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In Cold Desert, Identity Politics Remains Hot Pursuit

Auqib Javeed

ith Kashmir-centric politics unable to come out of coldstorage due to impasse in elec-toral ice-break, the leaders of Ladakh are currently stealing the limelight with their identity politics campaign.

The leaders from the Buddhist-majority Leh as well as the Muslim-majority Kargil have come together to up the ante against the government for failing to acknowledge

"The government should

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Several higher

reaches of Kashmir including

the ski-resort of Gulmarg ex-

perienced fresh snowfall on

Wednesday while the plains

including Srinagar received light rainfall, bringing down

the temperature further across

Kashmir. The weatherman,

however, again predicted snow

and rains in Kashmir till Friday.

that snowfall has occurred at

high altitude areas including

Gurez, Gulmarg, Sonamarg,

Machil, Karnah besides other

upper reaches of Kashmir Valley.

ing Srinagar received light rain-

fall despite prediction of snowfall

by the Met office. The light show-

ers brought down the maximum

temperature further in the Valley.

Dense Fog

Hits Air, Rail

Operations

In Jammu

The plains of Kashmir includ-

Reports reaching here said

listen to our demands and discuss them," said Padma Stanzin of Ladakh Students' Environmental Action Forum (LEAF). "If they ignore us, we'll be forced to launch an agitation."

The cold desert's political campaign is growing days after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a High-Powered Committee (HPC) headed by Minister of State, Nityanand Rai-to "ensure protection of land and employment" for the people of Ladakh.

The 17-member committee including Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R.K. Mathur will

SNOW AGAIN ELUDES

PLAINS OF KASHMIR

Except Srinagar-Jammu Highway, All Major Highways, Roads Closed

For Vehicular Movement; Weatherman Predicts Snow, Rains Till Jan 13



"discuss measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into

consideration its geographical location and its strategic

at a few places on Friday.

Moreover, Lotus as per the

forecast said that the weather

would remain mainly dry from January 14-17. Pertinently, a

fresh Western Disturbance has

affected Jammu and Kashmir

from today, which would re-

sult in light to moderate snow-

fall in higher reaches and light

Meanwhile, the fresh snowfall

nas led to the closure of Srinagar-

Sonamarg-Gumri Road, Mughal

Road, Karnah-Kupwara and

Officials said that the roads

have been closed as precau-

tionary measures after the

fresh snowfall led to the slip-

pery conditions of the roads.

However, Srinagar-Jammu

Moreover, Police established

highway remained open for

snowfall in plains as well.

Bandipora-Gurez roads.

vehicular movement.

Emergency | More on P10

of the sixth schedule for Ladakh from day one, but the committee hasn't included this in the agenda. So there's no point in engaging with it. We'll be holding a protest to press our demands now."

However, four days after the MHA order, the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and Leh Apex Body (LAB) in a joint meeting on January 7 decided to stay away from the HPC.

These groups were formed following the resentment against the central government for "failing to safeguard Ladakh's constitutional position, job and land" after the creation of separate union ter-

ritory in August 2019. "Since our demands haven't been included in the list, we've decided not to engage with the HPC," Tsering Dorjey Lakruk, LAB's vice chairman, told Kashmir Observer.

"We've been demanding the implementation of the sixth schedule for Ladakh from day one, but the | More on P10

Computer Glitch Grounds Flights Across US

Press Trust Of India

New York: Hundreds of flights were grounded across the United States on Wednesday after a computer outage at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The FAA said it suffered an outage of its system that alerts pilots and crew to advisories and information for flights.

"The FAA is working to restore its Notice to Air Missions System. We are performing final validation checks and reloading the

system now," it said in a tweet. It said operations across the National Airspace System are affected. "We will provide frequent up-

dates as we make progress," it added. The outage comes as a result of the failure of the Notice to Air Missions system, which alerts pilots and other personnel about airborne issues and other delays

at airports across the country. "The FAA is still working to fully restore the Notice to Air Missions system following an outage. While some functions are beginning to come back on line, National Airspace System operations remain limited," the

FÂA said in another tweet. While the FAA has not enforced a grounding of aircraft due to the outage, most airlines have chosen to ground their own plane due to the system's failure. The failure has so far resulted in some 400 cancelled flights across the US, Fox News reported. FULL REPORT INSIDE

JCO, Two Soldiers Slip To Death At LoC



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Three soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), died after they slipped into a deep gorge during patrolling along the Line of Control in

Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said on Wednesday.

An Army official said the JCO and two other rank soldiers were on a routine patrol in Macchil sector when the trio slipped | More on P10

BSF Steps Up Vigil Along LoC Ahead Of R-Day

Datrolling and deployment of troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir have been strengthened ahead of Republic Day, a senior BSF officer said on Wednesday.

"Terror outfits always try to carry out violence but jawans are alert on the border. Our endeavour is not to | More on P10



I SALUTE THE RESOLUTE COURAGE OF **OUR BRAVEHEART ARMY** personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty in the Machil

sector, Kupwara. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families of martyrs. Their sacrifice and selfless

service to the nation will always be remembered."

Govt Designates 6 Courts For Trial Of UAPA Offences

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Government has designated six courts of trial for offences under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)-1967 in the Kashmir Valley.

In a notification, the government has notified six courts for trial of offences under the UAPA in 10 districts of Kashmir.

The notification has been isued under the powers vested with the Union Territory administration under the National Investigation Act-2008.

Earlier there were | More on P10

BJP Asks J&K Unit To Gear Up For Assembly Polls

Director

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: BJP national general secretary B L Santhosh asked the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit on Wednesday to gear up for assembly polls. At a meeting with senior par-

ty leaders of the Union territory, he laid emphasis on strengthening party units at booth and assembly constituency levels. He asked party in-charges to

focus on winning the election in their respective areas.

The meeting came days after senior party leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah held deliberations with party functionaries from Jammu and Kashmir in Delhi.

The assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to be held this year, though there has been no official announcement yet.

In his address to party leaders, Santhosh said, "A leader is born when he selflessly works for the win of others and the organisation. So you all must devote yourselves to organisational duties."

Meteorological

(MeT). Sonum Lotus said that

there will be a gradual increase

in intensity and distribution of

snow or rain as the day pro-

gresses with main activity to-

wards evening and night.

Department

places, mainly

He asked the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the party to switch to election mode. The meeting was also attend-

ed by Union minister Jitendra Singh, BJP national general secretary and J&K in-charge Tarun Chugh and J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina.

In his address, Singh said, "This is the first major election campaign after historic changes in I&K and hence we need to contest these elections all together."

He said the BJP is the only party which has truly cared for the rights of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the | More on P10

BHARAT JODO YATRA

higher reaches may receive

heavy snowfall." he said. add-

ing that on Thursday, there

is a possibility of widespread

light to moderate snow and

He further added that light

snowfall or rains would occur

rain in plains of Jammu.

he dense fog cover coupled with the unbearable cold conditions throws normal life out of gear, while frequent

registered snail pace and long traffic jams due to fog and many under construction roads. Vehicles moved at snail's

weather conditions will prevail for a few more days while the chilling weather conditions continue

ace on the road with headlights on to avoid any untoward like incident due to fog. As per the weathermen, the fogg

power cuts add to the misery of people in Jammu. According to reports, air and rail operation remained hit on the

fourth consecutive day due to dense blanket of fog gripped Jammu on Wednesday while movement on roads also

Congress Invites 21 Parties To Join Concluding Event In Srinagar



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited leaders of 21 likeminded parties to join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar on January 30, saying their presence would strengthen

S H

the march's message of truth,

compassion and non-violence. In a letter to the heads of the parties, he said from the beginning of the yatra, the Congress has sought the participation of every like-minded party and on the invitation of Rahul Gandhi, MPs of several political parties | More on P10

Lal Singh's DSSP. **Shiv Sena To Join** Rahul's Yatra

xtending support to Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party and the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena Wednesday announced they will join the march when it enters Jammu and Kashmir next week. A DSSP spokesperson said that at a meeting, the party unanimously decided to accord a warm welcome to the Bharat Jodo Yatra on reaching | More on P10

Continue Providing Financial Services To People: LG To J&K Bank



Observer News Service

Jammu: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Sinha on Wednesday impressed upon J&K Bank to continue providing quality financial services to the people and to ensure benefits under the various schemes, pensions etc are extended to the beneficiaries living in remote villages faster and more efficiently.

Sinha made these remarks

during an interaction with Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO of the J&K Bank at the Raj Bhawan here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.

Prakash, he said, apprised the LG about the financial services being extended to the people of J&K, and briefed on the to-date progress achieved under different schemes of Government being run for employment generation and | More on P10

Man Carrying Rs 57L In Geyser Held: Police

person was apprehended by police for carrying over fiftyseven lac cash concealed in a geyser in Handwara area in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. Officials in knowhow of the recovery told a local news agency GNS that one person named Syed Irfan Abdullah, son of Mohd Abdullah, resident of Laribal, Handwara was apprehended carrying cash concealed in a geyser, during a naka checking at Braripora Handwara. The recovered cash. the officials said, was counted in presence of the | More on P10

Police Rubbishes Grenade Attack News

olice on Wednesday rebutted any news regarding a grenade attack in Zoonimar area of Central Kashmir's Srinagar district. In a statement issued here, the police said that there is a fake news circulated by some irresponsible people about a grenade attack in Zoonimar area. The police spokesman further stated that it is a completely fake news and media persons are requested to verify authenticity of news before spreading such unverified news, reads the statement. | More on P10

Woman Pilgrim From Shopian Dies In Mecca

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70-year-old woman from South Kashmir's Shopian district passed away in the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. Haleema Begum, resident of Kaprin Shopian, as per her family was alongside her sister at Mecca to perform Umrah - 'minor pilgrimage' undertaken by Muslims to enter Mecca. The funeral prayers of the deceased woman, the family told a local news agency GNS, were led by Imam-e-Kabbah, following which her mortal | More on P10

ACB Arrests Patwari For Accepting Bribe

Α

nti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday said that a Patwari from Halga Rasli Gandhera, Basantgarh, Udhampur was trapped and subsequently arrested for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 for issuance of Fard. As per a statement issued here, ACB received a complaint alleging therein that he wanted to sell his piece of land and the concerned Patwari, Halqa Rasli Gandheran, **Udhampur namely Darbinder Singh** is demanding bribe of Rs 50,000 for issuance of Fard. | More on P10

6 'Micreants' Held For Bursting Firecrackers

olice on Wednesday arrested six 'miscreants' for bursting firecrackers and creating panic among people in Zoonimar area of this capital city. In a tweet, Srinagar police wrote, "5 Miscreants detained, latter 1more for bursting fire crackers on Syedporazoonimar stretch in the evening so as to create panic among the public. All these have history of indulging in stone pelting in the past. Further, examination is going on."

Man Held With Heroin-Like Substance In Sopore

opore Police on Wednesdav arrested a drug peddler along with heroin-like substance during a Naka at Wagub crossing in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. An official said that a drug peddler was arrested along with 15 grams of Heroin-like substance during a checkpoint at Wagub crossing by the party of PP Putkha under the jurisdiction of Police Station Amargrah/Tarzoo. The arrested drug peddler as per the officials disclosed his identity as Ashiq Elaahi Parray, son of | More on P10

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Srinagar | Thursday | 12-01-2023

NASA Mission Spots 2nd Earth-Size World Within 'Habitable Zone'

'ASA mission has discovered a second Earth-sized, rocky planet within the habitable zone of its star—the range of distances where liquid water could occur on a planet's surface.

