchinetti elected as Pope Innocent IX
- 1618- English adventurer, writer and courtier Walter Raleigh is beheaded for allegedly conspiring against King James I of England
- 1665- Battle of Mbwila [Amboila]: Portuguese defeat forces of the Kingdom of Kongo and decapitate King Antonio I of Kongo / Nvita a Nkanga
- 1675- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz makes the first use of the long s, \int , for integral, helping discover integral and differential calculus
- 17090 England & Netherlands sign anti-French "Barriereaktaat"
- 1794- French troops occupy Venlo (modern south east Netherlands)
- 1859 - Spain declares war on Morocco
- 1914 - Turkish warships storm Black Sea
- 1923 - Turkey declares independence (successor state to Ottoman Empire)
- 1923 - Mustafa Kemal officially confirms Turkey as a republic (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti), now commemorated annually as the Republic Day of Turkey
- 1945 - First ballpoint pen goes on sale, manufactured by Biro
- 1947 - Belgium, Luxembourg & Netherlands form Benelux Union
- 1947 Trial of art forger Han van Meegeren begins in Amsterdam
- 1948 - Israeli forces liberate Meron & Gush-Halev
- 1948 - Saffaf massacre, Israeli defence forces attack Palestinian village of Saffaf in the Galilee
- 1954 - Colonel Nasser disbands Muslim Brotherhood
- 1956 - International zone of Tangier returns to Morocco
- 1956 - Israeli paratroopers drop into Sinai to open Straits of Tiran
- 1964 - The United Republic of Tanganyika & Zanzibar renamed The United Republic of Tanzania
- 1966 - Lunar Orbiter 1 crashes on moon: 6.7°N 162°E
- 1966 - National Organization of Women founded
- 1997 - Iraq's Revolution Command Council announces that it will no longer allow US citizens and US aircraft to serve with UN arms inspection teams

From KO Archives

6 Of Family Hammered To Death

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a gruesome massacre, six members of a Bihari family, including four children, were done to death. Police said unidentified 'miscrants' used hammers to kill the labourer's family in their shop-cum-residence at Chapper Morh village in Kathua district in Jammu division yesterday.

The couple with their four children, hailing from Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh, were living in the village for last couple of years, police said.

The crime was allegedly committed by a group of people having rivalry with the couple, police said, adding a blood stained hammer was recovered from the scene. Police has rounded up seven suspects and investigation were continuing. (Kashmir Observer, October 29, 2000)

Pak's Powerful ISI Is In All-Out War With Imran Khan

Agenceis

Karachi: Pakistan's intelligence chief accused former Prime Minister Imran Khan of asking the country's powerful military for "illegal and unconstitutional" support for his government, in a scathing and unprecedented news conference on Thursday.

The news conference by the chief of the country's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Lieutenant-General Nadeem Anjum, came after Khan upped his criticism of the military, accusing them of plotting his removal in April and supporting his opponents.

"(Khan's criticism) is because the military and its chief refused to do illegal or unconstitutional

ministership for the first time in 2018 - a charge both have consistently denied - before falling out last year.

Anjum admitted the military made mistakes in the past, but an institutional decision had been taken recently to stay out of politics.

An opposition alliance voted Khan out of power in a parliamentary vote in April. Khan has since launched a political blitz calling for a snap election. He announced he would stage a protest march from Lahore to Islamabad starting Friday.

The government says an election will be held as scheduled in October next year.

Speaking alongside Anjum, military spokesman Lieutenant-



General Babar Iftikhar said the extraordinary step of getting the spy chief to speak in public was taken because of a smear campaign against the military.

Anjum said Khan and army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa had met recently in an attempt to reduce tensions. According to the spy chief, Khan would meet the military leadership in the "darkness of night" to ask for favours and then attack the same people next day.

He also said that, in March, as opposition pressure was mounting on Khan's government, the then prime minister had offered Bajwa a "lifetime extension" as army chief, which was turned down.

Khan's aide Fawad Chaudhry did not respond to a Reuters request for comment on whether such an offer was made.

On Reported Sale Of Girls Over Loans In Rajasthan, Rights Panel's Move

Agenceis

New Delhi: Chairperson of the National Commission for Women Rekha Sharma on Friday said a team is being sent to the Bhillwara district of Rajasthan to investigate the alleged auctioning of girls on stamp papers to settle disputes over loan repayments there.

The NCW Chairperson further said that similar incidents have been reported for the last few years, but the state government has not taken action so far.

Ms Sharma will also meet the Rajasthan Chief Secretary and the Bhillwara Superintendent of Police (SP) on November 1 in connection with the case.

"A team of NCW is being sent to Bhillwara district, Rajasthan. On Nov 1, I will meet the Rajasthan Chief Secretary and the Bhillwara Superintendent of Police (SP). Similar incidents reported from the state for the last few years but no action taken so far," she said.

Notably, the Commission

has constituted a two-member fact-finding team to investigate the matter.

The Commission said that it has been reported that in many settlements of the village, girls are sold for prostitution on stamp paper.

NCW Chairperson has written to the state's Chief Secretary to take urgent action in the matter and apprise the Commission of the action taken.

The Commission has also written to the Director General of Police, Rajasthan to immediately invoke relevant provisions in the FIR and to arrest all the accused at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan State Commission for Women also took cognizance of media reports that minor girls in some districts of Rajasthan are sold on stamp paper and issued notice to the Director General of Police, and the Bhillwara Collector.

The state commission demanded immediate action and a factual report in seven days.

US To Advance Defence Ties With India To Counter China, Says Pentagon



Agenceis

China is a "pacing challenge" for the United States despite Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, the Pentagon said on Thursday in its latest National Defense Strategy, asserting that it would advance its major defence partnership with India to enhance its ability to deter Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific area.

The (Department of) defence will advance our Major Defense Partnership with India to enhance its ability to deter PRC (People's Republic of China) aggression and ensure free and open access to the Indian Ocean region, said the new document that was released by the US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin here.

According to the unclassified version of the report, China is a pacing challenge and Russia is an acute threat. The strategy has been developed to meet the challenges being posed by China and it takes into account the capabilities of its global friends and allies.

We are heavily invested in making sure that China does not

attempt to use force to, for instance, take Taiwan, a senior defence official told a reporter here.

The Biden Administration, another defence official said, realised pretty quickly and clearly that the most comprehensive and serious challenge for US national security is the Chinese coercive and increasingly aggressive endeavour to refashion the Indo-Pacific region and the international system to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences.

The document also highlights the acute threat Russia poses to the US.

Recent events of course, very much underscore the acute threat posed by Russia. The national defence strategy took Russia's intentions and actions into serious consideration as the strategy was being developed, the second defence official said.

The US is of course closely watching Russia's increasing alignment with China and as such, the department's current efforts and future initiatives account for Russia even as it addresses the Chinese challenge.

Additionally, I would know that we see the PRC and Russia posing more dangerous all-domain challenges to the safety and security of the US homeland even as we need to remain vigilant in the face of persistent homeland threats from terrorist groups. Meanwhile, other persistent threats including North Korea, Iran, and violent extremists continue to pose challenges to the homeland, to our allies and to our partners, said the defence official.

Responding to a question, the official said there has been tremendous growth in the relationship since the 2005 nuclear deal agreement between the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the then US President George Bush.

There's a lot of really good opportunity that's in the defence, but also really beyond that space as well, the official said.

QUAD members, the official said, do see the security environment in the region in very similar ways. We are all investing in our forces and trying to find new and innovative ways for us to collaborate, said the official.

"Think 10 Times Before Forwarding Anything": PM Modi On Fake News

Agenceis

Surajkund, Haryana: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that a single fake news has the capability to snowball into a matter of national concern and emphasised the need to come up with technological advancement to check them.

Addressing the 'Chintan Shivir' in Haryana, a gathering of Home Ministers of states to deliberate on issues of internal security, PM Modi stressed on the need to educate people about analysing and verifying any piece of information before forwarding it to others.

"One should think 10 times before forwarding any information and verify it before believing it. Every platform has tools to verify any information. If you will browse through different sources, you will get a new version of it," the Prime Minister said.

Fact check of fake news is a must. Technology plays a big



role in this. People must be made aware of mechanisms to verify messages before forwarding them. He said that a piece of single fake news has the capability to snowball into a matter of national concern.

PM Modi said the losses that India had to face due to fake news about job reservations in the past. "We have to come up with technological advancement to prevent the spreading of fake news," the Prime Minister said.

Israel's Benny Gantz Relaunches Defence Ties With Turkey

Agenceis

Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz has heralded a new era in security ties with Turkey as the two countries seek to mend a relationship that had been broken for a decade.

Gantz spoke on Thursday during a one-day trip to the powerful NATO member and two months after Israel and Turkey renewed their diplomatic ties.

"For over a decade, there were no formal security ties," Gantz said after meetings with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Defence Minister Hulusi Akar in Ankara. "Today we're changing that in a responsible and gradual process that serves Israel's interests."

In 1949, Turkey became the first Muslim-majority nation to recognise Israel. But bilateral relations began to fray in 2008 after an Israeli military operation in Gaza. Ties then froze in 2010 after the deaths of 10 civilians following an Israeli raid on the Turkish Mavi Marmara ship, part of a flotilla trying to breach an Israeli blockade and carry aid to Gaza.

A brief reconciliation lasted from 2016 until 2018 when Turkey withdrew its ambassador and expelled Israel's over the killing of Palestinians during a conflict with Gaza. Relations began to thaw after the departure of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog paid a state visit to Turkey in March, followed by Prime Minister Yair Lapid in June. Lapid was foreign minister at the time.

After months of warming ties, Israel and Turkey announced on August 17 the full restoration of relations and the return of ambassadors to both countries.

Akar said closer ties would help "find solutions to some current topics we think differently"

about, including Palestine. "We believe that the development of our relations and cooperation with Israel will also contribute to regional peace and stability," the defence minister said.

Addressing the presence of the Palestinian movement on Turkish soil, Gantz said "the issue came up in our talks" and Israel was constantly engaged with Turkish security organisations.

"This is the first strategic security meeting after many years," he said. "You can't take too big a bite out of what you bring into one meeting."

Gantz said he believes "a lot more can be done together to reduce the influence of those who destabilise our regions by supporting or conducting terrorism against innocent civilians."

"This also applies to the Palestinian arena," the Israeli minister said.

Turkey and Israel were once close defence partners. Pacts signed in the mid-1990s allowed Israeli air force pilots to train over Turkey's airspace. Israel upgraded Turkish military tanks and jets and supplied drones and other high-tech equipment.

Israel recently thanked Turkey for intelligence cooperation against Iranian attempts to carry out attacks in Turkey.

"This year, as a result of close, covert contact, we succeeded in removing an alarming number of threats against Israeli citizens and Jewish people in Turkey," Gantz said. "We are thankful to President Erdogan, Minister Akar and the security agencies involved in this crucial, life-saving cooperation."

Gantz visited less than a week before a general election in Israel, the fifth in less than four years. Gantz is seeking to keep his centrist National Unity faction a central player in a future coalition.

ISIS terror attack on Shah Cheragh shrine will not go unanswered: Tehran

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has pledged "a crushing response" to those responsible for the terror attack on the shrine of Shah Cheragh in the city of Shiraz on 26 October.

"This vicious act will definitely not go unanswered. The country's security and law enforcement forces ... will deliver a decisive response to its architects and operatives," the Iranian leader said.

Raisi went on to highlight that: "Experience shows Iran's enemies take revenge for their failed attempts to cause divisions within the ranks of the Iranian society and impede the country's progress by means of violence and terror."

Late on Wednesday night, ISIS claimed responsibility for the shooting attack which left at least 15 dead and 40 injured.

According to Iranian state media, the attacker is a foreign national. The police commander of Fars province said he ordered the shrine and indiscriminately opened fire on worshippers, in-



cluding women and children.

"We will certainly not allow Iran's national security and interests to be toyed with by terrorists and foreign meddlers who claim to defend human rights," Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in a statement following the attack.

"This crime made the sinister intentions of the promoters of terror and violence in Iran completely clear. There is reliable information that the enemies have drawn up a multi-layered project to make Iran insecure," he added.

Furthermore, Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said the Shiraz terror attack "exposed the complex nature of the enemy's conspiracies."

Iran has been rocked by anti-government protests for close to a month, which were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who fell into a coma hours after being detained by the Moral Security Police on 13 September. She passed away in a hospital three days later due to multiple organ failure caused by cerebral hypoxia.

NEWS MAKERS

Parag Agrawal Sacked From Twitter, But Gets ₹ 412 Crore

Agenceis

When Parag Agrawal was appointed CEO of Twitter in November 2021, the IIT graduate joined a steadily growing club of executives from India rising to the top of global corporations, but the 38-year-old executive's brief tenure at the helm of the social media giant was challenging and chaotic.

Less than a year into his job as CEO, India-born Agrawal was ousted from the company by its new owner billionaire Elon Musk who on Thursday closed the 44 billion dollar deal to acquire the social media behemoth.

An IIT Bombay and Stanford alumnus, Agrawal joined Twitter in 2011 when there were fewer than 1,000 employees. Rising in the company, he became Twitter's chief technology officer in 2017. Considered a protégé of Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey, Agrawal was appointed CEO of Twitter af-



ter Dorsey stepped down.

In announcing his decision to step down and name Agrawal as CEO, Dorsey had said at the time my trust in him as our CEO is bone deep.

Dorsey had said that Agrawal had been his choice for CEO for some time given how deeply he understands the company and its needs. Parag has been behind every critical decision that helped turn this com-

pany around. He's curious, probing, rational, creative, demanding, self-aware, and humble. He leads with heart and soul, and is someone I learn from daily.

Ajmer-born Agrawal's ascent to the top job at Twitter put him in a steadily growing club of executives hailing from India helming global corporations, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and

Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen. Indra Nooyi had served as PepsiCo's CEO for 12 years before stepping down in 2018.

According to a May 2022 article in The New York Times, if Musk removed him as chief executive, Agrawal could make USD 60 million, as per securities filings.

Agrawal's time as Twitter CEO was challenging and turbulent.

Just a few months into the job as CEO, Musk came into the picture. A CNN Business report said that in March this year, Musk had met with Dorsey to discuss the future direction of social media, according to a company filing.

In the days that followed, Musk met with Twitter's board and some of its leadership team, including Agrawal; publicly announced that he'd become Twitter's largest shareholder; and accepted a seat on the company's board, the CNN report said.

Musk tweeted a few days later that Twitter was dying?

Mumbai Filmmaker Arrested After Viral Video Of Him Ramming Car Into Wife

Agenceis

The Mumbai police arrested film producer Kamal Kishor Mishra early on Friday for allegedly ramming his car into his wife after she spotted him with another woman in the vehicle in Mumbai, an official said.

The alleged incident had taken place on October 19 in the parking lot of the couple's apartment in Andheri (West) when Mishra's wife found him with another woman in the car, police said.

On Thursday, Kamal Mishra, the producer of Hindi film 'Dehati Disco', was taken to the Amboli police station from his home after his wife lodged a complaint against him.

He was arrested in the case early morning on Friday, the official said.

AS PER THE COMPLAINT, KAMAL MISHRA'S WIFE CAME OUT LOOKING for her husband and found him with another woman in his car in the parking area. When the film producer's wife went to confront him, he drove the car to escape from the spot and in the process hit his wife, causing injuries to her legs, hand and head, the police have said quoting the complaint.



As per the complaint, Kamal Mishra's wife came out looking for her husband and found him with another woman in his car in the parking area. When the film producer's wife went to confront him, he drove the car to escape from the spot and in the process hit his wife,

causing injuries to her legs, hand and head, the police have said quoting the complaint.

Based on the complaint lodged by his wife, a case was registered at the Amboli police station under relevant Indian Penal Code sections, police said.

South Kashmir Sees Spurt In Number Of Drug Abusers

ATF Fully Made Functional At GMC Anantnag; Number Of Abusers Visiting Facility Likely To Increase: Officials

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a worrying trend, South Kashmir districts are seeing a fresh spurt in the number of drug addicts while less drug abusers are visiting the drug de-addiction facilities set up by the government, officials said.

Health officials, wishing not to be named, told a local news agency KNO that around one percent of the total drug abusers are turning up to addiction treatment facilities functional in all hospitals of J&K and the number is miniscule in southern districts.

Figures suggest that the addiction treatment facility at GMC Anantnag in 2020 recorded arrivals of 267 drug abusers in year 2020 followed by 638 in year 2021 and over 400 visits in ensuing year.

Dr Mansoor Dar, Assistant Professor Department of Psychiatry GMC Anantnag said that 90 percent of drug abusers visiting the ATF facility Anantnag are heroin abusers and around 65 percent of the heroin abusers are Intravenous Drug Abusers (IVDA) who are prone to HIV and hepatitis.

He said that most drug abusers don't visit these facilities due to social stigma and even around 40 percent of the drug abusers visiting ATF don't follow up due to financial and other issues.

Even there are 30-40 percent chances of relapse among those who completely follow up treatment due to peer group, economic and employment issues, he said, adding that, as a doctor they count the number of drug free years of such persons and due to relapse doctor feels dejected.

He said that the majority of people involved in drug addiction are of the 15-30 age group and the main reasons behind it are peer pressure, drug availability and modelling etc.



It is unfortunate that when a person uses drugs for years together, parents remain unaware and till then there is no social stigma, however, when a person decides to leave it, there comes the stigma, he said, adding that, when a person decides to quit addiction, he needs support and encouragement which most of them, parents, friends and friends don't do.

When society has failed to stop youth from taking drugs, we need to help them, remain empathic towards them and stigma is to be accepted by patients, family and the treating doctor, he said.

Parents need to be more vigilant and take care of their children fully so as to keep them away from drug menace and they need to support children to get rid of it when they somehow get involved in any kind of addiction, he said.

He added that ATF at GMC has been made fully functional now where the costly medicines will be provided free of cost and we are hopeful that more abusers will turn up to the facility now.

Principal GMC Anantnag Dr Tariq Ahmad Qureshi said that by making the ATF fully functional, the number of drug abusers visiting the facilities has increased.

Work on 50 bedded drug de-addiction will start in first week of November, he said, adding that rehabilitation of the drug abusers is need of the hour—(KNO)

Central Schemes Being Successfully Implemented In J&K: Sonowal

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday said central government's various development schemes are being successfully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir with active support of local people.

Launching a 'Ayush Utsav' at the Government Unani Medical College and Hospital (GUMC) at Ganderbal, Sonowal said central government's schemes are being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir in a fair manner and all eligible beneficiaries are treated equally.

"People in Jammu and Kashmir are very happy with the implementation of various central government schemes. The successful implementation of the schemes will bring progress and prosperity for the local people," he said.

Sonowal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given special attention for the all-round development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which has been "neglected by successive



governments" both at the Centre and in the erstwhile state.

The Union Minister of AYUSH, Ports, Shipping and Waterways also distributed financial assistance under various schemes including higher education assistance by labour department and an amount of Rs 12.35 lakh under the Housing for All (Urban) scheme among the beneficiaries.

He also handed over sanction letter under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), hearing aids, prosthetics and orthotics equipment, wheel chairs, land passbooks, income certificates, Golden Cards, sports kits, sanc-

tion letters for construction of Trout and Carp fish ponds at the mini secretariat in Ganderbal to the beneficiaries.

Sonowal also launched an e-rickshaw service in the town from the mini secretariat.

"Under the ample guidance of Prime Minister Modi, the development, peace and security are going on at the same pace in the Union Territory," he said. At the 'Ayush Utsav', the minister said the country's rich traditional medicinal practices must be optimally used for the benefit and enrichment of human lives.

The Modi government has been making a concerted effort to promote the Ayush medicinal practices and supplement it with the modern medicinal treatments for a holistic recovery and wellness of the people, Sonowal said.

It is a matter of great pride that a Global Centre of Traditional Medicine is coming up in Jamnagar, Gujarat and this will further bolster the traditional medicinal practices in India as well as globally, he said.

Minister Directs DD, AIR To Show Developmental Stories

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan on Friday directed state-run Doordarshan and All India Radio to start an exclusive program focusing on the developmental stories related to the implementation of the Central Government Schemes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Murugan, who is also Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, passed these directions during a review meeting with the media units of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, the Minister directed Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar and All India Radio Srinagar to start an exclusive program focusing on the developmental stories related to the implementation of the Central Government Schemes like PMAY Urban & Rural, PMDP, IAY, Ujjwala etc. in all the dis-



tricts of the J&K Union Territory with the video and audio testimonials of the beneficiaries.

"The program should be district specific with a special name so that the development brought about in various sectors across the district must be brought to the public," Murugan said.

The Minister, the spokesperson said, appreciated the efforts of all the media units of Ministry of I&B working in Jammu and Kashmir for reaching out to the public through their media activities and programs.

He further said that Additional Director General, Region, Rajinder Chaudhary gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the media activities and

campaigns carried out by Press Information Bureau, Jammu and Kashmir & Central Bureau of Communication, J&K, Ladakh Region along with its field units.

Chaudhry, he said, also gave a detailed presentation about the activities being done under Swachhta Campaign 2.0 by PIB and CBC J&K.

The spokesperson said that the Head of Offices of DD and AIR, Srinagar, S Sanjeev & Ajay Dorey also gave PowerPoint presentations about the various activities and programs being broadcast on Doordarshan and All India Radio, Srinagar.

Besides officials and officers of different media units, the meeting was attended by Additional Director General, DD Programs, Kanchan Prasad, Joint Director CBC J&K, Ghulam Abbas, Deputy Director, PIB, J&K, Tariq Ahmed Rather, Head RNU AIR, Srinagar, Guruprasad, Head RNU DD, Srinagar, Qazi Salman and Media and Communication Officers of PIB Jammu and Srinagar, Sheikh Mudasir Amin and Majid Mushtaq Pandit.

BJP Urges Govt To Release Salaries Of KP, Dogra Employees



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday urged the Lieutenant Governor administration to take a sympathetic view on the issue of Kashmiri Pandit and Dogra employees serving in the valley and release their salaries immediately.

The administration has assured to take a sympathetic view of the issue, he said. The committee met senior officials in the Valley to apprise them of the concerns and fears of the Kashmiri Pandits and employees under the PM package and reserved category posted in Kashmir.

The spokesperson said the main purpose of the committee was to look into the security concerns of these employees and other minorities living in the Valley.

It also raised the issue of safe and secure accommodation of these employees here, he said. The committee members appealed that till the security concerns of the PM package employees were not addressed, they should be allowed to work

from home and their salaries be released forthwith, he said.

They also pointed out the threat perception was still very strong due to the recurring targeted killings, he said.

The BJP leaders flagged the issue of providing safe and secure accommodation to these employees, the spokesperson said.

Divisional Commissioner P K Pole assured some flats will be constructed by December this year, while the remaining will be completed by June, 2023.

The committee demanded that till the time their accommodations are not ready, the estate department should make some safe and secure alternate arrangements, the spokesperson said.

He said the committee members visited Shopian's Awalpora and Baramulla's Khwaja Bagh and asked for expediting the construction work, which it felt was going on at a slow pace.

Besides, the committee demanded that instead of constructing one-room sets, these should be two-room flats so that they are livable, he said.

National Conference On Waste Management Concludes



Observer News Service

CHARAR I SHARIEF: Two days National Conference on Role of Science, Technology, Executive, & Public (STEP) in Environmental Conservation & Waste Management concluded on Friday at Charar I Sharief Budgam.

The Conference was organised by the Govt Model Degree College Charar i Sharief. Participants stressed upon the participants which included students, staff, research scholars, civil society members, lawyers, elected representatives to ensure scientific waste management both in urban and rural areas of Kashmir valley.

On the first day of the Conference former Advisor to Governor Khurshid Ahmad Ganai said that unscientific waste disposal was not only the problem of people living in urban areas but this is a matter of serious concern for people in rural areas as well.

He urged upon the authorities to take it seriously as untreated waste is causing a serious threat to Kashmir's environment especially rivers, streams and lakes. He added that a large amount of plastic waste is getting dumped into oceans which is a very serious issue.

Chairman District Development Council Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan said that officials of the Rural Development Department need to be sensitized on waste management as rural areas were getting urbanized.

Waste Management expert and CEO of Srishti Waste Management company Indore said that Kashmir valley or Srinagar can also become as clean as In-

dore provided people are made part of the campaign by the Government.

He said that the Govt alone cannot do anything. He told the gathering that his organisation will take up waste management work in some wards of Charar i Sharief very soon.

The participants appreciated the conference organising team led by Principal Model Degree College Charar i Sharief Prof Raveena, Convener Arshad Husain, Dr Ashraf Zainabi, Dr Afaq Gowher for organising a meaningful conference without using any plastic or non biodegradable waste material.

Several papers were presented during the conference by Professors and Research Scholars. A scientific paper on Khushaal Sar wetland was presented by Shahid A Dar PHD scholar from Kashmir University.

Prof Bashir Ganai Director North Campus Kashmir University, Dr Arshad Jahangir Asst Prof Environmental Science Department Kashmir University, Prof Tasneem Abbasi Pondicherry University and several scholars and university teachers from J&K and outside presented their scientific papers.

Chairman Life School Charar i Sharief Nazrul Islam, Social Activist, Columnist Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, Environmental Lawyer Advocate Nadeem Qadri, BDC Chairman, Executive Officer MC Charar i Sharief also spoke on the occasion.

Artists of Tulkul Arts lead by Rayees Wathoori presented a play on waste management which was appreciated by the audience.

DC Shopian Takes Stock Of Activities Under B2V4 Prog

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Friday conducted an extensive tour of several panchayats in connection with arrangements for the fourth phase of Back to Village Programme and took stock of ongoing activities in village Panchayats under B2V4.

The DC visited several panchayats including Pahnoo, Sangdon, Hendew and various other places of the district. He interacted with the visiting officers and public and visited development work sites along with officers.

Vaishya distributed Land Passbooks among the beneficiaries of Hendew in presence of concerned DDC Member, JDP Shopian and Visiting Officer Hendew.

He also took stock of the facilities being provided to the visiting officers of these areas.

While interacting with peo-

ple, he said that the aim and objective of the B2V4 programme is to reach out to the people of the district at their door steps, listen to their demands and issues for early redressal.

Regarding the ongoing Back to Village programme, DC said focus has to be on ensuring that all stakeholders shall voice their opinion freely in a more responsive way regarding development activities and implementation of schemes.

He said that the visiting officers have been deployed at 32 Panchayats under the first phase of B2V4 to ensure that the officers assess development requirements and gaps so that solutions can be undertaken afterwards. He appealed to people to come forward and participate enthusiastically in the outreach program.

The DC was accompanied by various officers and officials of the line departments.

Jan Abhiyan, B2V-4

Intensive Sanitation Drive Launched Across All ULBs Of Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Kashmir Division has launched intensive Sanitation-Awareness campaign in different Panchayat Halqas as part of Jan Abhiyan initiative under phase 4th of 'Back to Village' programme launched by the government.

The campaign was initiated in all 40 Urban Local Bodies of Kashmir on the directions of the Principal Secretary to Govt, Housing & Urban Development Department J&K, Dheeraj Gupta with the objective to clean nearby rural areas and water bodies with community participation, besides creating awareness among the general public on Segregation of Waste at Source, 3R Principal of Waste Management and Ban on Single Use Plastic, Dissemination of Swachhata messages through announcements by D2D collection vehicles and Cleanliness of Water Bodies.