Using data from NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), the astronomers found "TOI 700 e" which is one of only a few systems with multiple, small, habitable-zone planets that we know of.

Astronomers previously discovered three planets in this system, called TOI 700 b, c, and d.

is about 90 per cent Earth's size and orbits the star every 10 days.

TOI 700 c is over 2.5 times bigger than Earth and completes an orbit every 16 days.

"The planets are probably tidally locked, which means they spin only once per orbit such that one side always faces the star, just as one side of the Moon is always turned toward Earth," the US space agency said in a statement late on Tuesday.

TOI 700 e, which may also be tidally locked, takes 28 days to orbit its star, placing planet e between planets c and d in the so-called optimistic habitable zone.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL

HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

-Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-

Gist of e-tender

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2022-23/191/e-tendering Dated: 07.01.2023

(Short Term)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the OEM or Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned

Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the

Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 08.01.2023 (10.00 hrs) to 13.01.2023 (14:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
 Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 13.01.2023 at

departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 07.01.2023 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from

16.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer,

(Rs. in

Cost of

T/Doc.

1000

Planet d also orbits in the habitable zone, but the scientists needed an additional year of TESS observations to discover TOI 700 e.

"That makes the TOI 700 system an exciting prospect for additional follow-up. Planet e is about 10 per cent smaller than planet d, so the system also shows how additional TESS observations help us find smaller and smaller worlds," said Emily Gilbert, a postdoctoral fellow at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California who led the work.

TOI 700 is a small, cool M dwarf star located around 100 light-years away in the southern constellation Dorado. In 2020, Gilbert and others announced the discovery of the Earth-size, habitablezone planet d, which is on a 37-day orbit, along with two other worlds.

The innermost planet, TOI 700 b,

Name of Work

Repairs and Annual Maintenance

Contract for 04 No 05 Passenger (G+2),

01 No 13 Passenger (G+3) and 04 No

20 Passenger (G+2) THYSENKRUPP make Lift(s) Installed at District Court

General Servicing of Oxygen Generation Plant (PM Cares) along with

CMC for one year at MMABM, Associated Hospital, Govt. Medical

at MMABM.

Complex, Srinagar.

07.01.2023 (18.00 hrs).

No: MHCHD/TS/9374-80 DIPK-16166/22 Date:11-01-2022

Scientists define the optimistic habitable zone as the range of distances from a star where liquid surface water could be present at some point in a planet's history.

This area extends to either side of the conservative habitable zone, the range where researchers hypothesize liquid water could exist over most of the planet's lifetime. TOI 700 d orbits in this region.

"Finding other systems with Earth-size worlds in this region helps planetary scientists learn more about the history of our own solar system,"

said scientists. Gilbert presented the result on behalf of her team at the 241st meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Seattle, the US.

A paper about the newly discovered planet was accepted by The Astrophysical Journal Letters.

AAA No.

dm, Dt: 16-11-

2022

By Principa

District &

Session

Judge,

Srinagar

245 GMCA

of 2022.

Dated: 27-

12-2022

By Principa

GMC.

Anantnag

TS No.

Dt: 05-01

2023

MED/K/TS

117,

Dt: 05-01

2023

Executive Engineer,

043/PDJS/A MED/K/TS

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION KULGAM**

e-NIT No. 64 OF 2022-23 Dated:06/01/2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kulgam invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Kulgam of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed

BOÓ.		L	_		
Sr No	Particulars of thework Tender fee (inRs)	Estimated cost	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion Of work (days)
1.	Laying & fitting of delivery mains consisting of GMS Tubes ductile iron pipes of different nominal bores along with pipe fitting and control valves incl other allied works Execution of ancillary civil works like spring covers boundary walls SRs Slow sand filtration plants, proection works etc at various water supply schemes of special	,	Notarized bid decleara- tiont	As per An- nexure	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid docu- ment.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kulgam The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM). **Critical Dates:**

I	Publish Date	06/01/2023
li	Document Download/sale start Date	06/01/2023
Ш	Bid submission start date	06/01/2023
IV	Bid submission end date	14/01/2023
٧	Date and time of Bid opening	16/01/2023

Bid documents can be accessed www.jktenders.gov.in

and downloaded from the website

The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Kulgam. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.

a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of **Executive Engineer PHE Division Kulgam**

The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of FDR/CDR, bid declaration form and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.

The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. Queries by email if any should be made at phedivisionKulgam@gmail.com

No: PHEK/7739-50 DIPK-16181/22 Date: 11/01/2023

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kulgam ANNEXURE-I

E NIT No 64 of 2022-23 SCHEME WISE LIST OFWORKS

	Name of WSS	Description of work	PHE	Estimat-	CDR /	Class of	Time for
			Kulgam	ed cost	FDR amt	Contract	comple-
				(inLacs)	(Rs)		tion
1	Nandimarg	Laying fitting of pipes, road resto-	Kulgam	225.91	Notarized	AAY	120 days
	Gudsum	ration and construction of 0.8 lac			declara-		
		gallons SR and allied works includ-			tion		
		ing installation of FHTC for WSS					
		Nandimarg Gudsum under JJM					

Executive Engineer Special PHE Division Kulgam

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, **H&ME Department**

Office of the Principal **Govt Medical College Anantnag**

Phone No: 01932-227624 EMAIL: GMCANANTNAG2018@GMAIL.COM No: GMCA/ESTT/2023/206-10 DATED 07-01-2023

CORRIGENDUM

In pursuance to this office notificatyion issued vide no GMCA/Estt/29-37 dated 02-01-2023 please read "Roll No. 572 for Roomi Rajab" instead of "Roll No. 570

> Mohammad Yaqoob Dar (JKAS) Administrative Officer Govt Medical College Anantnag

DIPK-16172/22

Earnest

Rupees)

33,000

19,700

dated: 11-01-223

RASHTRIYA AYURVEDA VIDYAPEETH

(NATIONAL ACADEMY OF AYURVEDA) (An autonomous organization under Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India) Dhanwantari Bhawan, Road No.66, Punjabi Bagh (West), New Delhi-110026 Phone Nos.: 011-25228548 & 25229753 Email: gsp-ravdl@gov.in

ADMISSION NOTICE 2022-23

Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, New Delhi (RAV) is holding a Written Test on 05th February, 2023 (Sunday) at New Delhi, Pune, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Varanasi and Thrissur for the admission in One year "Certificate Course of Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (CRAV)" for the eligible Ayurvedic doctors, having qualified BAMS (Ayurvedacharya)/M.D. (Ay.)/M.S. (Ay.) from any University/College, recognized under IMCC Act-1970. Interested candidates may visit the Vidyapeeth's website www.ravdelhi.nic.in for details of eligibility, subjects, prescribed format of application, prospectus, other information etc. and they must sent their duly filled in application only through Post on above address on or before 25th January, 2023.

Director, Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth



DAVP-17212/12/0002/2223

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K) Ph.0194-2477949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, ,CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners

Registered Government order Suppliers

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

While travelling from Barzulla to Hyderpora lost my wallet carrying my Driving Licence (Jk-01199990065946)

Election, Aadhaar, Pan and ATM cards. I now intend to apply for duplicate of the same. Anyone having objections may file same before the concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mohammad Altaf Sofi S/O Ghulam Nabi Sofi R/O-Baghat Barzulla Near Mandarbagh Habeeb Colony, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Rumaisa Wanu W/O Sajad Ahmad Mir R/O Gulab Bagh Srinagar want to bring the attention of one and all that I have applied for registration of my Travel Agency in the name of 'Travel Magnet Kashmir Tour & Travels' with Tourism Department Kashmir. In case any person has any objection in this regard the same may be conveyed to the Tourism Office Kashmir within 07 days from

سے رپورٹ بشولدریکارڈ طلب کیا گیاہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا والدمور دید 202-88-30 کوفوت ہو چکاہے متوفی کے وارثان بذیل افراد پر شمتل ہے شنان ویا فدیختہ موشلس ان

گھریلوکام(شادی شدہ ازخانہ بیرون)	65سال	شنرادهبانو دختر محمر صيل واتي
عمررسيده	60سال	مالى زوه محمطيل
گھریلوکام(شادی شدہ ازخانہ بیرون)	60سال	زيينه دختر محمطيل
گھریلوکام(شادی شدہ ازخانہ بیرون)	58سال	زمروده دختر محمضليل
گھریلوکام(شادی شدہ ازخانہ بیرون)	45سال	ر فیقنه دختر محملیل
گھریلوکام(شادی شدہ ازخانہ بیرون)	58سال	زونه دختر محمطيل
گھریلوکام(شادی شدہ ازخانہ بیرون)	45سال	جبينه دختر محمطيل
سرکاری ملازم (شادی شده)	52سال	محدمقبول ولدمحدم خليل
مزدوری (شادی شده)	38سال	محمد بوسف ولدمحمر خليل
گرکسی څخص کو کئی عذریااعتراض ہو تو وہ اپناعذریا	سرٹفیکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں اً	اس کےعلاوہ کوئی افراد کہمہنیں ہے
مذريااعتراض قابل قبول نهيس ہوگا	ےمعیادگرنے بعد کوئی بھیء	اعتراض ساتھ يوم اندر دفتر ہذاميں پيش كر
نائب تخصيلدار	inf	

ازنیابت وائلوکراله بوره ااحلاس ایکزیکیٹومجسٹریٹ درجہاول

ر مناب مناب مناب مناب مناب منابی ولد مناب گنائی ساکنه موضوع محمود مناب منابی ساکنه موضوع محمود پوره مخصیل کنزر بمرادا جرائی†Unemploymen سرٹفیکیٹ بحق خود اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائل کے کاغذات زیر بحث دفتر مذامیں ریرکاروائی ہے۔ بیان رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ ونمبردارسائل مذکورہ دھ مذامیں ر یا اردون ہے۔ یک ریست پارٹ کی سے میں برائیں کی مسائل پیشہ سے راہائش پذیر ہے اور سمجھی ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی ہے۔سائل پیشہ سے طالب علم ہیں سائل مذکورہ کسی بھی سرکاری یاغیر سرکاری سمحکمہ میں کا منہیں کرتا ہے۔اور تاحال بےروزگارہے

قبل اس کے کہ سائل کی درخواسٹ پر ندیدکاروائی کی جائے۔اول ہرخاص وعوام کو بزریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جا تا ہے کہا گراس بارے میں سسمٹ محض یااشخاص کوکوئی عذر إاعتراض موتوايك مفته كاندر دفتري اوقات مين اسالتأ ياوكالتأايي عذريا عتراض پیش کریں _ بعد گذر نے عیا دکوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا تحریرالصدر

> ازنيابت وائلوكراله يوره بااجلاس ایکزیکییومجسٹریٹ درجہاول

مضمون:درخواست منجانب زبیراحمد برےولد غلام حس برےساکنہ موضوع وائلوكرله يور يخصيل كنزر بمرادا جرائي Unemployment سرتفيكيك بحق خود اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائل کے کاغذات زیر بحث دفتر مذامیں ز بر کاروائی ہے۔ بیان رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ ونمبر دارسائل مذکورہ دھ بنرامیں راہائش پذیر ہے اور سمجھی ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی ہے۔سائل پیشہ سے طالب علم ہیں ' سائل مذکورہ کسی بھی سرکاری یا غیرسرکاری محکمہ میں کا تنہیں کرتا

ہے۔اور ؑ تاحال بےروزگارہے قبل اس کے کہسائل کی درخواست پر مذید کاروائی کی جائے۔اول ہرخاص وعوام کو بذريعياشتهارمطلع كياجا تاہے كەاگراس بارے میں تحسی شخص یااشخاص كوكوئی عذر بااعتراض ہوتوایک ہفتہ کےاندر دفتری اوقات میں اسالتاً یاو کالتاً اپنے عذریا اعتراض پیش کریں _بعد گذر نے عیاد کوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا تحریرالصدر

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Rising Accidents In City: 48 People Killed In 2022

Authorities Srinagar: Wednesday said that they have identified some black spots in Srinagar where frequent accidents are taking place and that the efforts will be made to ensure the graph of accidents within the summer capital is reduced this year.

Talking to the media persons, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, City, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, said that around 48 people have lost their lives in the accidents in Srinagar last year and through a study, which will culminate shortly, it has come to the fore that most of the accidents have occurred on Bypass road.

"We have identified a few black spots like from Shalteng-Parimpira and Pantha Chowk stretch where most of the lives out of 48 in 2022 have been lost. As soon as the study culminates, we will provide the report to Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar in which recommendations will be made with regard to the black spots," he said.

He further said that work like enforcement and other things will be done to reduce the number of accidents, but indeed the accidents cannot be reduced until the people drive safely and cooperate in terms of following the rules and regulations.

"A good number of accidents in Srinagar happen on two-wheelers, which is probably due to overconfidence of driving skills and other related things. Safe driving is imperative to reduce the number of accidents," he said, adding that there are some issues like absence of service lanes along Bypass, but these issues will be resolved soon.

He said that there are a couple of reasons behind the road accidents including wrong road designs, over speeding and other things, but the work will be done in this regard and "we will try our best to reduce the number of accidents this year."

He also said that action against the people who are found driving after drinking will also be initiated.

Divisional Level Orientation & Training Programme **Kicks Off At SKUAST**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Divisional Level orientation and training programme (11 January to 3rd February 2023) organized by directorate of research SKUAST-Kashmir under the aegis of Agriculture Production department Go J&K was kick started at Vice-Chancellors conference hall SKUAST-Kashmir. The programme was chaired by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Dr. Nazir A. Ganie, and attended by Director Agriculture Kashmir Mr. Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal, Director Research Prof. Sarfaraz a Wani, Director Extension Prof Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Strategic Planning and Marketing Prof Haroon Rashid Nayak, Director Doordarahsn Mr. Haseebul Rehman, Associate Director of Research , Chief Agriculture Officer District Agriculture Officer, Programme coordinators of KVKs and Scientists of SKUAST-Kashmir.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor in his inaugural address informed the house about the

first of its kind plan for any state with an actionable road map for holistic development of agriculture. The plan has well defined short and long term goals and expected outputs and outcomes leading us to bridge a wide gap between the production and imports. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor mentioned that he is falling short of words to thank Hon'ble Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture Production Department. Shri Atal Duloo for their tireless efforts and support for making the dream come true. He stressed upon exploring the potential of the endowments, diversity with human intellect bestowed to our UT for its future generations to come. While encouraging the extension functionaries he informed that we have to transform out UT into a knowledge economy and ultimately leading to the growth of bio-economy. He further informed us that we have to sacrifice our comforts for the future generations to come by converting our Vision Mission and Goal into action.

Road Safety Week Under "Swachhata Pakhwada-2023" Inaugurated

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with Road Safety Week being observed from January 11 to January 17 under "Swachhata Pakhwada-2023", the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz flagged off Cab rally on Traffic Awareness campaign from TRC Corridor with a view to promote responsible driving to reduce road accidents in Srinagar District.

SSP Traffic City, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah and Regional Transport Officer(RTO), Kashmir, Sajid Yehaya Naqash, besides SP East were present on the occasion.

After flagging off the Cab Rally, the Deputy Commissioner presided over the awareness programme on observance of "Road Safety Week" organized by RTO, Kashmir at Sumo Stand, Tourist Reception Center(TRC) to create awareness among general public and Transporters to improve the road safety measures and give an opportunity to all stakeholders to contribute in the burning is-

sue of in the society. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that ob-

serving Road Safety Week provides an opportunity to all stakeholders including Administration, Transporters, Commuters, Pedestrians and public in general to contribute in reducing road accidents by strictly adhering to traffic safety measures to save precious human lives.

The DC said road accidents is a critical issue that has devastated many families and it is imperative for every citizen to follow Traffic rules in letter and spirit for their own safety and for the safety of others.

The DC urged youngsters not to indulge in rash driving and always keep in mind that they have a family waiting for them to come home.

The DC stressed on spreading awareness on road safety and following traffic rules. He said Road safety awareness campaigns/precautionary measures should not be restricted to this week but must continue to be followed throughout the year.

The DC also underlined the importance and use of seat belts that help to save lives during untoward accidents. He emphasized on ensuring fitness of vehicles as per guidelines for safe driving.



Shower Turns Srinagar's Busiest Road Into Slippery Street

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: After a few hours of rain in Srinagar, roads in and around Lal Chowk which are going through renovation turned muddy and slippery.

Commuters, especially two wheelers, had a tough time riding through the slippery road in the heart of the city on Wednesday. A video which went viral

on social media shows female

commuters falling from a scooty. As a passerby tries to help the falling duo, he too falls on the road. People thronging the

commercial hub of Lal Chowk have voiced their displeasure over the dilapidated condition of the roads.

"I was standing on the footpath of the Residency road, At least twenty motorists fell on the road due to the slippery road. If Authorities want to carry out developmental works,

they ought to take proper precautions." Said Kifayat Hussain Mir, a bystander.

"If people falling on the roads are hit by a vehicle from behind, it can cost them their life." Kifayat added.

The commuters urged the LG Administration to take note of the situation and take measures in order to avert a tragedy.

Pertinently, roads in and around Lal Chowk have been dug for various development projects by the Srinagar Smart City (SSC). However, in absence of macadamization the roads are muddy and slippery.

Speaking to a local media outlet, a biker who fell off the bike said he was riding at a very slow speed.

"Despite the fact I was riding very slowly, my bike skidded because mud was all over the road. Even before me, many people have fallen here. Look at the condition of my clothes, is this what the Smart City is meant to be" he questioned.

Netizens also reacted sharply to the incident and urged authorities to get to the rescue of people.

'Srinagar is being destroyed in the name of Smart City" commented Nazir Ahmad on the viral video. However, some people had suggestions for the Administration.

"Salt should be sprinkled all over the Residency in order to make it feasible for commuters but the government does not care" wrote Zubair Ahmad on the social networking site Facebook.

Kashmir Observer tried to get in touch with the authorities in order to raise the burning issue. However, SMC Commissioner & CEO Smart City (SSC) Athar Aamir did not respond to repeated phone calls.

As the Meteorological Department has predicted Snow in plains and upper reaches of Kashmir, the condition of the dilapidated roads in the city is set to get worse.

Kashmer

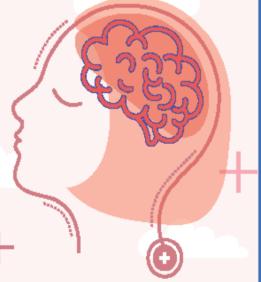
I was standing on the footpath of the Residency road, At least twenty motorists fell on the road due to the slippery road. If Authorities want to carry out developmental works, they ought to take proper precautions

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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



19 Jumad al-Sani

1444

PRAYERS FAJR 6:08

ZUHR 12:39 4:04 **ASR** Magrib 5:45

7:10

ISHA

This Day In History

- 475 Basiliscus becomes Byzantine Emperor, with a coronation ceremony in the Hebdomon palace in Constantinople.
- 1528 Gustav I of Sweden "father of the nation" crowned King of Sweden. Rules 37 years.
- 1552 Dutch west coast hit by heavy storm. 100s killed.
 - 1806 French evacuate Vienna.
- 1816 France decrees Bonaparte family excluded from the country forever.
 - 1836 Battle of Wetumka, Fla.
- 1915 US House of Representatives rejects proposal to give women right to vote. 1916 - Britain proclaims Gilbert & Ellice Islands as a
- colony in Pacific.
- 1940 World War II: Soviets bombs cities in Finland. 1942 - National War Labor Board created

1944 - Churchill & de Gaulle begin a 2-day wartime

- conference in Marrakesh. 1945 - German forces in Belgium retreat in Battle of
- Bulge. 1945 - The Soviets begin a large offensive against the
- Nazis in Eastern Europe. 1948 - Mahatma Gandhi begins his final fast.
- 1950 USSR re-introduces death penalty for treason,
- espionage & sabotage. 1959 - Rediscovery of the Caves of Nerja in Spain
- 1961 UN genocide pact goes into effect.
- 1962 Operation Chopper begins, America's first combat mission in the Vietnam War.
- 1970 Biafran War ends, Biafra surrenders to Nigeria. 1970 - Boeing 747 makes its maiden voyage.
- 1971 Negotiations over price of petroleum begin in Tehran between 6 OPEC Persian Gulf states and 22 oil
- 1974 Libya & Tunisia announces they are merging as "Islamic Arab Republic".
- 1976 UN Security Council votes 11-1 to seat Palestine Liberation Organisation. 1977 - Anti-French demonstrations takes place in
- Israel after Paris released Abu Daoud, responsible 1972 -Munich massacre of Israeli athletes. 1986- 24th space shuttle (61-C) mission-Columbia
- 1990 -Romania bans Communist party (1st Warsaw
- Pact member to do so). 1991 - US Congress gives George H. W. Bush authority
- to wage war against Iraq. 1992-Algeria's general elections canceled after strong
- gains by Islamic Salvation Front in the 1st round.
- 1992- A new constitution, providing for freedom to form political parties, is approved by a referendum in Mali.
- 1995 Major earthquake kills 5,092 in Kobe Japan. 1996 - Russian troops arrived in Bosnia (joint
- operation with US). 1997 - Space Shuttle STS 81 (Atlantis 18), launches
- into space
- 1998 Nineteen European nations agree to forbid

From KO Archives

Mobile Phones In JK soon

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Centre has agreed in principal to extend the mobile telephone service to Jammu and Kashmir. Announcing this at the inauguration of the state's first Software Technology Park (STP) here today, the Union Minister for Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan, dismissed the Idea that security of the state would be adversely affected if the mobile services were allowed here. He said he was not convinced with the argument and had discussed this with the Prime Minister & Ministers of Home & Defence who have all agreed to his suggestion of extending the facility in J&K. He asserted that mobile telephone had nothing to do with the security of the country adding, nobody In the government Of India is saying 'no' to it. He said contrary to the belief of risk to the security, the mobile facilities would help in tracking down the militants. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 12 January, 2001)

RSS Chief Says "Hindustan Should Remain Hindustan" Kapil Sibal Replies





Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Wednesday took a swipe at Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's "Hindustan should remain Hindustan" remark, saying he agreed with that but "Insaan (human beings) should remain Insaan". Mr Bhagwat has said Muslims have nothing to fear in India, but they must abandon their "boisterous rhetoric of supremacy".