About 31 tonnes of garbage was collected so far during the campaign and lifted by the Urban Local Bodies.

Panchayat areas which include Sanitation/Cleanliness drives, Plog Runs, Clearance of Garbage Points/Garbage Vulnerable Points, Installation of boards and hoardings with Swachhata Messages, Awareness on Source Segregation through 'HaraGeela-SookhaNeela' concept of waste segregation, Awareness on Ban on Single Use Plastic, Dissemination of Swachhata messages through announcements by D2D collection vehicles and Cleanliness of Water Bodies.

As part of the Jan Abhiyan initiative, the community participation was ensured by the ULBs. The elected Public Representatives of the ULBs, Panchayat Representatives, local rural population, officers/officials of other Govt. departments, Non-governmental Organizations, Community-based Organizations, Students, Informal Workers (rag pickers) participated in the Sanitation Campaigns.

B2V-4 Witnesses Enthusiastic Participation Of People At B'la

Dr Sehrish Visits Various Panchayats; Interacts With PRIs, Visiting Officers

Observer News Service
Baramulla: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish on Friday visited various Panchayats in the district including Jal Sheeri and Nadihal in connection with the first day of the ongoing 'Back to Village' Phase IV (B2V4) programme.

During her visit, the DDC met PRIs and Visiting Officers besides various deputations who projected developmental issues concerning their respective areas.

On the occasion, the DDC gave on spot directions to line departments for immediate re-

dressal of issue of the people. Further, the DC also reviewed the implementation of social security schemes, functioning of PRIs assuring people that all of their genuine demands would be addressed on priority.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC highlighted the objectives of the programme and said that the programme is a milestone in achieving rural development besides listening to the grievances and issues of rural folk at their doorsteps. She stressed upon the people to avail the benefits that can reach to them under the programme.

Meanwhile, the DC said that the Visiting officers will conduct Gram Sabhas and public interactions from tomorrow as part of the outreach programme in Back to Village Programme.

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Result Orientation

For the umpteenth time perhaps, the state government has taken "a serious view" of the poor results of its schools. According to a report from Jammu, the education department has decided to "punish" the non-performing government teachers across the province, of course, after assessing school-wise results. Similar initiatives had, indeed, been taken in Kashmir division as well where in quite some cases the "defaulters" were punished with even premature retirements.

Many of such teachers were shifted from the schools while the annual increments of several others were withheld. Even after the government took the steps to improve the performance of government-run institutions, particularly at the high and higher secondary school levels, the overall impact of the initiatives reportedly did not percolate to all the levels. In Jammu division, the results of 10th class announced recently did not show a single position among the first 10 being bagged by government schools. The pass percentage of their students has been even worse. In fact, these results may well be deceptive as these cannot be relied upon as faithful representation of actual performance of the educational institutions managed by the government.

Instances may be plenty where even a cursory interaction with their students leaves one shell shocked as they fail to answer even rudimentary questions. Undoubtedly, the education standard of the entire state has shown a marked decline over the decades with the state authorities almost totally unconcerned at the disturbing scenario. Save for some occasional noise to revamp the department with a view to improving its performance, no serious effort has ever been made to translate the rhetoric into a reality with which hinges the future of the society as a whole.

Obviously, it could not be just at the spur of the moment that results thrown up at annual examinations dismayed the authorities. For decades on end, it has been a regular feature. There can be no denying that hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent on education sector. The investment has gone into creating and expanding the infrastructure, manning educational institutions with well qualified and trained teachers and providing them with latest facilities. The emoluments and perks offered to the teaching and other staff can be termed as reasonably attractive. In spite of all that, there is a glaring disconnect between the input and the output, or to put it directly, between the investment and the results. Due to this disturbing mismatch, most parents, especially in urban areas, have been showing a definite preference for fairly expensive public schools, whose results have earned them a niche in popular estimation. It is an open secret that parents keen to give better education to their children would not mind an overnight wait outside a public school in the city for obtaining an admission form. Apart from the security reasons, the large scale migration of people from rural to urban areas in the valley during the past one and a half decades is attributed to the keenness of parents to provide for better education of their wards. Even then, the vast majority of people, particularly in villages, have no option but to have their wards enrolled with government-run schools where absenteeism of teachers has assumed an epidemic dimension, if frequent press reports about it were to be believed, even as the department has a huge army of officials at various levels to enforce punctuality. Not long ago, the PDP-led coalition government had announced a decision that every minister and top bureaucrat would adopt a school for improving its qualitative performance.

Its follow up is believed to be embarrassing, if not shameful. Luckily, the incumbent chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, who also holds the education portfolio, has declared education as a priority sector for holistic development. Believed to be a go-getter, one would expect him to initiate concrete steps to revamp the moribund, albeit administratively top-heavy, department. Apart from addressing the rampant trade-unionism among teachers, which has been playing havoc with the moth-eaten edifice, he would need to introduce an element of result-orientation at every level of the department to bring about a qualitative improvement in its performance. Indeed, the government can be less interested in providing for some of the basic needs of the people, but it certainly cannot afford to be callously indifferent with education considered to be the greatest resource of any society.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on Tuesday, May 24, 2006

Realizing Gram Swaraj in Jammu and Kashmir

Rizwan Rasheed

Even after more than three decades of existence of PRIs, they still follow a top-down approach mostly. The reason behind this is that the institutions do not have enough resources. They are understaffed relative to their responsibilities. Further, PRIs in Jammu and Kashmir are not generating all the revenue that they should be

After the abrogation of Article 370 and the subsequent amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the rural areas of the Union Territory are seeing unprecedented devolution of power and authority. The creation of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India aims to develop self-government at the local village level. PRIs ensure people's participation in the process of planning, decision-making, implementation, and delivery. The idea is to essentially transform villages socially and economically through these institutions. 3Fs- Funds, functions and functionaries are devolved to the local rural bodies in order to empower these institutions.

While the nascent PRIs in Jammu and Kashmir are abundant with funds and functions, the system is plagued by a smaller number of functionaries. Like elsewhere in India, Jammu and Kashmir faces the same challenge of PRIs being understaffed. In a research article based on a nation-wide survey, Aditya Dasgupta and Devesh Kapur argue that local bureaucrats are often heavily under-resourced relative to their responsibilities. They term this phenomenon as "bureaucratic overload". As a result of bureaucratic overload, government programs often fail on the ground because of poor implementation by local bureaucrats.

There is a dearth of staff at all the three tiers of PRIs in Jammu and Kashmir. The PRIs are responsible for implementing and delivering a plethora of schemes and there is very high expectation from them. Interestingly, the amended provisions of the 1989 Act say that the Halqa Panchayat may employ necessary staff for carrying out duties but "Halqa Panchayat shall pay remuneration to such staff out of its own resources." Even though some contractual staff has been hired, it is very little. The nature of the responsibilities that these jobs entail does not correspond to the contractual nature of these jobs. Neither does the meager remuneration that the contractual staff are paid. Most of the work for the staff at the village level involves field visits, technical work and gathering

data. It involves traveling and other allowances that the staff involved are not paid adequately. Consider VLWs who are field functionaries. They have to travel consistently but they are not adequately reimbursed for their travel.

Another challenge that the PRIs in Jammu and Kashmir face is the lack of adequate training to the staff. As a result, the staff lacks necessary skills that are required to carry out their duties and responsibilities. It has been more than a year since Accounts Assistant (Panchayat) were recruited but some of them are yet to receive any training for conducting their duties. The lack of training among the staff prevents specialization of the staff and hence has consequences for the organization on a generic level. This hinders the seamless function of the department.



Also, the lack of capacity building among the elected representatives as well as the people living in the villages has consequences for the decentralization. Since, common people are involved in the decision-making process and PRIs work by taking inputs from the people, the common people need to be aware of their rights and responsibilities. Very little has been done to make the citizenry aware of their responsibilities in the functioning of the PRIs.

Further, one of the most time-consuming works for PRIs today is data collection and updation. As a part of Digital India, there are several applications and websites that need to be updated regularly. It is very important but time-consuming work. However, there are few staff available to do the required work. Therefore, staff responsible for one job are being utilised to perform other tasks, thus affecting their primary work. For instance, the responsibility to update data to the recently released JALDOOT App has been assigned to Gram

Rojgar Sahayaks (GRS). GRS, in addition to their primary responsibilities, will have to measure the water level of selected wells in the villages twice a year and update the data.

Apart from the problem of being understaffed, PRIs in Jammu and Kashmir also face the issue of not being able to generate their own revenue. Even though PRIs have the power and authority to generate their own income through tax and non-tax revenue, it is not being fully realized in Jammu and Kashmir. As a result, they have to be fully dependent on the funds from the center and the union territory government.

PRIs were established with a view to make villages self-governing and self-reliant. It is a democratic decentralization that aimed to realize the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. PRIs were supposed to be a bottom-up approach to development in villages- people would make decisions about the governance of their own villages. However, the bottom-up approach is yet to be realized. Even after more than three decades of existence of PRIs, they still follow a top-down approach mostly. The reason behind this is that the institutions do not have enough resources. They are understaffed relative to their responsibilities. Further, PRIs in Jammu and Kashmir are not generating all the revenue that they should be.

Since the PRIs in Jammu and Kashmir are nascent, it is important to learn from the experiences of other states and union territories of India. PRIs in Jammu and Kashmir should be put on a path so that their full potential is realized. It will make sure that Gandhi's dream of Gram Swaraj aim is fully realized.

*The fourth phase of the J&K government's Back to Village (B2V4) programme, commenced from October 27

The author Works in Department of Rural Development and Planning, J&K

The article only represents the author's personal opinion, not that of the organization where he works.

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

Something has got to change in Ukraine, for sure. The plea by 30 left-wing US lawmakers from President Joe Biden's Democratic Party on Monday seeking a negotiated settlement with Russia to end the Ukraine war is an extraordinary event.

In the US Congress, they form part of a nearly 100-member block called the Congressional Progressive Caucus - chaired by Pramila Jayapal, a representative from Washington state. They are a motley crowd of democratic socialists and self-styled "progressive capitalists," but what the party bosses cannot ignore is that they stand in the way of the Trumpist juggernaut and their potential to defeat Trumpism can be crucial in 2024.

Therefore, the Biden administration's low-key initial response to their plea on Ukraine cannot be taken as the last word. In the past 48 hours at least, there has been no tirade against them in the US commentariat.

They made four key elements in their letter addressed to President Biden:

Washington should explore "vigorous diplomatic efforts in support of a negotiated settlement and ceasefire" in the war in which the US has spent tens of billions of US taxpayer dollars in military assistance.

Such efforts should be front-loaded with "direct talks with Russia."

A framework for peace should include "incentives to end hostilities, including some form of sanctions relief, and bring together the international community to establish security guarantees for a free and independent Ukraine that are acceptable for all parties, particularly Ukrainians." [Emphasis added.]

The war is wide open, the western narrative notwithstanding. "The alternative to diplomacy is protracted war, with both its attendant certainties and catastrophic and unknowable risks."

The signatories would have been aware that although the Biden Administration is pursuing a hard-line policy, things can change if the midterms hand down a crushing defeat to the Democrats.

Several extraneous factors are also at work. For a start, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's planned visit

US Gets A Nasty Surprise In Ukraine

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

to China comes so soon after the unveiling of the US National Security Strategy in Washington which visualised China as the enemy. Europeans are dissenting.

The French President Emmanuel Macron called on the US to take the lead to engage with the Kremlin, echoing what Hungarian PM Viktor Orban has been demanding. There is discontent in Europe, hit hard by the economic crisis, that the American oil companies are "war profiteering."

Lurking below the radar is the hidden truth that Ukraine is a basket case with a non-functioning economy. The US cannot expect the European allies to keep that economy afloat.

Meanwhile, a massive military Russian build-up signals plans to launch a major offensive in a few weeks from now aiming to end the war on Moscow's terms.

However, dovetailing with all this is an unthinkable development casting shadows on the US-UK tandem navigating the Ukraine war, which may turn out to be the ultimate clincher.

What emerges is that the UK Defence Minister Ben Wallace's secretive visit last week to Washington was more in response to a summons from the White House than a British initiative. Wallace said in a dark tone as he was leaving that there were things to be discussed that were far too sensitive.

At any rate, following the flurry of phone calls on Saturday by Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu with his French, British and US counterparts regarding the possibility of Ukraine using a "dirty bomb" in the war, the foreign ministers of France, the US and the UK promptly issued a joint statement rejecting "Rus-

sia's transparently false allegations" and called it "a pretext for escalation."

Nonetheless, acting on the Russian allegation, the IAEA has been told to undertake an investigation. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Rafael Grossi, the agency's Director-General on Monday and "welcomed the IAEA's readiness to visit Ukraine."

Blinken also spoke with Stoltenberg on Monday and, strangely enough, "called for continued Western unity and support for Ukraine." But, interestingly, the State Department quietly removed from its website the US-UK-France joint statement.

This was when Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov disclosed on Monday that "Detailed information indicating the institutions that may be commissioned for this purpose was conveyed through the defence minister [Sergey Shoigu] during his contacts with his counterparts in the United States, Britain, France and Turkey. More contacts are planned between our defence ministries."

Lavrov added: "Some of our partners have really suggested a discussion of the information we have at a professional military level. This is a kind of approach that we supported." Could elements in Kiev be having their own Plan B to escalate the war and drag the US and NATO into it? There are no easy answers.