In an interview to Organiser and Panchjanya, Mr Bhagwat said, "The simple truth is this, Hindustan should remain Hindustan. There is no harm to the Muslims living today in Bharat...Islam has nothing to fear. But at the same time, Muslims must abandon their boisterous rhetoric of supremacy."

"We are of an exalted race; we once ruled over this land, and shall rule it again; only our path is right, rest everyone is wrong; we are different, therefore we will continue to be so; we cannot live together; they (Muslims) must abandon this narrative. In fact, all those who live here whether a Hindu or a communist must give up this logic," the RSS chief said.

Reacting to the remarks, Mr Sibal said on Twitter, "Bhagwat: 'Hindusthan should should remain Hindusthan', Agree.But: Insaan should remain Insaan."

Mr Bhagwat also said the new-found aggression among Hindus the world over was due to an awakening in the society that has been at war for over

Pakistan's Passport Among World's Weakest. Most Powerful Are...



Agencies

apan starts 2023 with the world's most powerful passport, allowing visa-free entry to 193 global destinations, according to the latest Henley Passport Index, which the country tops for the fifth consecutive year.

That doesn't mean the passport is widely used, even as travel rebounds from Covid. Only 24 million valid Japanese passports were in circulation at the end of 2021, according to the latest available figures from the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That's down more than 3 million from the vear before and means that less than 20% of the population

held the travel document. Singapore and South Korea retained their places in joint second on the ranking, followed by Germany and Spain, and then a slew of other Euro-

pean nations. The US was among the top 22, with visa-free access to 186 places, matching the likes of Switzerland, New Zealand and Norway. China's allows access to 80, the same as Bolivia's.

Russia's is better, providing hassle-free entry to 118 destinations, while Afghanistan's remained the weakest, with access to just 27.

The ranking, published by London-based immigration consultancy Henley & Partners, uses data from the International Air Transport Association to rank 199 passports' access to 227 travel destinations. The methodology differs from other passby financial advisory Arton Capital, which put the United Arab Emirates in pole position.

Separately, a Morning Consult poll conducted in July showed that 35% of adult respondents in Japan indicated they didn't plan to ever travel for leisure again, a far higher percentage than the other 13 nations surveyed. South Korea was the next, with 15% saying the same.

Nearly 2 million people traveled overseas from Japan in the first 10 months of last year, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization, a long way off the 20 million that did so in all of 2019, before the

U.S. Air Travel Rumbles Back To Life After FAA Computer Outage

Agencies

WASHINGTON/CHICAGO: U.S. flights were slowly resuming departures and a ground stop was lifted after the Federal $A viation\ Administration\ (FAA)$ scrambled to fix a system outage overnight that had forced a halt to all U.S. departing

More than 6,000 flights were delayed and nearly 1,000 canceled according to the FlightAware website as officials said it will take hours to recover from the halt. The numbers were still rising.

The cause of the problem with a pilot-alerting system, which delayed thousands of flights in the United States, was unclear, but U.S. officials said they had so far found no evidence of a cyberattack.

The outage occurred at a typically slow time after the holiday travel season, but demand remains strong as travel continues to recover to near pre-pandemic levels.

"Normal air traffic operations are resuming gradually across the U.S. following an overnight outage to the Notice to Air Missions system that provides safety info to flight crews. The ground stop has been lifted. We continue to look into the cause of the initial problem," the FAA Tweeted.

The number of flights impacted rose even after the ground stop was canceled. One issue airlines are facing is trying to get planes in and out of crowded gates, which is causing further delays.

At an airport in Greenville, South Carolina, Justin Kennedv abandoned a work trip to nearby Charlotte. He said confusion reigned as airline employees weren't aware what the FAA was saying, and many passengers were initially unaware of the delays.

Agencies

with the relevant au-

thority after flights across the

US were grounded due to a

"We are aware of the snag

"Air India around six-seven

Air India, India's largest

wide-body airline, is the only

airline that can operate the

maximum number of flights

Over 400 flights across

the United States have been

stranded due to a major out-

age in the computer system of

the US regulator Federal Avia-

tion Administration (FAA) on

According to media reports,

the flights that were severely

in the US and we are in touch

with the relevant authority,"

flights operates in a day to the

an AI official told ANI.

US in a week," it added.

to the US.

Wednesday.

ir India on Wednesday

said that it is in touch



"I sat in a Chick-fil-A dining area that had a good view of the TSA exit," the 30-yearold information technology employee said. "I saw at least four people sprinting to gates because they thought they were going to miss their flight, only to come back to the food court, out of breath."

RIPPLE EFFECTS

Captain Chris Torres, vice president of the Allied Pilots Association, said the outage could impact traffic through Friday.

"This thing was lifted at 9 a.m. Eastern. That doesn't mean the problem stops at 9 a.m. This is going to cause ripple effects," said Torres, whose members fly for American Airlines. "The end result of this is going to be very similar to big weather events."

The FAA had earlier ordered airlines to pause all domestic departures after its pilot alerting system crashed and the agency had to perform a hard reset around 2 a.m., officials said. Flights already in the air were allowed to continue to their destinations.

U.S. President Joe Biden ordered the Transportation Department to investigate and said the cause of the failure was unknown. Asked if a

Air India Keeping An Eye As All Flights

impacted were within, into,

Operations are normal at

all the airports in India and

as of now there is no impact

and out of the United States.

Across US Grounded Due To A Glitch

cyber attack was behind the outage, Biden told reporters, 'We don't know."

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg pledged a "process to determine root causes and recommend next steps."

Shares of U.S. carriers initially fell in Wednesday's premarket trading, but most rallied after the market opened to positive territory as flights resumed.

After dropping more the 19% last year - its third consecutive year of decline - the S&P 500 airlines index (.SPLRCAIR) has gotten off to a strong start this year, up 15.5%, as travel-

ers return to the skies. Southwest Airlines (LUV.N) shares were flat, while Delta Air Lines Inc (DAL.N), United Airlines (UAL.O) and American Airlines (AAL.O) shares rose. JetBlue (JBLU.O) and Spirit (SAVE.N) each rose about 2%.

A trade group representing the U.S. travel industry, including airlines, called the FAA system failure "catastrophic."

"America's transportation network desperately needs significant upgrades,' Geoff Freeman, president of the U.S. Travel Association, said in a statement. "We call on federal policymakers to modernize our vital air travel infrastructure."

Iran's Navy Fleet Will Sail To Panama Canal: Iranian **Navy Commander**

Agencies

ccording to a report by Tasnim News Agency, during a conference on maritime civilization in Tehran, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani announced on 11 January that plans are in progress to dispatch the Iranian naval forces to the Panama Canal.

"The Iranian Navy units are getting closer to the coasts of the Americas," he stated.

The navy commander elaborated that Iranian naval forces had already been deployed to all of the strategic straits across the world – with the exception of just two.

"The Iranian Navy forces will sail into one of those two remaining straits this year while plans are being made for the presence of the Iranian naval forces in the Panama Canal."

Irani went on to add that the Iranian Navy has established three ocean commands supervising missions to the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Atlantic Ocean.

"The equipment that will join the Navy in the future is in line with the missions of these three commands," he explained.

He highlighted the naval



forces' previous achievement of sailing across the Pacific Ocean and revealed that at the time, Australia and France both posed threats to Iran by breaking the regulations involving sailing past their coasts - regulations that they themselves had issued. In the face of these threats, however, Iran stood its ground and responded to them in accordance with the law.

The Australian Department of Defense announced on 2 January that two Iranian warships had been detected passing through the South Pacific.

In August of 2022, the Iranian navy commander made clear that the "Iranian Navy Forces are present in any ocean if needed" and that they are 'ready to counter any foreign danger powerfully."

That said, Iran is not seeking to engage in conflict and would only retaliate in the event that its security is endangered.

Congress's Contribution In India's Freedom Big, But...: **Amit Shah**



Agencies

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday, while acknowledging that the Congress-led freedom movement had a big contribution to India's freedom, said that it is, the narrative that there was no role of others in the country's freedom struggle.

Mr Shah's remarks came at the book launch event of 'Revolutionaries, The other story of how India won its freedom' by Sanjeev Sanyal in the national capital.

The Home Minister said that the word 'other story' in the title of the book is the summary of the book which presents the other perspective of the contributions of various others in the freedom struggle.

"Revolutionaries, The other story of how India won its freedom. The word 'other story' is the summary of this book. Because one story has been

established in public under one narrative. One perspective has been imposed on the public through history writing, and education. The perspective that has been imposed, I do not say that the non-violent struggle has no role in the freedom struggle, or is not a part of his tory. It is a part of history and has a huge contribution," Mr Shah said.

Stating that there were contributions of various people and organisations, the Home Minister said that freedom is the "collective" result of everyone.

"The movement led by Congress has a big contribution to the country's freedom. But no other has contributed, this narrative is not right. Because if we analyze the country's freedom, numerous people, organisations, ideologies, and paths had made efforts to reach one destination. India's freedom is the collaborative result of all of this," he said.

NEWS MAKERS

RRR's Hit Track 'Naatu Naatu' Wins Golden **Globe Award For Best Original Song**

Press Trust of India

LOS ANGELES: SS Rajamouli's 'RRR's hit track 'Naatu Naatu' has won the award for the best

original song-motion picture. The film's Telugu track 'Naatu Naatu', composed by veteran music director MM Keeravaani and sung by Kala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj, won the award for best original song.

Keeravani accepted the trophy and thanked Rajamouli for his "vision".

The veteran music composer also thanked the team behind the track -- choreographer Prem Rakshith, lyricist Chandrabose and singers Sipligunj and Bhairava.

The movie though lost out for the 'best picture-non English' to 'Argentina, 1985'.

'Argentina, 1985', directed by Santiago Mitre, is based on real



events and follows the events surrounding the 1985 Trial of the Juntas, which prosecuted the ringleaders of Argentina's last civil-military dictatorship.

The other nominees in 'best picture-non English' category were Korean romantic mystery film 'Decision to Leave', German anti-war drama 'All Quiet on the Western Front', and French-Dutch coming-of-age drama 'Close'.

'RRR' follows a pre-Independence fictional story woven around two real-life Indian revolutionaries - Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem - in the 1920s. The film stars Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Alia Bhatt and Ajay Devgn in key roles.

Released theatrically last March, 'RRR' reportedly made over Rs 1,200 crore at the global box office.

on flights from India to the US amid a glitch in US Federal Aviation Administration's

technical glitch in the Federal Aviation Administration's system, said a senior DGCA However, as of now, India-US flights do not have any impact due to a glitch in the

computer system of the US regulatory body, FAA. FAA has tweeted, "The FAA is working to restore its No-

tice to Air Missions System. We are performing final validation checks and reloading the system now. Operations across the National Airspace System are affected. We will provide frequent updates as we make progress.'

The Federal Aviation Administration stated that it is 'experiencing an outage that is impeding the update of Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs)' and that 'all flights are unable

to be released at this time due to the enormous glitch that caused flight delays. Notably, the US Federal Avi-

ation Administration's (FAA) system that alerts pilots and other flight personnel about hazards or any changes to airport facility services and rel-Moreover, the Air Traffic

Control System Command Center (ATCSCC), a part of the Federal Aviation Administration air traffic control system, located in Warrenton, Virginia also issued an advisory that the United States NOTAM system failed and since then no new amendments have been processed.