The bottomline is that "constructive engagement" has begun between Moscow on one side and Washington, London and Paris on the other. But it's really touch-and-go. The Moscow daily Izvestia quoted the noted Russian military expert Vladislav Shurygin on Monday: "What is a dirty bomb? To create it, all that is necessary is to dig up

a barrel with nuclear waste from some power plant, put them in a capsule and then jerk 100 kg of TNT."

Shurygin explained: "Even in this case, the infection will be in a radius of maybe 500 metres, maybe a kilometre. And then it all starts to sink into the soil... If it is torn in the water or infect the water, then it will all sweep downstream, lie on the bottom and gradually go away. To make the waters of the Dnieper radioactive, I do not even know how much [water] would need to be drained out. Remember, Fukushima poisoned the sea for six months and no one even noticed it. The intention of the Ukrainian authorities is not very clear. If they want to blame it on us, it won't be easy; when we have "clean" bombs, why we would need "dirty" ones is completely unclear."

It is no secret that MI6 and SAS are in the driving seat in the Ukrainian military command in Kiev and in the front lines. The paradigm is something like the tail wagging the dog. MI6 calibrates the dynamics of the war while the CIA and Pentagon claim success for Biden's Russia strategy. MI6 has a whole history of that sort - be it in Iran or the Suez crisis - even in Hong Kong.

The current regime change in Westminster abolishes the MI6 of accountability. Of course, Boris Johnson - Zelensky's best friend, guru and guardian - becomes a burnt-out case. He has discreetly withdrawn his hat from the ring and slunk away.

Kiev has been deprived of its last hurrah, as Russia nips the "dirty bomb" in its buds, clearing the pathway for its grand offensive to end the war. Whether the planned Russian offensive will go ahead would depend on any meeting between Biden and President Putin on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali on Nov. 15-16.

The big question is whether this is a wake-up call for the one-dimensional men in the Biden Team. Perhaps, that is too much to expect. But there is no question that the 30 lawmakers stand vindicated.

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

Books Transport Us To New Worlds

Aimun Bilal

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies... The man who never reads lives only one." – George R.R. Martin

You need not be a student or a teacher in order to be a reader. Reading has no specific age or profession. However, not many of us are into the habit of reading, yet it is one of the best hobby a person can inculcate. It not only makes us go through the lives and experiences of many people but it also becomes one of the best ways in which we can spend our time productively. We start looking at world from various perspectives which probably was fixed to a particular perspective earlier. New experiences enter our mind and we feel completely different after reading a particular book which touches us in different ways.

Hence, it depends on an individual and everyone has his own perspectives from which they read a particular book. Also, there are many reasons why an individual reads a book. Some read it as a mere hobby, some read to gain some knowledge, others read to improve their writing etc. Purposes can vary, yet the results are fruitful to all.

Even though it may seem boring and difficult in the beginning, especially if one isn't into the habit of reading, this habit can be acquired with time. Firstly, it's one of the best ways to deal with boredom. There are times when we do not feel like doing any other thing which would require some physical activity. We just yearn to spend some time in isolation and reading a good book is the best thing a person can do. It not only make a person feel better but it also shapes ones outlook.

Secondly, at times we are so much caught in our hectic lives and its problems that we seldom enjoy a moment of peace. At such times a good book can help one escape from the vicious cycle of problems that we usually encounter in our lives. There are many such occasions where we find the character



trapped in the problem similar to the one we are encountering in our lives.

When we read a book that deals with the same emotions that one is undergoing, it makes the person feel better as he can relate to it somehow. This further reduces the feelings of alienation that a particular individual might be experiencing.

Apart from the above mentioned benefits, reading also helps in improving emotional health. For example, Catherine Winter in her article '10 Benefits of Reading: Why You Should Read Every Day' mentions various benefits of reading such as it helps in stress reduction, vocabulary expansion, memory improvement, improved focus

and concentration etc.

Therefore, it becomes very clear how beneficial is reading to a person.

It also becomes a medium of communication with the author. Someone who's lived or is living in some other part of the world, you get familiarized with his way of thinking. Books connect

us not only to the author but to other readers as well.

More importantly, the more you get into the habit of reading, the more you fall in love with it and a book provides you good company as well.

Reading books can also become a means to strengthen bonds within families. You may read out some chapters from a book to



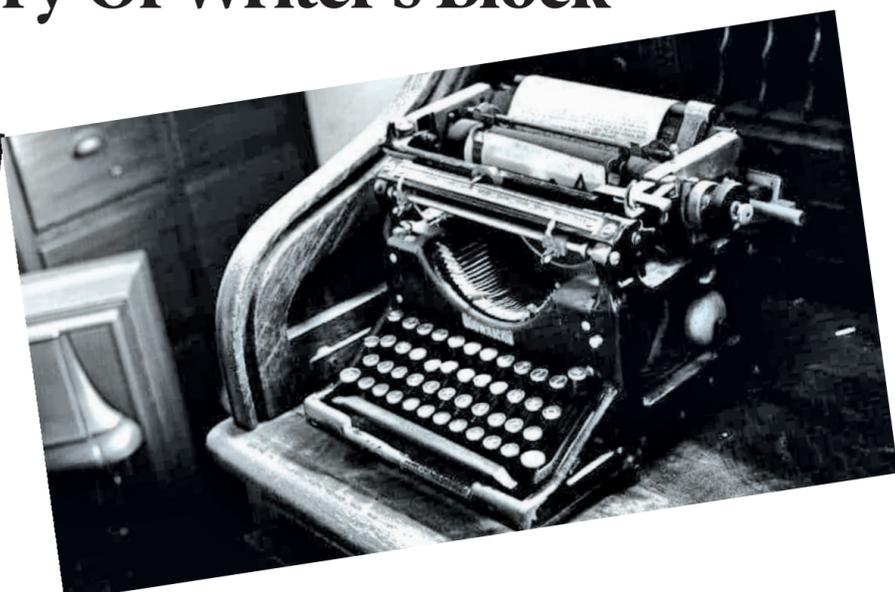
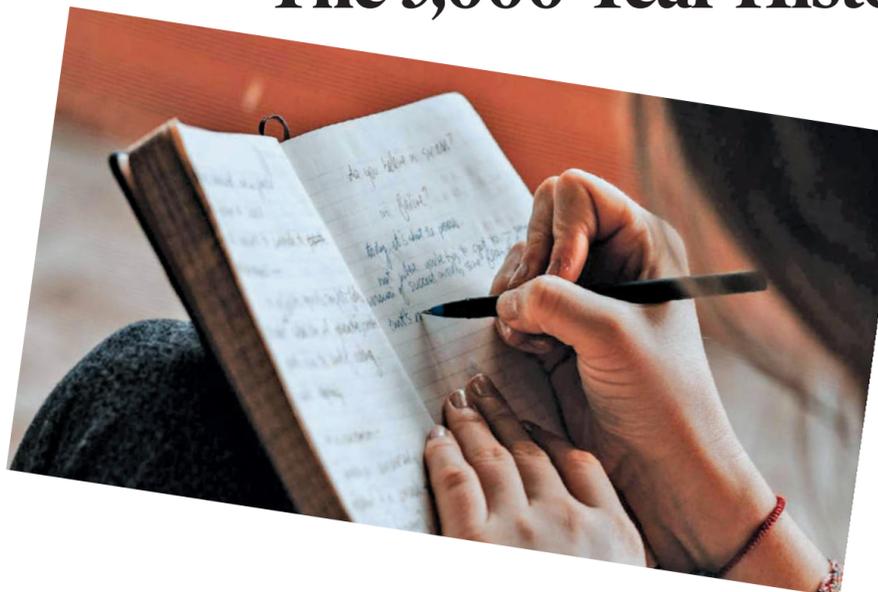
WHEN WE READ A BOOK THAT DEALS with the same emotions that one is undergoing, it makes the person feel better as he can relate to it somehow. This further reduces the feelings of alienation that a particular individual might be experiencing

your elders or children who don't know how to read or who are too small to read book. Therefore, you can enjoy a good family time that'll keep all of you engrossed in something useful.

Thus, there are endless reasons that can be stated in order to emphasise the advantages of staying connected with books. So, when are you buying yours!

The writer is currently pursuing her MA English at Mount Carmel College Bengaluru

The 5,000-Year History Of Writer's Block



Sure, tallying counts of sheep or bushels of grain might seem like rote work. Yet early in the development of writing systems, the physical act of writing was exceedingly difficult – and one of the reasons schoolchildren prayed for help with their handwriting

Joyce Kinkead

Ann Patchett, who has written eight novels and five books of nonfiction, says that when faced with writer's block, sometimes it seems that the muse has "gone out back for a smoke."

It doesn't matter whether you're an award-winning novelist or a high schooler tasked with writing an essay for English class: The fear and frustration of writing doesn't discriminate.

My most recent book, "A Writing Studies Primer," includes a chapter on gods, goddesses and patron saints of writing. When conducting research, I was struck by how writers have consistently sought divine inspiration and intercession.

It turns out that frustrated writers who pine for a muse or help from above are adhering to a 5,000-year-old tradition.

THE FIRST WRITERS LOOK TO THE SKIES

The first writing system, cuneiform, arose in Sumer around 3200 BC to keep track of wheat, transactions, real estate and recipes. Scribes used clay tablets to record the information – think of them as early spreadsheets.

Originally the Sumerian goddess of grain, Nisaba became associated with writing. She was depicted holding a gold stylus and clay tablet.

As it was common for people to adopt a god or goddess for their

professions, a new class of scribes latched onto Nisaba. Practice tablets from schools that trained young scribes invoke her name – "Praise be to Nisaba!" Poets trumpeted her influence and credited her for giving beautiful handwriting to diligent students.

Her Egyptian counterpart was Seshat, whose name translates to "female scribe."

Identifiable by a stylized papyrus as her headdress and a stylus in her right hand, Seshat guided the reed pens of scribes as priests communicated with the divine.

Writing was all about communicating with the gods, and the Greeks and Romans continued this tradition. They turned to the nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, known collectively as the Muses. Calliope stands out most notably, not only because a musical instrument was named after her, but also because she was considered the foremost of the sisters for her eloquence.

The Muses have since evolved into one overarching "muse" that serves as a source of inspiration.

GLOBAL GODS AND GODDESSES OF WRITING

Gods and other legendary figures of writing are not limited to Western civilization.

In China, the historian Cangjie, who lived in the 27th century B.C., is said to have created the characters of the Chinese language. Legend has it that he was inspired by the pattern

of veins on a turtle. (Back then, the Chinese often wrote on turtle shells.)

A competing story says that cultural folk hero Fuxi and his sister Nüwa created the system of Chinese characters circa 2000 B.C. Yet it is Cangjie's name that lives on in the Cangjie Input Method, which refers to the system that allows Chinese characters to be typed using a standard QWERTY keyboard.

In India, writers still invoke the elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesha before putting ink to paper. Known as a remover of obstacles, Ganesha can be especially meaningful for those struggling with writer's block. There's also Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of learning and the arts, who's renowned for her eloquence.

In Mesoamerica, Mayan culture looked to Itzamná as the deity who provided the pillars of civilization: writing, calendars, medicine and worship rituals. His depiction as a toothless and wise old man signaled that he was not to be feared, an important characteristic for someone promoting an anxiety-inducing process like writing.

ENTER THE PATRON SAINTS

In Christianity, patron saints are exemplars or martyrs who serve as role models and heavenly advocates. Various groups – professions, people with a certain illness and even entire nations – will adopt a patron saint.

Within the Catholic Church, a range of patron saints can serve as

inspiration for writers.

St. Brigid of Ireland, who lived from 451 to 525, is the patron saint of printing presses and poets. A contemporary of the better-known St. Patrick, St. Brigid established a monastery for women, which included a school of art that became famous for its handwritten, decorative manuscripts, particularly the Book of Kildare.

Following St. Brigid in Ireland is St. Columba, who lived from 521 to 597 and founded the influential abbey at Iona, an island off the coast of Scotland. A renowned scholar, St. Columba transcribed over 300 books over the course of his life.

The influence of patron saints dedicated to literacy – reading and writing – continued long after the Middle Ages. In 1912, the College of Saint Scholastica was founded in Minnesota in tribute to Scholastica (480-543), who with her twin brother, Benedict (died in 547), enjoyed discussing sacred texts. Both Italian patron saints came to be associated with books, reading and schooling.

OBJECTS CHARGED WITH POWER

Some writers may think supernatural figures seem a bit too far removed from the physical world. Fear not – there are magical objects that they can touch for inspiration and help, such as talismans. Derived from the ancient Greek word *telein*, which means to "fulfill," it was an object that – like an amulet – pro-

tected the bearer and facilitated good fortune.

Today, you can buy talismans drawn on ancient Celtic symbols that purport to help with the writing process. One vendor promises "natural inspiration and assist in all of your writing endeavors." Another supplier, Magickal Needs, advertises a similar product that supposedly helps "one find the right word at the most opportune moment."

Others turn to crystals. A writer's block crystals gift set available through Etsy offers agate, carnelian, tiger eye, citrine, amethyst and clear quartz crystals to help those struggling to formulate sentences.

WHAT MAKES A WRITER?

What drove the creation of divine beings and objects that can inspire and intercede on the behalf of writers?

To me, it's no mystery why writers have sought divine intervention for 5,000 years.

Sure, tallying counts of sheep or bushels of grain might seem like rote work. Yet early in the development of writing systems, the physical act of writing was exceedingly difficult – and one of the reasons schoolchildren prayed for help with their handwriting. Later, the act of creation – coming up with ideas, communicating them clearly and engaging readers – could make writing feel like a herculean task. Ironically, this complex skill does not

necessarily get easier, even with lots of practice.

The romantic image of the writer in the garret doesn't do justice to the tedious reality of churning out words, one after another.