"The United States NOTAM system failed at 2028Z. Since then no new NOTAMs or amendments have been processed. Technicians are currently working to restore the system and there is no estimate for restoration or service at this time," the ATCSCC advisory read.

Michelle Yeoh, Steven Spielberg Win In Revamped Golden Globes

Agencies

alaysian star Michelle Yeoh has taken home ▲ a top acting award at the Golden Globes after the ceremony's return following a scandal over diversity and eth-

Yeoh, renowned for doing her own stunts, was honoured as best actress in a musical or comedy on Tuesday night for her lead role in the dimensionhopping action film Everything Everywhere All at Once.

"Hollywood was a dream come true until I came here," the 60-year-old actress added, noting that she was called a "minority" and asked if she could speak English early on in her career.

Forty years later, "it's been an amazing journey and incredible fight to be here today, but I think it's been worth it," she said. Also honoured was Steven

Spielberg, nominated 14 times

by the Globes for best director and winning for the third

time with his autobiographical coming-of-age movie The Fabelmans, and Irish actor Colin Farrell, who won best actor in a musical or comedy for his part in the dark comedy of shattered friendship The Banshees of Inisherin.

Austin Butler, the 31-year-old star of director Baz Luhrmann's rock-and-roll biopic Elvis, won best actor in a drama.

"You were an icon and a rebel and I love you so much," said Butler to the late, legendary singer in an emotional speech in which he also praised Presley's family for their support. "You could at least play 'Suspi-

cious Minds' or something," he joked to the gala's pianist, as music interrupted his moment on stage. Australian Cate Blanchett

was named best actress in a drama for her role as an orchestral conductor in Tár.

The two biggest box office successes of 2022 – Avatar: The Way of Water and Top Gun: Maverick – were shut out. Celebrities and broadcast-

er NBC abandoned the 2022 Globes because of ethical lapses at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), the group that hands out the awards.

A larger, more diverse membership and other changes persuaded many of the biggest movie and TV stars to support

this year's ceremony — the 80th Golden Globe Awards — the traditional curtain raiser for the Hollywood awards season.

The show unfolded largely as it had in years past, except for a biting monologue from comedian and host Jerrod Carmichael who opened the show joking, "I'm here because I'm Black."

"I won't say they were a racist organisation," he continued before sitting on the stage. "But they didn't have a single Black member until George Floyd died. So do with that information what you will."

Other award winners included Black Panther actress Angela Bassett, who won a supporting actress award for playing Queen Ramonda in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

"We showed the world what Black unity, leadership and love looks like beyond, behind and in front of the camera," Bassett said as she held her trophy.

No Surge In Covid Cases In J&K: Officials

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Despite the surge in Covid-19 cases worldwide, the situation in I&K so far is well under control as no surge has been reported here, officials said Wednesday.

Officials told a local news agency KNO that the surge in Covid-19 cases was reported in different countries but situation J&K is better as no surge has been reported.

They said that people in J&K have hybrid immunity because of a combination of widespread natural infection and vaccination.

They said that people with hybrid immunity developed by both vaccination and previous infections have significant protection against future Covid infections.

Almost everyone has contracted the virus more than once during three Covid-19 waves besides that above 12

years of age whole population is vaccinated, so there are very little chances that any variant can trigger fresh wave as of now here, he said

They said that there is no need to panic and cases have started to decline in countries which witnessed recently but people must take precautions and government keep vigil on new variants by conducting genome sequencing of positive cases.

They said that as of now there are 22 active cases of Covid-19 but no one among them has been admitted in hospital and all are under observation at home.

They said that J&K is ready to tackle any situation in future as well but people must take pre-

Notably, mock drills in the hospitals were conducted to ensure operational readiness for management of Covid with specific focus on oxygen plants, ventilators, logistics and human resources—(KNO)

Govt Forms 14-Member UTLSC Headed By CS

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday constituted a 14-member Union Territory Level Sanctioning Committee (UTLSC) for approval of Flexi Fund component under PMDP (MIDH).

As per an order issued by Secretary to the Government, Dr Piyush Singla, Chief Secretary has been appointed as Chairman of the UTLSC.

The order issued under number 37-JK(GAD) of 2023, dated 11-01-2023, reads that sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of Union Territory Level Sanctioning Committee (UTLSC) for approval of Flexi Fund component under PMDP (MIDH) on the lines of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY).

Other than Chief Secretary as Chairman, Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department has been appointed as Vice Chairman of the committee while Administrative Secretary, Finance Department Member, Administrative Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, representative of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Government of India (Officer not below the rank of Joint implementation of the proj-Secretary) Administrative Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Administrative Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Director, Agriculture, Jammu/Kashmir, Director, Horticulture, Jammu/Kashmir, Director, Animal Husbandry,

Jammu/Kashmir, Director, Fisheries, J&K and representative of SKUAST, have been appointed as members of UTLSC.

Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department has been appointed as member Secretary of UTLSC, the order further reads.

UTLSC may co-opt two more members from Agricultural Research Organizations, reputed NGOs working in the field of Agriculture, Deputy Commissioners of important districts and leading farmers. The quorum for the UTLSC meeting shall not be complete without the presence of a representative from the Government of India, the order reads.

It added that UTLSC shall be responsible for sanctioning the projects, under Flexi fund Component under PMDP (MIDH).

It shall monitor the progress of the sanctioned projects/ schemes. It shall review implementation of the schemes' objectives and ensure that the programmes are implemented in accordance with the guidelines laid down.

It shall ensure that no duplication of efforts or resources takes place. It shall ensure commissioning/undertaking field studies to monitor the ects. It shall initiate evaluation studies from time to time, as may be required. It shall ensure that there are no inter-district disparities with respect to the financial patterns/subsidy assistance in the projects, the order further said.

The UTLSC shall meet as often as required but shall meet at least once in a quarter-

Director RDD Reviews Functioning Of Department At Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Director, Rural Development Department (RDD) Kashmir, Khalid Majid on Wednesday presided over a meeting of departmental Officers at Meeting Hall of Mini-Secretariat, here to take a comprehensive review of all activities and works.

At the outset, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Hilal Ahmad apprised the chair about the current status of different works undertaken by RDD Shopian. He presented a detailed report about the implementation of various Centrally Sponsored schemes including 14th FC, MGNREGA, SBM and other related schemes through a powerpoint presentation.

The meeting also discussed the physical and financial status of projects targeted for comple-

tion in the current fiscal. It was given out in the meeting that under 14th FC, out of 1763 works, 1528 works have been completed and 367 works taken up during Back to Village are almost nearing its completion.

On the occasion, the Director emphasised on the concerned officers to take immediate measures to accelerate the pace of the ongoing works for their time-bound completion and directed for regular monitoring of works.

Directions were also passed for clearance of Material and labour payments within days to the extent of releases made till date.

Director exhorted upon the concerned officers to achieve the set targets under different schemes within a stipulated time frame with a focus on the

creation of durable assets. The Director, after taking stock of works in the district directed all the officers to keep a close liaison and coordination with PRIs so that implementation of developmental activities is ensured in a hassle free manner and people can realize the actual and intended benefits of work.



A MAN WAITING FOR A BUS ON A RAINY DAY Wednesday near Srinagar's busy Residency Road.. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Outsourcing Tourism Dept Assets

Govt Adds Two More Members To The Constituted Panel

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and government on Kashmir Wednesday modified the previous order related to the constitution of a committee for deciding the mechanism of outsourcing of the identified assets of the Tourism Department.

Two more members have been included in the committee while the Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department has been excluded as the member of the panel.

As per the order, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Forest, Environment & Ecology Department and Commissioner/Secretary

the Government, Revenue Department shall be co-opted member(s) of the Committee.

Earlier, the government in December last year constituted a committee headed by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance Department, to select the properties from the identified list to be outsourced besides identifying the model for each property or group of assets for

outsourcing.
In the fresh order, under number 36-JK(GAD) of 2023, dated 11-01-2023, the government said that in partial modification of Government Order No. 1297- JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 09-12-2021 read to with Government Order No.

327-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 07-11-2022, it is hereby ordered that Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Forest, Environment & Ecology Department and Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department shall be co-opted member(s) of the aforesaid Committee.

Deputy "Concerned Commissioner(s) Chairman(s)/Chief Executive Officer(s) of the Development Authorities (if any) shall be special invitees to the Committee," the order reads.

It further added that Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department shall not be a member of the Committee—(KNO)

Govt Invokes CSR 30 To 'Censure' College Principal **Over Misconduct**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir higher education department has invoked Civil Service Rule 30 to 'censure' college principals over misconduct.

According to the news agency–Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Higher Education Department (HED) has reprimanded the college Principal and issued a strict warning against the Principal of Government Degree College (GDC) Pattan Prof Tariq Ashai under Rule 30 (i) "censure" of the civil service (classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules 1956."

As already reported by KNO, the JK HED had attached the incharge Principal Government Degree College (GDC) Pattan over serious allegations leveled against him for his misbehavior at Cluster University Srinagar (CUS).

The attachment order was issued by HED after a written complaint was submitted by the dean of Academic Affairs of Cluster University Srinagar (CUS).

Following this, the HED ordered an inquiry, and Prof. Tariq Ashai

was attached to the Administrative Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu, till the outcome of the

inquiry Additional Secretary HED, Sushil Kumar Khajuria was appoint-

ed as the inquiry officer. As per the order, the inquiry officer has submitted the inquiry report with the recommendation that Prof. Tariq Ashai has not maintained the sanctity of the

"As such a strict warning under Rule 30 of the Civil Service (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules 1956 i.e may be issued with the advice to restrain from such acts even in adverse situations and shall remain careful in future," the order reads.

"However, the victim, Prof Khurshid Ahmad controller CUS may also be admonished to refrain from such acts which may lead to provocation," the order reads.

As already reported, Prof. Ashai was attached for physically assaulting the Controller examination CUS over some official issue in presence of the Vice Chancellor CUS, Deans, and other administrative staff members of the University.

Ring Road Project

DDC Budgam Inspects Pace, Progress Of Work

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, SF Hamid Wednesday visited ring road project wherein he took on spot review of pace and progress of the project in the district.

During the visit, the DDC instructed all concerned to augment the manpower and expedite the work process to ensure timely completion of all works and projects.

The DDC directed the concerned executing agency to speed up the pace of work so that the project is completed at the earliest. He asked the concerned to expedite the work on projects to ensure the movement of vehicular traffic around the area.

He said that the project is of immense public importance and is being strictly monitored by higher authorities for the earliest completion. He said as soon as the projects are completed, the same will prove helpful towards overcoming traffic jams besides ensuring smooth plying of traffic on the highway.

The DDC further directed the concerned to ensure all facilities like Telecom and Transmission towers besides completion of basic connecting bridges.

National Conclave On NEP Concludes In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The maiden National Conclave on NEP which was inaugurated on the 9th concluded on Wednesday evening, here in the Convention Centre Jammu.

Delegates including teachers, officials of Education Department, private players and other stakeholders of education sector from across the country joined in to brainstorm towards making the NEP-2020, that is the first education policy of the twenty-first century announced after 34 years of the last National Policy on Education of 1986, a grand success.

Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma presented a comprehensive power point presentation on the achievements and work under progress in the education sector in J&K.



directed towards initiating major reforms in schools and higher education levels focusing on the principle that education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society and promoting national development.

One of the main objectives of the National Education Policy is to transform India into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society. It envisions an India-centric education system that conIndia into a Knowledge superpower, he said.

The Director School Education Jammu concluded the first National Conclave on National Education Policy (NEP) -2020 which was organized by Agri Industries Vikas Chamber, New Delhi under the aegis of Department of School Education, JKUT. The Resource Person from various parts of the country expressed their views on "Challenges & Implementation of National Education Policy 2020".

Special Secretary to Government School Education Department, Kanta Devi acknowledged the importance of such conclaves and said that such conclaves help to increase the focus on strengthening teacher training, reforming the existing exam system and restructuring the regulatory framework of education. Dr Manoi Gunta D

and Dr Bindu Singh informed that more than 9000 schools across the region were watching the conclave online through AIVC You Tube Channel while Sanjeev singh, Executive Director said that more 600 participants from the country participated in the said conclave.

Col.(Retd) Rajendra Prasad Nadella, CEO i30 Learning Centre addressed the participants on how i30 was instrumental and ready to implement the NEP compliant programs of i30 along with the School Education Department of JKUT in a virtual mode.

Prof. Rajesh Nair from MIT, USA joined the event virtually and gave the insight of Trends & Technology that can be incorporated in the NEP model.

Mahesh Shetty, Mentor, i30 Learning Centre shared advantages of Digital Transformation impacting all learners in JKUT. Dr. Mehboob Makhdoomi, Chairman, YSMMET and Dr. Amit Chandra, Policy Fellow, Centre for Civil Society shared the insight on challenges in the implementation of NEP-2020.

Shahid Khan, Director, Brain Mapping, discussed the Employability Skills while Dr. Kulbhushan Sharma, Chairman, NISA, discussed the challenges of the Implementation of NEP & the benefits of the same.

National Road Safety Week Begins At Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Marking the Observance of National Road Safety Week from January 11- 17, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, S F Hamid on Wednesday flagged-off a car rally from DC Office Budgam to New Bus Stand, here.

Among others, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ex. Engineer R&B Budgam, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Executive Officer (MC) Budgam, Dy. Sp Traffic, NGO, Transporters, Students of Educational Institutes and Drivers also took part in the inaugural function.

Inaugurating the National Road Safety Week-2023, the DC who is also Chairman District Road Safety Committee stressed on strict adherence to traffic rules. He emphasized on safe driving and urged the general public to ensure they take all precautions for safety of themselves and others on the road.

The car rally passed through the main market Budgam displaying Road Safety related messages on banners. On the occasion, the ARTO office also raised awareness of precautionary measures to be taken by drivers and pedestrians through a mobile van. The rally culminated smoothly at the new Bus

Stand Budgam. Sheikh Manzoor Ahmad (ARTO) Budgam thanked all participants, departments for extending their support in organizing the event. He said that we lose many precious lives every year in our country due to Road Traffic accidents and many more are permanently disabled. There are alarming figures as such India stands commit-

ted to bring down fatalities and Road Traffic Injuries

and one such way is by spreading awareness about

Road Safety measures by organising these events.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION GANDERBAL

Short Term NIT No.__06_ of 2022-23, Dated: ____ 06 /01/2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K State, Sealed tender affixed with Rs. 05/- Revenue stamps are invited from the reputed and resourceful Contractors/Dealers enlisted/registered with J&K Power Development for the following job: Details of work:

S. No	. No Particulars of work		Earnest	Completion	Position of
3. 110			money (Rs.)	Period	funds
1.	Illumination of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, District Police Lines Ganderbal, S.P Office Ganderbal, SDM Office Kangan and Duderhama Bridge with Fancy Decoration and LED lights on the occasion of Republic Day for the year 2021.	0.00	2% of estimated cost	02 days	Demanded

Tender document consisting of specifications of work, schedule of quantities and set of terms and conditions of contract can be had from the office of the undersigned in person on application against non-refundable cash payment of Rs. 200/- as cost of tender document after presentation of valid registration Certificate issued by JKPDD. The Tender documents shall be received in the office of the undersigned through Registered/ Speed Post, or in person upto 2pm of 16-

01-23. The envelope containing the tender papers should be super scribed with tender no, name of work, name of firm with complete address along with mobile no and email ID nature of work. The authority will not be responsible for any postal delay for non-receipt of bid documents in time

The bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders who may like to be present at the time of opening of tenders. The authority reserves the right to reject the bid/s without assigning any reason thereof. The tender document is liable for cancellation if

following self-attested copies are not enclosed.

Earnest money in the shape of CDR @2% of Advertised cost.

Valid electrical registration license. 3.

VAT/Tax Clarence certificate Pan Card.

4.

3.

Dated: 06-01-2023

Experience certificate for execution of similar/alike nature of work. Key Dates about issuance/ submission of the tender document:

Sale of Tender documents starts 09-01-2023 Sale of Tender documents closes 16-01-2023

Submission of the filled tender documents ends (2 P.M)

Opening of tender documents at 3 P.M 17-01-2023 No: EDG/V/ 154-64/TS

DIPK-NB-5965-22 DT: 11-01-2023

17-01-2023 **Executive Engineer ED-V Ganderbal**

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Thursday| 12-01-2023

Growing Drug Abuse

In Kashmir, the growing use of drugs by the youth is one of the most tragic of the humanitarian fallouts of the lingering political conflict and the attendant violence. The daily play of death and despair has created a sense of deadend for a generation born into conflict. Most of the addicts, the data reveals, come from the downtown Srinagar and the major towns of Baramulla, Sopore, Anantnag, Kupwara which have been the hubs of the conflict and have witnessed most of the violence. The addiction has caught on among women too.

According to a recent study, Kashmir has around 70,000 substance users, and 52,000 people are using IV Heroin, among whom 34 percent drug abusers are unmarried. What is more, while a recent study of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi said that Punjab has 1.2 percent of opiate users, Kashmir study has revealed the percentage at 2.87 percent.

Steep rise in addiction has alarmed police who have launched a concerted drive against substance abuse in the Valley over the last year. In 2022, nearly 1,700 alleged drug peddlers were arrested in Kashmir. Police have registered 1,021 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. But it hasn't made much of an impact on the ground so far. People are using psychotropic substances, barbazol and sleeping pills.

However, it is not difficult to see what is leading the youth towards drugs. One major reason is the political conflict of the past over thirty years which is taking its toll on the youth. According to unemployment figures, jobless rate in Kashmir is 24 percent. There are also a huge number of uneducated and unskilled youth who look forward to no future. The reigning political uncertainty and the humanitarian fallout of the past three decades have only reinforced the sense of hopelessness, leading youth to ease their frustration through drugs.

Having said that, the dismal state of affairs is no less aided by the easy availability of prescription drugs in the state. As a society, we are always inclined to trace these wrongs to the prevailing political conflict in the region and hence absolve ourselves of the responsibility to collectively play a role in redeeming the situation. We need to step up and face the humungous problem head on. Government, on the other hand, needs to actively engage young people in income-generating activities, including sports, to ensure that those who benefit from rehabilitation do not relapse and are embraced by their families and society once they change their ways.

OTHER OPINON

Empty Nest

ore than 18 million people born in India live abroad, making the country the world's biggest source of emigration by far. Yet, as India rightly celebrates its massive diaspora through the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which concluded in Indore yesterday, it is also important to take stock of the reasons why millions of its citizens are choosing to build a future in other nations. Unlike Mexico, which has the world's second-largest emigrant population that is largely concentrated in the United States of America, people of Indian origin are spread across the world. The Gulf nations are home to more than eight million non-resident Indians. The US, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia have large and growing populations of people who have given up their Indian passports or are looking to do so. Meanwhile, East Africa, the Caribbean, Malaysia and Fiji have large populations of Indian origin, descended from indentured labourers taken from India by former colonial powers. This rich mix makes the Indian diaspora a reflection of the old and the new, white collar and blue collar, past and present all at once. But what does the future hold? The Indian diaspora is increasingly successful in different countries. Indians are the wealthiest ethnic group in the US. The prime ministers of the UK, Portugal, Ireland and Mauritius and the presidents of Guyana, Suriname and Indonesia — spanning four continents — all have Indian roots. Others, such as the US, have Indian-origin vice-presidents.

The greatly influential Indian diaspora has often served as an important bridge that gives New Delhi economic and geopolitical advantages. For instance, it played a vital lobbying role in sealing the 2008 nuclear deal between the US and India. The popularity of the prime minister, Narendra Modi, among large sections of Indian expatriates gives his government leverage with foreign counterparts. But there are also reasons for serious worry. More than 100,000 Indians give up their citizenship each year — the figure crossed 183,000 in the first 10 months of 2022. The global consulting firm, Henley and Partners, estimated that 8,000 Indian dollar millionaires left the country for good last year. Wealthy Indians are also taking their money for investments abroad at record rates. That speaks to their relative lack of confidence in the Indian economy, while denying the country valuable taxes. It is important to ask the diaspora to do more for India. But it is even more important to ask why they felt the need to leave in the first place.

Telegraph India

India's Got The BRICS Blues

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

India faces an acute problem of self-identification, since it notionally advocates the transformation of global mechanisms imposed by developed countries but also happens to be a votary of the so-called "rulesbased order", which is a metaphor for the political ideology of the US as the dominant state and "lone superpower" in the 1990s

he Brazilian news agency reported that Lula da Silva's inauguration as the new president on January 1 for a historic third term amidst a carnival-like backdrop was attended by over five dozen foreign delegations, composed of heads of government, vice presidents, foreign ministers, special envoys and representatives of international organisations. It was the largest event with high-level international figures in Brazil since the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The BRICS leaders flocked to Brasilia — the vice-presidents of China and Russia and the foreign minister of South Africa. The solitary exception was India. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar prioritised a tour of the beautiful Mediterranean island of Cyprus and Austria.

India's "underrepresentation" probably was due to the close equations between PM Modi and Jair Bolsonaro, who served as the 38th president of Brazil from 2019 until 2022, whom Lula defeated. For some strange reason, Modi government invested heavily in Bolsonaro by inviting him as the chief guest at India's Republic Day in January 2020.

It was a controversial decision, given Bolsonaro's obnoxious record on misogyny and homophobia, and his perversion for targeting the indigenous people. In a scandalous incident, he once told an opposition politician Maria do Rosario during a debate in the parliament, "I wouldn't rape you because you're not worthy of it."

Later, he explained that he wouldn't rape her because she was "ugly". Bolsonaro's misogyny surged when he once remarked "I have five children. Four are men, and then in a moment of weakness the fifth came out a girl." Again, his homophobic views got the better of him when he threatened that "if I see two men kissing each other on the street, I'll beat them up."

Indeed, it remains a mystery what attracted the Indian ruling elite to Bolsonaro, an ex-military officer. Maybe, his "strong man" image and fascist ideology?

Be that as it may, ignoring Lula's historic return to power in Brazil is incomprehensible. It is not only that he's, arguably, the most charismatic statesman from a developing country, but he is certain to steer the BRICS to a higher destiny during his 4-year term.

Lula's return comes at a juncture when the BRICS is going from introvert to extrovert and its greater global ambition raises hopes across the wide expanses of the Global South of material changes in the global economic system. The ongoing polarisation between the West and the Rest over Ukraine issue accentuates the trend.