In his memoir "On Writing," Stephen King reflected, "Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work." At the suggestion of a friend, the writer Patchett attached a sign-in sheet to the door of her writing room to ensure she wrote every day.

No matter how accomplished a writer, he or she will inevitably struggle with writer's block. Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee, who began contributing to *The New Yorker* in 1963, details his writer's block in a 2013 article: "Block. It puts some writers down for life." Another famous writer for *The New Yorker*, Joseph Mitchell, was struck by writer's block in 1964 and simply sat and stared at his typewriter for 30 years.

I've even wrestled with this article, writing and rewriting it in my head a dozen times before actually typing the first word.

Poet and satirist Dorothy Parker once said, "I hate writing; I love having written."

You and me both, Dorothy.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Computational Model Of Brain Helps Unravel Role Of Sleep In Memory Formation: Study

Press Trust Of India

Washington, Oct 25 (PTI) Scientists have unravelled more details about how various stages of sleep help in memory formation and storage, according to a study.

A team of scientists from the University of Pennsylvania has found that as the body moves between rapid-eye movement (REM) and slow-wave sleep cycles, the hippocampus and the neocortex interact in ways that are key to memory formation.

The hippocampus is the brain's centre for new memories and is tasked with learning the world's day-to-day episodic information while the neocortex is responsible for facets such as language, higher-level cognition and more permanent memory storage.

"We have known for a long time that useful learning happens during sleep," said lead researcher Anna Schapiro.

"You encode new experiences while you are awake, you go to sleep, and when you wake up your memory has somehow been transformed," the researcher said.

Yet, precisely how the new experiences get processed during sleep has remained largely a mystery, according to the team.

Using a neural network computational model that the researchers built, they now have new insight into the process.

As the brain cycles through



slow-wave and REM sleep, which happens about five times a night, the hippocampus "teaches" the neocortex what it learned, transforming novel, fleeting information into enduring memory, according to the study, which is published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

"This is not just a model of learning in local circuits in the brain. It is how one brain region can teach another brain region during sleep, a time when there is no

guidance from the external world," Schapiro said.

"It is also a proposal for how we learn gracefully over time as our environment changes," she said.

Schapiro, who studies learning and memory in humans, had long thought that sleep played a part here, something she and her team have been testing in a lab, and recording what happens in the brain as participants sleep.

Her team also builds neural network models to simulate learn-

ing and memory functions. For this work specifically, Schapiro and her colleagues built a neural network model composed of a hippocampus and the neocortex.

During simulated sleep, the researchers can watch and record which simulated neurons fire when in these two areas, then analyse those activity patterns.

The team, according to the study, ran several sleep simulations using a brain-inspired learning algorithm it built. The

The hippocampus is the brain's centre for new memories and is tasked with learning the world's day-to-day episodic information while the neocortex is responsible for facets such as language, higher-level cognition and more permanent memory storage.

simulations revealed that during slow-wave sleep, the brain mostly revisits recent incidents and data, guided by the hippocampus, and during REM sleep, it mostly reruns what happened previously, guided by memory storage in the neocortical regions.

"As the two brain regions connect during non-REM sleep, that is when the hippocampus is actually teaching the neocortex," Dhairrya Singh, another researcher in Schapiro's lab, said.

"Then, during the REM phase, the neocortex reactivates and can replay what it already knows, solidifying the data's hold in long-term memory," he said, adding that the alternation between the two sleep

stages matters too.

"When the neocortex does not have a chance to replay its own information, we see that the information there gets overwritten. We think you need to have alternating REM and non-REM sleep for strong memory formation to occur," Singh said.

The findings are consistent with what is known in the field, though aspects of the model are still theoretical, the team said in a statement. "We still need to test this," Schapiro said.

"One of our next steps will be to run experiments to understand whether REM sleep is truly bringing up old memories and what implications that might have for integrating new information into your existing knowledge," she said.

Because the current simulations were based on a typical adult getting a healthy night of sleep, the research findings do not necessarily transfer to other types of adults or less-than-stellar sleep habits, the scientists said.

They also do not offer insight into what is happening with children, who require different amounts and types of shut-eye than adults. Schapiro said she sees great potential for her model to answer some of these outstanding questions.

"Having a tool like this allows you to go in many directions, especially because sleep architecture changes across the lifespan and in various disorders, and we can simulate these changes in the model," she said.

Evidence Updated On Blood Clotting Side Effect Of Covid Jab: Study

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have uncovered more knowledge about the risk of developing a very rare blood clotting condition following vaccination against covid, according to a study.

Based on health data from five European countries and the US, the study shows an increased risk of the condition, called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), after first-dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine (same as Covishield in formulation).

with mRNA-based covid vaccines.

Their findings were based on routinely collected health data for more than 10 million adults in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and the US who received at least one dose of a covid vaccine (Oxford-AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or Janssen/Johnson & Johnson) from December 2020 to mid-2021.

Further, to minimise possible error, participants were matched by the researchers by age and sex and a range of other potentially influential factors such as pre-existing conditions and medication

use were taken into account.

The researchers then compared rates of thrombosis and of thrombocytopenia between the adenovirus vaccines (Oxford-AstraZeneca or Janssen/Johnson & Johnson) and the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) within 28 days after vaccination.

Overall, 1.3 million first dose Oxford-AstraZeneca recipients were matched to 2.1 million Pfizer-BioNTech recipients from Germany and the UK. An additional 7,62,517 people receiving Janssen/Johnson & Johnson were matched to 2.8 million receiving Pfizer-BioNTech in Germany, Spain, and the US, and all 6,28,164 Janssen/Johnson & Johnson recipients from the US were matched to 2.2 million Moderna recipients.

A total of 862 thrombocytopenia events were found in the matched first dose Oxford-AstraZeneca recipients from Germany and the UK, and 520 events after a first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech.

When the data were pooled together, analysis showed a 30 per cent increased risk of thrombocytopenia after first dose of Oxford-AstraZeneca compared with Pfizer-BioNTech - an absolute risk difference of 8.21 per one lakh recipients, the study found.

No differential risk of thrombocytopenia was seen after a second dose of Oxford-AstraZeneca compared with a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech.

Similarly, no increased risk of thrombocytopenia was noted after Janssen/Johnson & Johnson compared with first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech.

This is an observational study, and the researchers acknowledge that the rarity of the condition and incomplete vaccine records may have affected the results.

Additionally, the scientists cannot rule out the possibility that some of the observed risks may have been due to other unmeasured and confounding factors.

However, the study claims to be well-designed and that it allowed comparison of available vaccines with each other, rather than with no vaccination, and that the results were consistent after additional analyses, suggesting that they withstand scrutiny.

To our knowledge, this is the first multinational analysis of the comparative safety of adenovirus based compared with mRNA based covid-19 vaccines," said the authors.

"Although these events are very rare, absolute numbers of affected patients could become substantial owing to the large numbers of vaccine doses administered worldwide," they warned.



The study, published in The British Medical Journal (BMJ), also shows a trend towards an increased risk after the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine, compared with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The researchers stressed that the syndrome is very rare, but said the observed risks "should be considered when planning further immunisation campaigns and future vaccine development."

TTS occurs when a person has blood clots (thrombosis) as well as low blood platelet counts (thrombocytopenia). According to the study, it is very rare and different from general clotting conditions like deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or lung clots (pulmonary embolism).

TTS is currently being investigated as a rare side effect of adenovirus-based covid vaccines, which use a weakened virus to trigger an immune response against coronavirus, but no clear evidence exists on the comparative safety of different types of vaccines, according to the study.

To address this knowledge gap, an international team of researchers set out to compare the risk of TTS or thromboembolic events associated with the use of adenovirus-based covid vaccines

TTS occurs when a person has blood clots (thrombosis) as well as low blood platelet counts (thrombocytopenia). According to the study, it is very rare and different from general clotting conditions like deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or lung clots (pulmonary embolism).

(2nd Call)

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.198 of 2022-23 issued under endorsement No.13445-54
Dated:27.10.2022

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 T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contactor
1.	Renovation of cement concrete drain from H/O Bashir Ahmad Khan to Land of Manzoor Ahmad Dar at Gangerhama Under Normal Grants.	Rs.1.02 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.2040/=	10-Days	Normal Grants	DEE

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

- 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	27-10-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27/10/2022 from 5:00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	27/10/2022 from 5:00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	02/11/2022 upto 4:00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	02/11/2022 at 4:05 P.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

- 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.
- 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.
- Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.
- 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).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical
- 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 timelimit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- 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 I by registered post /through courier before the dates specified in Para-1.
- 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 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.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- 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.
- The %age rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage above/below/at par at the bottom of the BOQ percentage template 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.
- 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.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

No.13445-54
Dated-28-10-22

DIPK-12438/22



GI Tagging Of Kashmir Saffron Enhances Its Value At Int'l Level: Dulloo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Friday visited Saffron areas of Pampore to review the status of flower picking operations going on in the fields.

Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal besides Administrator India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC), Shah Nawaz Ahmad Shah, Agriculture Information Officer, Sheikh Imran, member Kisan Board, Irshad Ahmad and other senior officers accompanied the ACS.

ACS visited saffron fields and inspected the saffron flower picking operations there. He reviewed status of various interventions being made by the department besides assessing latest technologies adopted by the saffron growers.

ACS, while talking to media, said that the aim of today's visit was to seek feedback regarding the facilities being provided to the saffron growers by the department.

Dulloo said that the saffron (Corocus Sativus Kashmirianus) is a legendary crop of Jammu

and Kashmir. "It is an important cash crop and the department is enduring to boost this harvest to its full potential", he added.

Regarding the IIKSTC, ACS said that the centre has been established by the department to provide saffron growers with the best facilities for their pre and post harvest besides marketing of their produce.

Atal Dulloo said that adoption of latest technologies by the saffron farmers will not only increase the production but will ensure better quality to the consumers as well. He said GI tagging of saffron has increased its value and significance opening up new vistas for its trade at international level.

Atal Dulloo said the quality of Kashmir saffron is much better than the quality of saffron from other countries like Spain and Iran. He asked the concerned officers to work in a way that the economic benefit of this unique quality of Kashmir saffron reaches the concerned saffron farmers.

Earlier, Director enumerated various initiatives being taken up by the department towards the promotion of saffron and its marketing.

GOI Committed To Provide Congenial Atmosphere For Entrepreneurship: MoS MSME



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Union Minister of State for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma Friday visited Industrial Growth Centre Laspipora, Pulwama to review the Industrial scenario there.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary and SSP, Pulwama Shri Ghulam Jeelani besides officers from other concerned departments.

MoS visited some new industrial units functioning in the estate and had an extensive round of infrastructure of manufacturing units.

He appreciated their business model and the state of the art

technology engaged to add value to the local produce. He recognized and lauded their contribution toward self-reliance and employment generation.

He said Govt of India (GOI) is committed towards providing congenial atmosphere for entrepreneurship. He added that the ease of doing business policy of Govt has led to flourishing of Industry and Entrepreneurship. He said that IGC Laspipora is the growth engine of industry and is a developmental model for rest of Union Territory of J&K.

The Minister also visited CA stores, Pencil slate manufacturing unit, Horticulture driven units like apple juice manufacturing plants etc. located in the estate.

During his visit to the pencil slate manufacturing unit, MoS was appraised by the authorities regarding the speciality of Pulwama in Pencil Slate manufacturing. He was informed that the district is the highest exporter of Pencil slates catering to almost 80 percent of the demand of the pencil manufacturing units in the country giving it the name of Pencil District.

During the interaction with Industrialists at IGC, several demands were raised including upgradation of Infrastructure, establishment of SIDBI office, revival of sick units, amnesty for power tariffs, connectivity of road from IGC Laspipora to Sangam connecting IGC with National Highway 44.

Got 1 Crore? This Country Will Give You A 'Second Home' Visa For 10 Years

Bloomberg

JAKARTA: Indonesia has entered the race to attract wealthy global citizens for long-term stays, seeking to bolster Southeast Asia's largest economy with a focus on its trump card: Bali.

The country is offering "second home" visas for five years and 10 years to those with at least 2 billion rupiah (\$130,000 or Rs 1 crore) in their bank accounts, according to a new regulation issued on Tuesday. The policy takes effect on Christmas, or 60 days after the issuance of the new rule.

Mexico offering long-term stays to lure professionals, retirees and other affluent people. All are seeking to tap into a growing demand for migration options as legions of educated workers, known as digital nomads, look to use their newfound freedom after the pandemic to keep doing their job remotely.

Indonesia floated plans for a digital nomad visa in 2021, focused on attracting visitors to Bali, the nation's top destination for international holidaymakers and a major source of foreign-currency earnings.

The timing of the launch co-



"This is a non-fiscal incentive for certain foreigners to make a positive contribution to the Indonesian economy," said Acting Director General for Immigration Widodo Ekajahjana during a launch ceremony in the resort island.

Indonesia adds to a list of countries from Costa Rica to

incides with the sharp rebound in tourist arrivals to Indonesia as airlines like Garuda Indonesia resume international flights. The upcoming G-20 Summit in Bali in November is expected to put the international spotlight on the island on top of bringing in tens of thousands of delegates.

UMEED Nurturing Rural Women To Make Them Self Sufficient: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) is creating sustainable livelihoods opportunities and nurturing the rural women to make them self-sufficient and enjoy a decent quality of life.

JKRLM also known as UMEED is turning the wheel of transformation for J&K women to become progressive and self-employed entrepreneurs. UMEED has the potential to give wings to aspirations of rural women who dream of becoming economically independent.

JKRLM (Umeed) has a mandate to reach out to 66 percent of rural population across the erstwhile 125 blocks linking them to sustainable livelihood opportunities. The Mission aims to reduce poverty by building strong grassroots institutions of poor, engaging them in gainful livelihood interventions and ensuring appreciable improve-

ment in their income on a sustainable basis.