The hallmark of China's BRICS chairmanship in 2022 has been the launch of the extended BRICS+meeting at the level of foreign ministers. China also has plans to open up the possibility of developing countries joining the core BRICS grouping. In fact, Algeria, Argentina and Iran have already applied to join BRICS, while Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt have announced their interest in becoming the group's members.

Looking ahead, the vitality of the BRICS trajectory will largely depend on the success of the BRICS+ enterprise. While an inert, introvert BRICS has neither global capacity nor global mission, a stronger, more inclusive and open BRICS has the potential to become the basis for a new system of global governance. This is the crux of the matter.

To be sure, the BRICS association needs to overcome its mounting internal contradictions. On the one hand, a fundamental transforand so on) although this resulted in an atrophy of the raison d'être of BRICS agenda.

But, as luck would have it, Joe Biden's victory in the November 2020 US election led to a cooling of the enthusiasm on the part of Bolsonaro and the Brazilian elites regarding the prospects for rapprochement with the US. The apple of discord was Bolsonaro's policy toward the Amazon River.

Bolsonaro worried about the inclusion of environmental issues



mation of the globalisation process has begun (and this process is only gaining momentum) and there are calls for the basic principles and mechanisms which bring the BRICS countries together to undergo reform. On the other hand, this is also an inflection point as multipolarity gains traction and all global multilateral organisations are faced with the loss of their status as universal platforms for overseeing the global rules of the game.

India faces an acute problem of self-identification, since it notionally advocates the transformation of global mechanisms imposed by developed countries but also happens to be a votary of the so-called "rules-based order", which is a metaphor for the political ideology of the US as the dominant state and "lone superpower" in the 1990s.

Indeed, the difficulties of the BRICS were also caused by internal reasons. BRICS became internally highly heterogeneous and the main reason for this is India's unwillingness to work with China as leaders of economic growth. To be sure, the aggravation of contradictions between China and India has led to a slowdown in active work in the BRICS.

Enter Brazil. The victory of Bolsonaro in 2018 would also have been a moment of risk for the BRICS, as the new elites in power in Brasilia made no secret of their desire to place their main stake on rapprochement with the US. Surely, India saw in Bolsonaro a "natural ally" within the BRICS, which largely explains the high honour Modi bestowed on him on 2020 Republic Day.

Bolsonaro, like Modi, felt no commitment to the idea of uniting the Global South under the banner of reshaping the world order. Both preferred pragmatic, technocratic areas as the BRICS agenda that are objectively beneficial to them (eg., technological cooperation, the fight against organised crime, digitalisation, the Development Bank

in the NATO agenda and he discarded his previously restrained approach to the BRICS, recognising its importance as a tool to counter isolation in the event of worsening relations with the US and the EU.

Suffice it to say that Lula's return is happening at a defining moment. In his first remarks after assuming power on Sunday, Lula vowed a drastic change of course to rescue his nation plagued by hunger, poverty and racism.

Lula made clear his main focus would be on ending hunger and narrowing rampant inequality. He also said he aims to improve the rights of women, and attack racism and Brazil's legacy of slavery. Lula declared that social conscience will be "the hallmark of our government."

Unsurprisingly, India feels uneasy that the centre of gravity in BRICS is poised to shift further to the left of centre. Equally, India will find it difficult to maintain its role as a regional leader with the entry of Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia into the portals of BRICS. Being an acolyte of the US-led "rules-based order," India faces the spectre of isolation.

Beijing, whose approaches to diplomacy and international politics are known for their strategic vision for the long term, is biding its time. Lula told Chinese vice-president Wang Qishan who participated in the ceremony in Brasilia as Xi Jinping's special representative, that he looked forward to visiting Beijing "to further deepen bilateral practical cooperation in various fields, enhance friendship between peoples, and lift Brazil-China relations to a new level."

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



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001 email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Unfortunate News

ot a day goes by without the news of some violence against women. It is very unfortunate that women are still being treated so inhumanely even in the 21st century. Decades and centuries of women's miseries and struggles do not seem to end.

Our society has still not developed the understanding that women are just as human as men and they are entitled to the same amenities, but instead our society is still struggling to treat women as humans and not animals.

The oppressive culture of pushing our sisters and daughters into unhappy and abusive marriages needs to end. Families should support their daughters and not tell them to 'adjust' with their in-laws until she's beaten to death or burnt alive. Unfortunately the law does not seem to be strict enough for these abusers and murderers. All of these abusers involved in the case

must be dealt with strictly, in fact such stern action should be taken that nobody ever dares to raise their hand on a woman again. The extent of extremism is that even after we have already seen so many women die owing to domestic abuse, the society still hasn't learnt a lesson and neither have the authorities. Until and unless the police take a stern initiative, uncultured beasts like this will continue to harass and abuse women.

Our society has terribly failed to save their women in almost every sphere, and it is now the time to make amends in this matter. Women are not objects or possessions that can be beaten up or killed according to their husband's or in-law's choice, she is a human and as equal as a man is. Society cannot prosper unless men don't learn to respect women and treat them with regard.

Shameen Shafi

Seth Borenstein

With climate change, plastic pollution and a potential sixth mass extinction, humanity has made some incredible messes in the world.

But when people, political factions and nations have pulled together, they have also cleaned up some of those human-caused environmental problems, including healing the ozone hole, clearing perpetually smoggy air and saving many species from the brink of extinction.

"We can be good at cleaning up our messes, it's whether or not we choose to be and what we prioritize," said Michigan State University environmental sustainability researcher Sheril Kirshenbaum

For Earth Day, The Associated Press asked more than 25 environmental scientists and policy experts, including two former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chiefs and the current director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to share their top stories about environmental problems that the world fixed.

"There are some amazing success stories," said Stanford University environmental scientist Rob Jackson. "It's easy for us to get tunnel vision with everything going wrong, and there is a lot that needs to change quickly. But it's wonderful to remind ourselves that other people in the past have succeeded and that society has succeeded too, both nationally here in the U.S. and also internationally."

Here are the four successes mentioned most often and a key aspect that so many ecological wins have in common.

HEALING THE OZONE HOLE

Fixing ozone depletion was by far the top choice of scientists, officials and environmental policy experts.

"It was a moment where countries that usually compete with each other grasped the collective threat and decided to implement a solution," former EPA chief Carol Browner said in an email

Scientists in the 1970s had discovered that a certain class of chemicals, often used in aerosol sprays and refrigeration, was eating away the protective ozone layer in Earth's atmosphere that shields the planet from harmful ultraviolet radiation linked to skin cancer.

The ozone layer was thinning everywhere, creating a hole over Antarctica, which not only threatened increased skin cancer cases, but cataracts and widespread changes to ecosystems around the globe, said University of North Carolina atmospheric scientist Jason West.

"It's the first time we created a planet-killing problem and then we turned around and solved it," Stanford's Jackson said.

In 1987, the countries of the world signed the Montreal Protocol, a first of its kind treaty that banned the ozone-munching chemicals. At this

Healing Earth

Positive Stories of Humans Cleaning up the Mess

point every nation in the world has adopted the treaty, 99% of the ozone-depleting chemicals have been phased out, "saving 2 million people every year from skin cancer," United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen said in an email.

The ozone hole over Antarctica worsened for a couple decades, but over the last several years it has slowly started to heal in fits and spurts. The United Nations Environment Programme projects that the ozone " will heal completely by the 2030s."

While activists point to the Montreal Protocol as a hope and example for the fight against climate change, it's not quite the same. In the case of the banned ozone-sapping chemicals the corporations that manufactured them also made their replacements. But with climate change "it's more of an existential threat to the oil and gas companies," Jackson said.

CLEANER AIR AND WATER

In the United States and much of the industrialized world, the air is much cleaner and clearer than it was 50 or 60 years ago when major cities like Los Angeles were choked with smog and even more dangerous microscopic particles in the air. And lakes and rivers were dumping grounds, especially around Ohio, Michigan and Canada.

"We would go to Lake Erie when I was young... and play on the beach and there would be dead fish everywhere. We would have dead fish fights," Stanford's Jackson said.

In the United States the Clean Air Act of 1970 and its follow up in 1990 with EPA regulations "effectively cleaned our air," UNC's West said. A similar law passed in the 1972 for water.

"This has led to fewer health conditions such as cancer and asthma, for example, and saved millions of lives and trillions of dollars in health care costs," Syracuse University environmental sciences professor Sam Tuttle said. "That means healthier people, more productive fisheries and a healthier and more attractive environment for



all of us to enjoy."

Tight restrictions on tiny particles alone decreased annual U.S. air pollution deaths "from about 95,000 in 1990 to 48,000 in 2019," West

In Los Angeles in 1955, smog levels peaked at 680 parts per billion. In the last couple years they hit 185 parts per billion but are usually much smaller.

It's not just air outside. Former EPA chief William K. Reilly and University of Maryland environmental health scientist Sacoby Wilson said restricting indoor smoking had huge public health effects.

On the water, Brown University environmental scientist J. Timmons Roberts also grew up on Lake Erie and stopped going to the water because of the dead fish: "Regulations and cooperation between the U.S. and Canada really made the difference and now there's genuine eco-tourism there and thousands of walleye and other fishers come out every summer."

SOLAR AND WIND POWER

The steep fall in price of solar and wind power, which do not produce heat-trapping gases, has surprised experts and given them hope that the world can wean itself from coal, oil and natural gas that are causing global warming.

From 2010 to 2020, the price of residential

From 2010 to 2020, the price of residential solar power dropped 64% and the price of large-scale utility solar power generation dropped 82%, according to the National Renewable Energy Lab.

Solar "is becoming a dominant energy technology and it's becoming cheaper," Jackson said. "It is cheaper than almost all other forms of electricity generation."

Few people thought solar and wind prices would drop so quickly just ten years ago, Jackson, Kirshenbaum and others said.

Experts credit renewable power subsidies to pull the world out of the 2008 Great Recession, especially in Germany and the United States.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The bald eagle, American alligator, peregrine falcon, Canada geese and humpback whales are each environmental success stories.

All were once on the brink of extinction, put on the endangered species list for protection. Now they are all of the protected list and in some cases they are so abundant that people consider them a nuisance or they cause problems for other species.

"Conservation efforts are clawing some endangered species back from the brink," Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm said. "We are learning to do this thing called conservation."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has taken 96 species off the endangered species list, 65 of them because they have recovered.

Experts credit regulations and laws across the world with restricting the killing and trading of endangered species and preventing destruction of crucial habitat for those critters and plants.

Another key change was the ban on the pesticide DDT, which reverberated through the food chain, causing thinning eggs for eagles, peregrine falcons and other birds of prey, Cornell University environmental biology professor Robert Howarth said.

COOPERATION

In the United States, many of these key successes were spurred by laws and actions taken by Republican administrations of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

"All these major milestones, including the creation of the EPA, were bipartisan, but unfortunately today we can't seem to get that stuff done," said Christie Todd Whitman, who was an EPA chief during a Republican presidency. "Sadly, Republicans don't seem to care about these issues anymore—everything is so hyper partisan now that (the) GOP seem to be Neanderthals on the environment."