Women Haat Srinagar provides a platform for the SHG members to exhibit their products and services. Every year a minimum of 5000 women get a chance to ex-



hibit their products there.

The enterprise of Sunita Devi of village Bal Argi, Block Budhal of District Rajouri is a fine source of inspiration for many rural women. Despite having no financial backup, Sunita started a school in the far flung area up to 8th standard with enrolment of more than 150 students with the help of JKRLM/ UMEED and earns handsome income from this venture.

Secy Tourism Discusses Modalities For Promoting Pahalgam As Preferred Winter Destination



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez, Friday held a meeting with Pahalgam Hoteliers Club to discuss modalities and arrangements for making Pahalgam vibrant throughout the winter season so that Pahalgam emerges as one of the finest winter destinations in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting had deliberate discussion on several issues and strategies as well needed to be planned and implemented for boosting tourism in the picturesque abode of Pahalgam with specific focus on winters.

The department of Tourism in collaboration with Pahalgam Hoteliers Club is initiating several innovative steps

in this direction like arranging musical evenings and a month long festivities starting from 20th December, 2022. The whole Pahalgam market would be illuminated magnificently during these days so as to make give a phenomenal outlook to this heaven on earth during the winters.

It was informed in the meeting that a winter festival will also be held in the month of December and January to promote Pahalgam vigorously as one of the most favorite and sought out winter destinations.

The meeting also discussed other issues like signages and facade at Pahalgam market besides making club house functional at Pahalgam Golf Course.

The Pahalgam Hoteliers

Club assured the administration their full cooperation for making Pahalgam an all weather destination.

Moreover, various other activities are in offing in Pahalgam which inter alia included nature walk, bird walk and heritage village walk.

Recently, the department of Tourism organized some wonderful events at Pahalgam, the notable being Fly Fishing Competition (Angling Competition) in the month of September, 2022 and Bird Festival in the month of October, 2022 with participation of renowned birders from across the country including members from Sanctuary Nature Foundation, Mumbai and Bombay Natural History Society.

India Needs 108 Mn Ton Of Foodgrains A Year To Be Distributed To The Poor: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: The country needs 108 million tonnes of foodgrains every year to support 80 crore poor people who get 10 kg of rice or wheat every month, under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana, said Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday.

In an interactive session at the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Goyal said there is a fear that production of foodgrains may drop in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, though it is not confirmed yet due to untimely rain.

The Minister said 80 crore people were already getting food security with foodgrains (of) about 5 kg per person or 35 kg for the very poor Antyodaya families and under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana, the quota was doubled with an additional 5 kg.

"... I need 40 lakh tonnes every month for additional foodgrains. We already need 50 lakh tonnes in addition to that. So that means 90 lakh tonnes of food grains -wheat and rice every month we require. So, in a year, it becomes 1080 lakh tonnes. Poor people almost get it free," he said.

He said until last month, India encouraged export of the com-

modity. But as the whole world today is in crisis, the government has to ensure food security for the people, Goyal said justifying the 20 per cent levy on rice exports.

According to him, prices of rice have remained stable and, therefore, the government did not stop the exports of the foodgrain.

Goyal, also Commerce Minis-



ter, said Indian exports clocked USD 675 billion last year, for the first time ever.

"Till September, we are at about 17 per cent growth for the first six months and this year, 75 years of India's independence, we are hoping to cross USD 750 billion," he hoped.

Exports are going to define the future of India and it should be turned into a manufacturing hub, he added.

SHORT TAKES

Ease Logistics Burden On Exporters: FM to States

Press Trust Of India

KAKINADA: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday asked States to adopt a multi-modal approach and ensure logistics did not become a burden on exporters.

She said the PM Gati Shakti was a beautiful protocol with which a synergy could be brought in. Delivering the inaugural address after inaugurating the third campus of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in Kakinada, Sitharaman referred to 'One District-One Product' and 'Vocal for Local', initiatives, aimed at promoting local products and creating their export markets. She said the Commerce Ministry was working on getting an export policy that would help the exporters by giving them incentives and promoting many things.

"There's a repetitive and very relevant line that the Commerce Minister refers to We can't be exporting taxes. We also should identify ways in which those taxes whether Centre, State or local that are on these products should be removed so that we don't burden their exporters," the Finance Minister said. The governments did not get much revenue from those products but burdened the exporters nevertheless, she noted.

Gaming App Gets ₹21,000 Crore Tax Notice

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: The High Court of Karnataka has said that if it is proved that the same games which have already been decided as 'game of skill' by the courts, the Rs 21,000 crore tax notice on an online gaming company will go nowhere.

The intimation notice of Rs 21,000 crore by the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Intelligence on the Karnataka-based online gaming platform Gameskraft, has been challenged before the high court by the company.

The September 8 notice sought to impose 28 per cent GST on the company's transactions. The company, in its submission before the high court bench of Justice SR Krishna Kumar, on Thursday argued that the platform only conducts 'games of skill' and not 'games of chance.'

The game of Rummy, which has been held to be a 'game of skill,' by several high courts and Supreme Court constituted 96 per cent of the games played on the online platform. Senior Counsel Abishek Manu Singhvi made the submissions on behalf of the company.

He also submitted that in an earlier case between All India Gaming Federation and State of Karnataka, the very games on the platform were held to be 'game of skill,' by the court.

CBI Arrests Punjab Textile Co's Chief In Bank Fraud Case

Press Trust Of India

LUDHIANA: The CBI has arrested director of Ludhiana-based SEL Textiles Neeraj Saluja in connection with a ₹1530.99 crore fraud case in the Central Bank of India, officials said on Friday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had booked the yarn and fabrics manufacturing company, which has units at Malout and Nawanshahr in Punjab, Nemrana in Rajasthan and Hansi in Haryana, on August 6, 2020, along with its directors on a complaint from the bank.

Neeraj Saluja will be produced before a special court in Mohali on Saturday, the officials said.

"It was alleged that huge amounts of bank loans were diverted by the accused to its related parties and subsequently, adjustment entries were made. It was also alleged that the accused had shown procurement of machineries from non-reputed suppliers and thereby over-invoiced the bills," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said huge amount of primary security against the credit limit such as stock and finished goods were allegedly disposed off by the accused to misappropriate bank money as sale proceeds of goods were not deposited with the bank.

Sebi Imposes Rs 27 Lakh Fine On 2 Entities

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi on Friday imposed a total penalty of Rs 27 lakh on two entities for violating regulatory norms in the matter of RFL International Ltd.

According to a Sebi order, the market regulator imposed a fine of Rs 17 lakh on RFL International Ltd and Rs 7 lakh on its managing director Anish Shah for alleged fraudulent issuance of share certificates dated April, 2011 to certain entities without any regulatory compliance.

Sebi had received copies of share certificates dated April 2011 of RFL International Ltd from certain entities which were issued to them by RFL. However, it was observed that there was no change in shareholding structure of RFL for the quarter ended March 2011 to June 2011.

Thereafter, Sebi conducted an investigation in the matter of RFL International for the period January 2011 to June 2011.

Pursuant to probe, the regulator found that RFL International received funds from certain entities and in exchange, it had issued shares certificate to them which it did not have listing and trading permission.

Further, RFL International neither informed BSE nor listed the said shares on BSE. It did not increase its paid up share capital.

Will Review GST If Cong Assumes Power: Rahul

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said if the party comes to power at the Centre, there would be a revisit of GST (goods and services tax).

Addressing a gathering in Mahabubnagar District as part of his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', he alleged that the existing faulty GST regime and Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's demonetisation in 2016 ruined small and medium businesses. "When our government assumes power in Delhi, we will revisit GST and there will be only one tax (slab) not five (slabs)," he said.

He promised that if the Congress comes to power in Telangana, the Forest Rights Act would be implemented in toto for the benefit of adivasis.

Dubbing Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, also known as KCR, as the 'rajah' of the State, Gandhi said KCR's motto is to grab land and money of the people of Telangana.

He alleged that BJP and TRS work in tandem and the latter supports all the Bills introduced by the NDA government in Parliament.

"On the one hand, BJP is spreading hatred and on the other TRS supports it. Whatever BJP wants TRS fulfils it in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha," he said.

DC Kupwara Reviews Progress Of Employment Generation Schemes

Gives target for sanction of 750 cases with deadline of November 25

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Dattatray today convened a meeting of all concerned officers and bankers connected with employment generation programme to review the progress of various employment generation schemes under District Industries Centre, NRLM, KVIB, KVIC, Handicraft/Handloom, Agriculture and allied departments.

The DC took a detailed review of all employment schemes and received feedback from the concerned officers.

He gave a target for sanctioning of 750 cases in different employment generation schemes with deadline of November 25, this year for which he asked all line departments and LDM to nominate Nodal Officers who will work under single window system.

He asked the officers to ensure maximum facilitation and easing procedure of formalities for the greater benefits of employment of educated unemployed youth of the district. He nominated Functional Manger DIC and Industrial Promotion Officer as coordinators for accomplishment of the targets.

The DC also gave target for sanction of 10 cases in each panchayat of Kupwara district under MUMKIN scheme of District Employment & Counseling Centre.

Referring to the disposal of the cases for sponsorship and other related activities, the DC said that rejection of cases shall not be allowed in any case, adding that it shall

be the responsibility of the concerned administration to complete the formalities of the beneficiaries. "I will ensure that 90% of cases applied should be sanctioned", said he adding that the success rate of the cases counts efficiency of the department.

The DC asked officers to infuse positivity in work culture and facilitate beneficiaries. He also asked officers and bankers to work in tandem so that better results could be yielded at ground level.

He stressed upon the officers of line departments to further upgrade the awareness among the youth and propose new and creative things in these cases.

The DC asked AD Handicrafts to work out for establishment of one showroom/ Rural Haat within the area from Drugmulla to Kupwara town so that market avenues for the handicraft and other items could be enhanced.

Regarding Back to Village 4 programme, the DC said that identifying unemployed youth is one of the most important tasks of the ambitious programme. He said 15 unemployed youth shall be identified in each panchayat with their field of interest and feasibility. He further added that 20 potential candidates from each panchayat shall be identified under Himayat scheme. He said this database will further boost the employment generation programme in the district.

Among others, JD Planning, ACP, CAO, LDM, DSWO, DIO, FM-DIC, IPO, AD Handicrafts, AD Fisheries and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Union MoS Dr Murugan Concludes Two Day J&K Visit



Observer News Service

Kulgam: The two day visit of Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Dairying, Animal Husbandry and Information and Broadcasting Dr. L Murugan to UT of Jammu & Kashmir concluded Friday.

The minister was on a two today visit to district Kulgam as a part of the Central Government's Public Outreach Programme.

On the second day of the visit, the Minister inspected the departmental stalls and also interacted with delegations, Self Help Group (SHG) members and beneficiaries of various government schemes. He also distributed some household items among PMAY-G beneficiaries for Ghar Pravesh and also distributed sanction letters among the beneficiaries of PMAY-U and other schemes.

During his interaction with the beneficiaries, the Minister stated that the Union Government is committed towards the holistic development of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that Prime

Minister Sh Narendra Modi has prioritized the initiative of public outreach of Union Ministers to J&K to assess the execution of developmental projects and the implementation of various welfare schemes at the ground level.

Elaborating on the necessity of developing the tourism sector in the region, the minister stressed that the Government is undertaking appropriate measures to boost the tourism sector in the region for employment generation and economic upliftment.

The Minister was informed that there are 3200 SHG groups under NRLM in the district, 54000 employment opportunities were generated in different sectors through various self employment generation schemes and 1414 units of PMAY-G were also completed in the district.

The minister also laid the foundation stone of a marriage hall to be completed at an estimated cost of 6.9 crore rupees.

During his visit the minister also interacted with the public representatives of the district who apprised him of the

grievances and demands of the people. The minister assured the representatives of the timely resolution of their demands.

Dr. Murugan complimented the district administration for timely completion of the different projects. Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, SSP Kulgam Dr. G. V. Sandeep and other senior officers were present during the outreach programme.

Later, the Minister also presided over a valedictory function at Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Srinagar. Dr Murugan handed over certificates of participation to participants of "Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production" and "Organic Vegetable Cultivation - Technology and Techniques" training programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Murugan presented an overview of the various initiatives of the Government of India to make the dairying, animal husbandry and fisheries sectors self reliant under the able guidance of the Prime Minister.

SC to hear on Oct 31 plea seeking appointment of chairperson, others in law panel

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on October 31 a PIL seeking a direction to the Centre to declare the Law Commission as a "statutory body" and appoint the chairperson and members to the panel.

According to the cause list of October 31 uploaded on the apex court website, the petition is slated to come up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justices S R Bhat and Bela M Trivedi.

In a reply to the PIL, filed by the Ministry of Law and Justice in December 2021, it was said that there was no proposal under consideration to make the Law Commission a statutory body.

"It is submitted that the 22nd Law Commission was constituted on February 21, 2020, and the appointment of chairperson and members is under consideration with concerned authorities. However, no proposal is under consideration to make the Law Commission a statutory body," the ministry had said in its affidavit.

The Ministry had submitted that the petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay is frivolous and not maintainable as being devoid of merits.

The PIL, which made the ministries of Home Affairs and Law and Justice as well as the Law Commission of India as parties, said the cause of action arose on August 31, 2018 and is still continuing when

the tenure of the 21st Law Commission ended but the Centre has neither extended the tenure of its chairperson and members nor notified the 22nd Law Commission.

"Although on February 19, 2020, the Centre approved the constitution of Twenty-second Law Commission but it has not appointed the chairperson and members till date," Upadhyay said in the petition filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

The plea, which sought a direction to the Centre to appoint the chairperson and members to the 22nd law panel, has also urged the top court to do the needful itself.

"Alternatively, being custodian of the Constitution and protector of fundamental rights, the Court may be pleased to use its plenary constitutional power to appoint the chairperson and members of the Twenty Second Law Commission of India and declare that the Law Commission of India is a statutory body," it said.

Upadhyay has sought direction to the law panel, to be set up, to also consider his submission seeking action on the Vohra commission report on alleged nexus between politicians and criminals.

The PIL also sought action from the law panel on the plea "seeking 100 per cent confiscation of black money, benami property and disproportionate assets and life imprisonment to looters as a Representation and preparing two separate reports within three months".

ALTERNATIVELY, BEING CUSTODIAN OF THE CONSTITUTION AND PROTECTOR OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, the Court may be pleased to use its plenary constitutional power to appoint the chairperson and members of the Twenty Second Law Commission of India and declare that the Law Commission of India is a statutory body."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Buy Kangri From

They could do nothing about it except crying their hearts out. The pain made them numb. Their poor father eventually died a miserable death in their shanty.

Since then, little Rafaqat has been growing up with daily slog and struggles. Unlike the boys of his age, he has mostly led a childhood of depravity and distress. His glum face, aloof body-language and a lost gaze give away his existential anguish.

Even though Rafaqat's elder brother is working as a shuttering worker and his mother a peon, the neighbor informed, it hardly sustains the family of five.

"So," he says, "they now have a third earning hand in the family who should've been learning at this stage and age."

One of Rafaqat's sisters has lately quitted studies to manage home, leaving only him and his sister in school now.

"This boy from Badamwari colony attends school till 3pm every day before arriving at Mirza Kamil Chowk with his small stock of kangris," says a shopkeeper in the bustling square.

"His story is sad, but his spirit makes him a resilient soul."

PM Suggests

"The One Nation, One Uniform for police is just an idea. I am not trying to impose it on you. Just give it a thought. It may happen, it may happen in 5, 50, or 100 years. But let's give it a thought," Modi said.

He said this will not only ensure the manufacture of quality products because they will be used on a large scale but also will give a common identity to law enforcement personnel as people will recognise them anywhere in the country.

States can have their number or insignia, he added.

Modi also urged the state governments to review old laws and amend them to the current context as he battled for coordinated action by all the agencies to meet the emerging challenges of law and order and security.

Modi said it was "very important" to maintain a good perception of police and the "wrongs here" should be addressed.

Even though law and order is a state subject as per the Constitution, they are equally linked with the unity and integrity of the country, he said.

Modi said every state should learn, get inspired from each other and work together for internal security.

"Working together of states for internal security is a constitutional mandate as well as responsibility towards the nation," he added.

The prime minister said all agencies -- both central as well as that of states -- should cooperate with each other to ensure efficiency, better outcome and protection to the common man.

He said law and order is directly linked to development and hence it is everyone's responsibility to maintain peace.

"When the strength of the country will increase, the power of every citizen, every family will increase," he noted.

Modi said it is very important for the entire law and order system to be reliable and stressed for maintaining a good perception of police among the people.

He said several reforms for strengthening the law and order system have taken place in the last few years.

"We need to think about a common platform for technology that can be shared by all. Best practices of one state can be shared with others," he said, adding smart technology should be adopted for a smarter law and order system.

Referring to the circulation of fake news, Modi said fact check of such news is a must and technology plays a big role in it.

"People must be made aware of mechanisms to verify messages before forwarding them," he said.

The prime minister said the good old system of generating human intelligence by the police and security agencies should be strengthened for achieving better results.

He asked the states not to look at the budget while selecting technology as "investment in today's technology is a saving in the future".

Referring to the ongoing 'Amrit Kaal', the prime minister said an 'Amrit' generation will emerge carrying the essence of the 'Panch Pran'.

"The Panch Pran' must be the guiding force for good governance," he said.

Modi said the law and order system can be improved with the help of smart technology as maintaining law and order is a 24x7 job.

He pointed out that crime is no longer localised and instances of inter-state and international crimes are going up.

That is why mutual cooperation between state agencies as well as between central and state agencies is crucial, Modi said.

He said whether it is cybercrime or the use of drone technologies for the smuggling of weapons or drugs, the government needs to keep working towards new technologies to tackle the menace.

"The law and order system can be improved with the help of smart technology, the prime minister said, adding the 5G, along with its benefits, brings the need for a heightened alert.

Modi mentioned the 'Police Technology Mission' of the central government and stressed the need for a common platform as differing technologies of different states do not talk to each other.

"We should have a pan-India outlook, all our best practices should be interoperable and should have a common link," he said.

He also talked about the decriminalisation of many things in company law as a step in this direction and asked the states to also evaluate and get rid of outdated rules and laws.

Modi said the laws enacted by the central government aim to strongly handle corruption, terrorism and hawala.

"Laws like UAPA have given strength to the system in a decisive battle against terrorism," he said.

The prime minister also advocated the need to think about developing special capabilities for tourism-related policing.

He said tourists are the biggest and fastest ambassadors of the reputation of any place.

He also said police vehicles should never be old as it affects the efficiency of the force.

The two-day 'Chintan Shivir' is being organised here by the Union Home Ministry with the objective to prepare an action plan for the implementation of 'Vision 2047' and 'Panch Pran' announced in Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day speech.

Home secretaries and director generals of police (DGPs) of states, director generals of central armed police forces (CAPFs) and central police organisations (CPOs) are attending it.

Human Trafficking

for their rehabilitation has been initiated.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a case FIR No. 370/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at police Station Budgam.

Meanwhile, a police officer told Kashmir Observer that the medical examination of the rescued women was carried out while the accused have also been taken into remand.

"I think in a couple of days we will come to know if this gang was bringing women here to get them married against money, or there were other angles to it," the officer said, adding that all the rescued women were apparently from other states of the country.

The officer also suspected that the gang was not only operating in Budgam but other districts as well.

"We'll dig it out in the coming days, but possibly they operated in other districts of Kashmir as well," he added.

Blaze Renders 23

have been effected, Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Devansh Yadav said.

Relief material for the affected people is being sent, the officer said.

DM Rajnath Launches

projects are in Jammu and Kashmir, 18 each in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, five in Uttarakhand and 14 in other border states of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh,

Punjab and Rajasthan.

Speaking on the occasion, the defence minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensure the progress of far-flung areas to fulfil the security needs of the country.

Singh noted that infrastructure development along with the valour of the armed forces was the main reason that helped India effectively deal with the recent situation in the northern sector, in an apparent reference to Indian military's response to Chinese PLA's aggressive behaviour in eastern Ladakh.

He termed the new 75 projects as a testament to that "resolve" and said that these bridges, roads and helipads will facilitate military and civil transport in far-flung areas of the western, northern and north-eastern parts of the country, forming a part of the "development chain".

"Lack of infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir for decades post independence was one of the reasons behind the rise of terrorism in the Union Territory.

These internal disturbances resulted in significant decline in tourist footfall that impacted Ladakh also, as well as the entire nation" Singh said at the event.

He described connectivity with border areas as one of the focus areas of the government for the holistic development of the nation.

"Now, due to the government's efforts, the region is witnessing a new dawn of peace and progress. Our aim is to continue with the development of all states/UTs of the country," Singh added.

He said all the remote areas will be connected with the rest of the country soon and "together we will take the nation to newer heights of progress. BRO has a crucial role in achieving this objective".

Searches in Jammu

dogs have been pressed into service. Checking of incoming vehicles have been intensified and people have been asked to keep an eye on suspicious objects, they said.

Accused Held

Police Station Ganderbal and investigation was initiated.

Acting swiftly, he said, a police party led by SI Fayaz Ahmad I/C PP Nagbal started a hot pursuit of the unknown driver and arrested him after hectic efforts.

He said that the vehicle (JK01H-4211) has also been seized.

The spokesperson identified the accused driver as Ghulam Hassan Kandro of Ashai Bagh, Nigeen here.

"He has been shifted to the police station where he remains in custody. Further investigation of the case is in progress," he said.

"Our efforts should assure community members that Police are resolved to act tough against the individuals involved in

criminal activities," he added.

Army Pays Tributes

terrorist was apprehended alive. "Late Rifleman Kulbushan Manta had suffered gunshot wound and was evacuated by helicopter to 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar. The braveheart breathed his last at 12.30 pm on Thursday," the spokesperson said.

Hailing from a village in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh, Manta (27) had joined the Army in 2014. He is survived by his wife.

"The mortal remains of Late Rifleman Kulbushan Manta are being taken for last rites to his native place where he would be laid to rest with full military honours," the spokesperson added.

DM Lays Foundation

Despatch Complex in Chandigarh. Once constructed, it will be the world's largest 3D printed complex.

"With the onset of winter, once the passes close due to heavy snowfall, BRO extensively utilises air effort for movement of men, machinery and material to far-flung areas," the spokesperson said.

The existing air despatch subunit located in Chandigarh is being upgraded for providing comfort to transiting troops and to ensure efficient and uninterrupted delivery of essential stores and equipment for execution of works on ground, he said.

"The BRO will be undertaking the construction of the new complex in Chandigarh by incorporating the latest 3D printing technology and once completed, the building will boast of being the world's largest 3D printed complex," the spokesperson said.

The defence minister on Friday dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects including bridges, roads and helipads built at a cost of Rs 2,180 crore in strategically key areas of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim among others.

Singh praised the BRO saying it has a crucial role in taking the nation to newer heights of progress in days to come.

'Fake Ghee'

purchase only properly labeled ghee with relevant FSSAI certifications and stay away from counterfeit products.

"Further, the department has taken up the matter with Police authorities for a detailed investigation in the matter to enable the Department to book all those who are involved in the illegal practice," he added.

SIA Charges 3

Shafi Mir resident of Amargrah Sopore. (Juvenile) and Tahir Nisar Sheikh son of Nisar Rahid Mushtaq Ganie resident of Bagh-i-Rehmat Sopore among them charge sheet against two juveniles (CCL) were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board, Baramulla.

The case was initially registered in Police Station Tarzoo, Sopore on the

receipt of a docket from Police Component Sopore that militants are in search of an opportunity to attack Police/security forces in the general area of Takiybal Sopore. Based on the information, a Joint Naka comprising of Nafri of Army 52 RR, CRPF 177 BN and Police Component Sopore was established at Takiybal Sopore near Govt. Primary School. During Naka checking, three persons were seen under suspicious conditions coming from Darnambal towards Takiybal Sopore. On seeing the naka parties, the trio tried to escape, however were caught by the Naka nafri promptly and tactfully.

The spokesperson further stated that on their search, one pistol with magazine and 07 live cartridges of pistol were recovered from the possession of Rahid Mushtaq Ganie, 01 Ak 47 rifle and 01 live hand grenade was recovered from the possession of Amir Shafat Mir and 01 pistol with magazine and 03 live cartridges of pistol were recovered from the possession of Tahir Nisar Sheikh. The trio are un-categorized militants of proscribed militant organization LeT and had planned to carry out a militant attack. The recovered arms ammunition has been seized and case FIR No. 61/2022 stands registered in P/S Tarzoo, Sopore.

However, the investigation of the case was transferred to SIA, Srinagar on 16-07-2022 for further investigation. The investigation of the case was undertaken by SIA Srinagar which has been completed in less than four months period by the SIA (Kashmir), he said.

No Salary For

details and forward it to the concerned DDO for verification/update within the stipulated time period," reads a government circular.

"Further, it was also impressed upon all DDOs that the salary for the month of October, 2022 shall be disbursed only in favour of such employees who have registered/updated their service details on the JKHRMS portal which shall be duly verified by their concerned DDOs," it reads, adding, "Notwithstanding the above instructions, it has been observed that sizeable number of employees are yet to register themselves on JKHRMS, a matter which has been viewed seriously by the authorities."

Accordingly, the government said: "It is enjoined upon all DDOs that salary for the month of October, 2022 shall be disbursed in favour of those employees only who have registered themselves on the designated portal."

Further, the government said that employees who have already registered on the designated portal shall correct/update their service related details immediately for further verification by DDOs, "a process which shall be completed by or before 30" of November, 2022."



JKSC Holds Talent Hunt At GHSS Chanapora

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: J&K Sports Council embarking on a mission to extend the reach of sports activities to far-off areas of the J&K has now added a new vertical to the program, tapping the talent in school.

In one of its first kind, a two-day special talent hunt programme commenced in Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Chanapora Srinagar on Friday.

On day one, more than five hundred students from different schools under the cluster

of GHSS Chanapora along with students from the host school participated in day-long selection trials at the premises.

The selection trials were conducted by the Sports Council coach duo of Syed Shafiq Shafi and Shabir Ahmad in Judo and Yoga respectively.

The students had registered themselves for the selection trials well in advance with the physical education wing of the school. The selection trials in the disciplines of Judo and Yoga held on Friday shall follow with trials in Football, Cricket, and Pencak Silat today.

Inter-Semester Sports Week Begins At NIT

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal on Friday inaugurated the Inter-Semester Sports Week 2022, in which 16 teams from 8 semesters will be participating.

The inaugural function was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, while Institute's Registrar Prof. Syed

role of Physical Education Department in conducting sports activities round the year and assured his full cooperation for future projects. He said regular participation in sports activities teaches us to plan ahead and see through the consequences of our actions.

Students will play 8 games including Basketball, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Tug of War, Table Tennis, Chess and Carrom.



Kaiser Bukhari and Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Abdul Liman were special guests on the occasion.

Dr. Srinibash Mishra, SAS Coordinator was also present on the occasion. The tournament is being organised by the Department of Physical Education NIT Srinagar.

While inaugurating mega sports week, Prof. Sehgal applauded the

The tournament is being organised by Dr. Srinibash Mishra (SAS Coordinator), Kowsar Ali Mir (SAS Officer), Sohail Ahmad Baba (SAS Assistant), Abdul Gani Lone (Sr. Technician), Ghulam Hassan Dohi (Sr. Technician), Mohmmad Akbar Dar (Groundsman) and Habib Ullah Akhoun.

T20 WORLD CUP

'Battle Between Indian Batters & SA Pacers'



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: It will be a clash between India's batting firepower and South African pace attack when the two teams meet in the T20 World Cup on Sunday, said former Proteas all-rounder Lance Klusener.

India lead Group 2 with two wins in as many games while South Africa are second with three points from two games

including a no result against Zimbabwe.

"We might see another pacer in Perth. I was really impressed with the way (Tabraiz) Shamsi bowled the other night. He is a wicket-taker.

"It is about to change the balance of the team a bit with Dwaine (Pretorius) being injured...the game there for me will be how well the Indian batsmen can handle the pace of

South Africa," said Klusener.

Rain has played spoilsport in Australia with both the super 12 games washed out on Friday without a ball being bowled.

"The unfortunate thing for me at the World Cup has been the rain, that's been pretty much unseasonal, so little disappointed to be honest, it has been two rained out games. But that's the case for everybody."

Australia vs England, Ireland vs Afghanistan Games Washed Out



Reuters

The T20 World Cup clash between champions Australia and England was abandoned without a ball bowled due to rain on Friday, leaving both teams' semi-finals hopes hanging in the balance and disappointed fans booing at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

With the Ireland-Afghanistan match also washed out at the venue earlier on, England emerged from a miserable day at second in Group 1 among a logjam of teams on three points.

New Zealand, with a game in hand, lead the group on run-rate ahead of third-placed Ireland and fourth-placed Australia, but the Black Caps can break clear with victory over Sri Lanka in Sydney on Saturday.

With the top two sides advancing to the semis, none of England, Australia or Ireland can afford to lose another match in a tournament in which four out of 14 Super 12 games to date have been lost to rain.

Earlier, the Ireland-Afghanistan match was abandoned without a bowl balled due to

rain at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday, leaving the teams to split the points.

It was winless Afghanistan's second wash-out in the Super 12's after their New Zealand game at Melbourne was abandoned due to poor weather on Wednesday.

The no-result left Ireland second in Group 1 on three points after three matches behind leading New Zealand, though the Black Caps have a game in hand.

Afghanistan remain bottom of the Group on two points.

No Public World Cup Viewing: Barcelona In Qatar Protest

Agencies
BARCELONA: Barcelona won't offer public viewing venues to follow Spain's team during next month's World Cup in Qatar after its mayor said her city doesn't support holding the football tournament in a "dictatorship."

Spanish news agency EFE reports that Barcelona mayor Ada Colau rejected a request, by an opposition party during a city hall council session on Friday, to open a public venue for citizens to gather and watch Spain.

Colau said, according to EFE, that her city government would not "dedicate public re-

sources nor public spaces for the viewing of a World Cup that is being held in a dictatorship."

"It is a mistake to organize a global sports event, which should promote democratic values, peace and human rights, in a dictatorship," Colau said.

Colau, a leading member of a left-wing party, is a former housing activist who became mayor of Barcelona, Spain's second largest city, in 2015.

Human rights groups have criticized the choice of Qatar as World Cup host for its treatment of migrant workers and the gay community, among other issues. (AP)



Top Physical Form Helped Player Survive Italy Knife Attack

Agencies

MILAN: Being in top physical form helped Spanish football player Pablo Mari avoid life-threatening injuries in a knife attack at an Italian shopping center, the surgeon who operated on his wounded back said Friday.

"The surgery was a relatively simple one. Luckily there were only two damaged muscles," said Osvaldo Chiara, the director of the general surgery and trauma team at the Niguarda hospital in Milan. "(Mari's) muscular mass is such that the length of the knife that was used couldn't pass through the rib cage and hit his lung."

Monza, the Serie A club that Mari plays for on loan from Arsenal, said that Mari should spend another "two or three days" recovering at the hospital.

The club added that Mari will likely need two months of rest before resuming physical activity, while Monza CEO Adriano Galliani said it would likely be three months before Mari played again.

The Spanish defender posted a photo of himself on Instagram giving a thumbs-up gesture in his hospital bed, and wrote that he and his family "are all fine despite the circumstances."

The 29-year-old Mari called himself "lucky" to survive fol-



lowing injuries to his back and mouth.

Five people were stabbed Thursday and one was killed after a man grabbed a knife from a supermarket shelf, authorities said.

Police arrested a 46-year-old Italian man suspected in the attack at a shopping center in Assago, a suburb of Milan, carabinieri said.

The motive for the attacks was unknown, but police said the man showed signs of being psychologically unstable. There were no elements to suggest terrorism. (AP)

Players Gripped By Injury Fear As Qatar World Cup Draws Near

Agencies

MANCHESTER: The distress on Raphael Varane's face said it all.

The Manchester United and France defender couldn't hide his emotions as he feared his World Cup hopes were dead.

Pulling his shirt up over his face as he limped off the field at Stamford Bridge last week, he tried to wipe the tears from his eyes.

Varane was too distraught to talk to team doctors in the immediate aftermath, which left both him and United unsure of the extent of the hamstring injury he sustained in the 1-1 draw with Chelsea.

Earlier this month Tottenham's Richarlison cut a similarly distressed figure when suffering a calf injury.

The Brazil striker had tears in his eyes as he spoke of his "dream" of representing his country at the World Cup potentially being over.

Both Varane and Richarlison have since been given hope they could yet make Qatar with neither injury as serious as first feared.

But their reactions underlined the pressure being felt by players as the World Cup draws closer - especially as club football will continue right up to the week before it



kicks off next month.

And the potential for injury is exacerbated by the congestion of matches brought about by a mid-season international tournament.

Leading clubs have largely been playing twice a week since the start of the campaign in order to

complete the first stages of the Champions League, Europa League and Europa Conference League.

That caused natural concern among national team coaches, who will only have a week with their players when the domestic season pauses.

Manchester City pair Kyle Walker and Kalvin Phillips are both trying to recover from groin and shoulder surgery, respectively, which is expected to keep them out until the World Cup.

The jeopardy heading into every game before the tournament

is now clear - and was evident in the reactions of Varane and Richarlison.

But United manager Erik ten Hag has warned his players against being distracted by Qatar.

"Focus is so important because if you don't have the right focus

the risk is even more," the Dutchman said this week. "Keep in the rhythm, keep in the right fitness and shape and then they will be ready for the World Cup. They are best prepared."

"Of course, it is not optimum. That is clear. It is a different World Cup, but that is something national managers have to deal with. That is the way it has to go."

The fear of injury before a major tournament is nothing new, with the end of a campaign often a nervous period for players ahead of a summer competition.

But the mid-season element of this World Cup, combined with the hectic club calendar, has heightened tensions.

"I didn't talk on this subject with them, but I'm pretty sure they have one eye and are thinking about the World Cup," said City manager Pep Guardiola on Friday. "Unfortunately many players got injured and will miss the World Cup, it's a big blow for them."

"It's just two or three weeks before the end. It's the last effort. I'd always advise them to be ready for the World Cup, don't get injured, be focused and play your maximum in the game. When you lose your attention you are at risk." (AP)

Musk begins his Twitter ownership with firings, declares the 'bird is freed'

Agencies

NEW YORK: Elon Musk has taken ownership of Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) with brutal efficiency, firing top executives but providing little clarity over how he will achieve the ambitions he has outlined for the influential social media platform.

"The bird is freed," he tweeted after he completed his \$44 billion acquisition on Thursday, referencing Twitter's bird logo in an apparent nod to his desire to see the company have fewer limits on content that can be posted.

The CEO of electric car maker Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) and self-described free speech absolutist has, however, also said he wants to prevent the platform from becoming an echo chamber for hate and division.

Other goals include wanting to "defeat" spam bots on Twitter and make the algorithms that determine how content is presented to its users publicly available.

Yet Musk has not offered details on how he will achieve all this and who will run the company. He has said he plans to cut jobs, leaving Twitter's 7,500 employees fretting about their future. He also said on Thursday he did not buy Twitter to make more money but "to try to help humanity, whom I love."

Less than 10% of 266 Twitter employees who participated in a poll on messaging app Blind expected to still have their jobs in three months. Blind allows employees to air grievances anonymously after they sign up with corporate emails.

Musk fired Twitter Chief Executive Parag Agrawal, Chief Financial

Officer Ned Segal and legal affairs and policy chief Vijaya Gadde, according to people familiar with the matter. He had accused them of misleading him and Twitter investors over the number of fake accounts on the platform.

Agrawal and Segal were in Twitter's San Francisco headquarters when the deal closed and were escorted out, the sources added.

Musk, who also runs rocket company SpaceX, plans to become Twitter's interim CEO according to a person familiar with the matter and following an earlier report by Reuters. Musk also plans to scrap permanent bans on users, Bloomberg said, citing a person familiar with the matter.

Twitter, Musk and the executives did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

'CHIEF TWIT'
Before closing the deal, Musk walked into Twitter's headquarters on Wednesday with a big grin and a porcelain sink, subsequently tweeting "let that sink in." He changed his Twitter profile description to "Chief Twit."

Musk said in May he would reverse Twitter's ban on Donald Trump, who's account was removed after the attack on the U.S. Capitol. A representative for Trump did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment, but the former U.S. president previously said he won't return to the platform and has instead launched his own social media app, Truth Social.

Musk tried to calm Twitter employee fears that major layoffs are coming and assured advertisers that his past criticism of Twitter's content moderation rules would not harm its appeal.

Ukraine Battles Intensify; Russia Eyes Space Retaliation

Agencies

KYIV: Moscow-appointed authorities have fled the capital of southern Ukraine's Kherson region along with tens of thousands of residents as Ukrainian forces attacked Russia's hold on the city Thursday while fighting also intensified in the country's east.

Amid the battles, a senior Russian official warned that Western commercial satellites used for military purposes in support of Ukraine were a "legitimate target for a retaliatory strike."

Ukraine has pushed ahead with an offensive to reclaim the Kherson region and its capital of the same name, which Russian forces captured during the first days of a war now in its ninth month. More than 70,000 residents from the Kherson city area have evacuated in recent days, the region's Kremlin-installed governor, Vladimir Saldo, said Thursday.

Members of the Russia-backed regional administration were included in the evacuation, the deputy governor, Kirill Stremousov said. Monuments to Russian heroes were moved, along with the remains of Grigory Potemkin, the Russian general who founded Kherson in the 18th century, that were kept at the city's St. Catherine's Church.

Ukrainian forces were surrounding Kherson from the west and attacking Russia's foothold on the west bank of the Dnieper River, which di-



vides the region and the country.

In eastern Ukraine, Russian forces continued to bombard the Donetsk region city of Bakhmut, making slow gains toward the centre. Amid the heavy combat on two fronts, a Russian official warned that the West could become part of the conflict.

The deputy head of Russia's delegation at a United Nations arms control panel, Konstantin Vorontsov, described the use of U.S. and other Western commercial satellites for military purposes during the fighting in Ukraine as "extremely dangerous."

"The quasi-civilian infrastructure could be a legitimate target for a retaliatory strike" Vorontsov warned without elaborating. As they have all month, Russian forces carried out attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure that have caused in-

creasing worry ahead of winter.

A Russian drone attack early Thursday hit an energy facility near the capital, causing a fire, said Kyiv region Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba. He said in a video statement that the latest attacks inflicted "very serious damage."

"The Russians are using drones and missiles to destroy Ukraine's energy system ahead of the winter and terrorise civilians," Kuleba said in televised remarks. Kuleba announced new rolling blackouts and urged consumers to save power. He said authorities were still pondering over specifics of the blackouts needed to restore the damaged power facilities. Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, said rolling blackouts would also be introduced in the neighbouring Chernihiv, Cherkasy and Zhytomyr regions.

The World's Fastest Shoes Promise to Increase Your Walking Speed by 250%

Agencies

Unlike cruising down the sidewalk on roller skates that come with a bit of a learning curve, the Moonwalkers are supposedly as easy to use as the moving sidewalks that whisk you down a long airport terminal. You just strap them to your feet and go for a stroll, while enjoying a considerable boost in speed.

Developed by a team of robotics engineers who spun off their work at Carnegie Mellon University into a new company called Shift Robotics, the Moonwalkers might look like roller skates, but they add power and intelligence to the experience so you never feel like you're Wile E. Coyote trying to chase down the roadrunner with an Acme rocket strapped to your back.

A strap-on design allows the Moonwalkers to be used with almost any pair of shoes, and each unit features a 300-watt electric motor that powers a set of eight polyurethane wheels similar to what you'd find on a pair of inline skates, but much smaller, and not all in a single line, so there's no balancing required. Sensors monitor the user's walking gait

while algorithms automatically adjust the power of the motors to match, synchronized between each foot, so the added speed increases and decreases as the user walks faster or slower. A hinged toe section flexes the same way a shoe does, so the Moonwalkers feel more comfortable and natural to walk in.

The claim that Moonwalkers can increase someone's walking speed by up to 250% is based on the fact that most people walk at around 2.5 to 4mph. The Moonwalkers actually have a limited top speed of 7mph, even while walking downhill, and users can come to a full stop in a little over three feet. They're also designed to be used on stairs with a special foot gesture that activates a mode that locks the wheels and prevents them from rolling freely.

With a battery-powered range of about six miles, they could potentially be another alternative to a car for short commutes or used as a last-mile tool if parking close to your destination is a challenge. And because they're much smaller than an electric scooter or a bike, they're easy to keep stashed at your desk or even in a backpack when not in use.



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