Often when a Republican is president, the rest of the country moves left and becomes more friendly to environmental action, whereas they move right and become more environmentally complacent during Democratic administrations, said Kirshenbaum, a former congressional staffer and director of Science Debate. What's important is cooperation and buy-in to big issues from all sides, experts said.

The treaty to heal the ozone hole is the example for what working together can accomplish, Syracuse's Tuttle said: "This agreement proved that the international community could come together to create an enforceable framework to tackle an environmental problem of global significance."

The article was originally published by PHYS Org

The Future of Working

rom steam power and electricity to computers and the internet, technological advancements have always disrupted labor markets, pushing out some jobs while creating others. Artificial intelligence remains something of a misnomer – the smartest computer systems still don't actually know anything – but the technology has reached an inflection point where it's poised to affect new classes of jobs: artists and knowledge workers.

Specifically, the emergence of large language models – Al systems that are trained on vast amounts of text – means computers can now produce human-sounding written language and convert descriptive phrases into realistic images. The Conversation asked five artificial intelligence researchers to discuss how large language models are likely to affect artists and knowledge workers. And, as our experts noted, the technology is far from perfect, which raises a host of issues – from misinformation to plagiarism – that affect human workers.

nation to plagiarism – that affect human workers. To jump ahead to each response, here's a list of each:

Creativity for all – but loss of skills?

Lynne Parker, Associate Vice Chancellor, University of Tennessee

Large language models are making creativity and knowledge work accessible to all. Everyone with an internet connection can now use tools like ChatGPT or DALL-E 2 to express themselves and make sense of huge stores of information by, for example, producing text summaries.

Especially notable is the depth of humanlike expertise large language models display. In just minutes, novices can create illustrations for their business presentations, generate marketing pitches, get ideas to overcome writer's block, or generate new computer code to perform specified functions, all at a level of quality typically attributed to human experts.

These new Al tools can't read minds, of course. A new, yet simpler, kind of human creativity is needed in the form of text prompts to get the results the human user is seeking. Through iterative prompting – an example of human-Al collaboration – the Al system generates successive rounds of outputs until the human writing the prompts is satisfied with the results. For example, the (human) winner of the recent Colorado State Fair competition in the digital artist category, who used an Al-powered tool, demonstrated creativity, but not of the sort that requires brushes and an eye for color and texture.

While there are significant benefits to opening the world of creativity and knowledge work to everyone, these new AI tools also have downsides. First, they could accelerate the loss of important human skills that will remain important in the coming years, especially writing skills. Educational institutes need to craft and enforce policies on allowable uses of large language models to ensure fair play and desirable learning outcomes.

Second, these AI tools raise questions around intellectual property protections. While human creators are regularly inspired by existing artifacts in the world, including architecture and the writings, music and paintings of others, there are unanswered questions on the proper and fair use by large language models of copyrighted or open-source training examples. Ongoing lawsuits are now debating this issue, which may have implications for the future design and use of large language models.

As society navigates the implications of these new AI tools, the public seems ready to embrace them. The chatbot ChatGPT went viral quickly, as did image generator Dall-E mini and others. This suggests a huge untapped potential for creativity, and the importance of making creative and knowledge work accessible to all.

Potential inaccuracies, biases and plagiarism

Daniel Acuña, Associate Professor of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder

I am a regular user of GitHub Copilot, a tool for helping people write computer code, and I've spent countless hours playing with ChatGPT and similar tools for Al-generated text. In my experience, these tools are good at exploring ideas that I haven't thought about before.

I've been impressed by the models' capacity to translate my instructions into coherent text or code. They are useful for discovering new ways to improve the flow of my ideas, or creating solutions with software packages that I didn't know existed. Once I see what these tools generate, I can evaluate their quality and edit heavily. Overall, I think they raise the bar on what is considered creative.

But I have several reservations.

One set of problems is their inaccuracies – small and big. With Copilot and ChatGPT, I am constantly looking for whether ideas are too shallow – for example, text without much substance or inefficient code, or output that is just plain wrong, such as wrong analogies or conclusions, or code that doesn't run. If users are not critical of what these tools produce, the tools are potentially harmful.

Recently, Meta shut down its Galactica large language model for scientific text because it made up "facts" but sounded very confident. The concern was that it could pollute the internet with confident-sounding falsehoods.

Another problem is biases. Language models can learn from the data's biases and replicate them. These biases are hard to see in text generation but very clear in image generation models. Researchers at OpenAI, creators of ChatGPT, have been relatively careful about what the model will respond to, but users routinely find ways around these guardrails.

Another problem is plagiarism. Recent research has shown that image generation tools of-

ten plagiarize the work of others. Does the same happen with ChatGPT? I believe that we don't know. The tool might be paraphrasing its training data – an advanced form of plagiarism. Work in my lab shows that text plagiarism detection tools are far behind when it comes to detecting paraphrasing.

These tools are in their infancy, given their potential. For now, I believe there are solutions to their current limitations. For example, tools could fact-check generated text against knowledge bases, use updated methods to detect and remove biases from large language models, and run results through more sophisticated plagiarism detection tools.

With humans surpassed, niche and 'hand-made' jobs will remain

Kentaro Toyama, Professor of Community Information, University of Michigan

We human beings love to believe in our specialness, but science and technology have repeatedly proved this conviction wrong. People once thought that humans were the only animals to use tools, to form teams or to propagate culture, but science has shown that other animals do each of these things.

Meanwhile, technology has quashed, one by one, claims that cognitive tasks require a human brain. The first adding machine was invented in 1623. This past year, a computer-generated work won an art contest. I believe that the singularity – the moment when computers meet and exceed human intelligence – is on the horizon.

How will human intelligence and creativity be valued when machines become smarter and more creative than the brightest people? There will likely be a continuum. In some domains, people still value humans doing things, even if a computer can do it better. It's been a quarter of a century since IBM's Deep Blue beat world champion Garry Kasparov, but

human chess – with all its drama – hasn't gone away. In other domains, human skill will seem costly and extraneous. Take illustration, for example. For the most part, readers don't care whether the graphic accompanying a magazine article was drawn by a person or a computer – they just want it to be relevant, new and perhaps entertaining. If a computer can draw well, do readers care whether the credit line says Mary Chen or System X? Illustrators would, but readers might not even notice.

And, of course, this question isn't black or white. Many fields will be a hybrid, where some Homo sapiens find a lucky niche, but most of the work is done by computers. Think manufacturing – much of it today is accomplished by robots, but some people oversee the machines, and there remains a market for handmade products.

If history is any guide, it's almost certain that advances in Al will cause more jobs to vanish, that creative-class people with human-only skills

will become richer but fewer in number, and that those who own creative technology will become the new mega-rich. If there's a silver lining, it might be that when even more people are without a decent livelihood, people might muster the political will to contain runaway inequality.

Old jobs will go, new jobs will emerge

puter Science, Florida International University
Large language models are sophisticated sequence completion machines: Give one a sequence of words ("I would like to eat an ...") and it will return likely completions ("... apple."). Large language models like ChatGPT that have been trained on record-breaking numbers of words (trillions) have surprised many, including many

AI researchers, with how realistic, extensive, flex-

Mark Finlayson, Associate Professor of Com-

ible and context-sensitive their completions are.
Like any powerful new technology that automates a skill – in this case, the generation of coherent, albeit somewhat generic, text – it will affect those who offer that skill in the marketplace. To conceive of what might happen, it is useful to recall the impact of the introduction of word processing programs in the early 1980s. Certain jobs like typist almost completely disappeared. But, on the upside, anyone with a personal computer was able to generate well-typeset documents with a personal breadly increasing productivities.

with ease, broadly increasing productivity.
Further, new jobs and skills appeared that were previously unimagined, like the oft-included resume item MS Office. And the market for high-end document production remained, becoming much more capable, sophisticated and specialized.

I think this same pattern will almost certainly hold for large language models: There will no longer be a need for you to ask other people to draft coherent, generic text. On the other hand, large language models will enable new ways of working, and also lead to new and as yet unimagined jobs.

To see this, consider just three aspects where large language models fall short. First, it can take quite a bit of (human) cleverness to craft a prompt that gets the desired output. Minor changes in the prompt can result in a major change in the output. Second, large language models can generate inappropriate or nonsensical output without

warning.

Third, as far as AI researchers can tell, large language models have no abstract, general understanding of what is true or false, if something is right or wrong and what is just common sense. No

right or wrong, and what is just common sense. Notably, they cannot do relatively simple math. This means that their output can unexpectedly be misleading, biased, logically faulty or just plain false. These failings are opportunities for creative and knowledge workers. For much content creation, even

for general audiences, people will still need the judg-

ment of human creative and knowledge workers to

prompt, guide, collate, curate, edit and especially augment machines' output. Many types of specialized and highly technical language will remain out of reach of machines for the foreseeable future. And there will be new types of work – for example, those who will make a business out of fine-tuning in-house large language models to generate certain specialized types of text to serve particular markets.

In sum, although large language models certainly portend disruption for creative and knowledge workers, there are still many valuable opportunities in the offing for those willing to adapt to and integrate these powerful new tools.

Leaps in technology lead to new skills

Casey Greene, Professor of Biomedical Informatics, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Technology changes the nature of work, and knowledge work is no different. The past two decades have seen biology and medicine undergoing transformation by rapidly advancing molecular characterization, such as fast, inexpensive DNA sequencing, and the digitization of medicine in the form of apps, telemedicine and data analysis.

Some steps in technology feel larger than others. Yahoo deployed human curators to index emerging content during the dawn of the World Wide Web. The advent of algorithms that used information embedded in the linking patterns of the web to prioritize results radically altered the landscape of search, transforming how people gather information today.

The release of OpenAl's ChatGPT indicates another leap. ChatGPT wraps a state-of-the-art large language model tuned for chat into a highly usable interface. It puts a decade of rapid progress in artificial intelligence at people's fingertips. This tool can write passable cover letters and instruct users on addressing common problems in user-selected language styles.

Just as the skills for finding information on the internet changed with the advent of Google, the skills necessary to draw the best output from language models will center on creating prompts and prompt templates that produce desired outputs.

For the cover letter example, multiple prompts are possible. "Write a cover letter for a job" would produce a more generic output than "Write a cover letter for a position as a data entry specialist." The user could craft even more specific prompts by pasting portions of the job description, resume and specific instructions – for example, "highlight attention to detail."

As with many technological advances, how people interact with the world will change in the era of widely accessible AI models. The question is whether society will use this moment to advance equity or exacerbate disparities.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Acceptance Of Covid Vaccines Increased Globally: Study

Press Trust Of India

Acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines increased globally, from 75.2 per cent in 2021 to 79.1 per cent in 2022, according to a survey in 23 countries that represent more than 60 per cent of the world's population.

The study underlines a wide variability among countries and the need for tailored communication strategies in addressing vaccine hesitancy. It was led by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain, and the City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy (CUNY SPH), US.

However, vaccine acceptance decreased in eight countries and almost one in eight vaccinated respondents, particularly younger men and women, were hesitant about receiving a booster dose, the study said. The findings have been published in Nature Medicine

"The pandemic is not over, and authorities must urgently address vaccine hesitancy and resistance as part of their COV-ID-19 prevention and mitigation strategy," says Jeffrey V Lazarus, Head of the Health Systems



Research Group at ISGlobal.

To do so effectively, though, policy-makers need solid data on vaccine hesitancy trends (whether it is decreasing or increasing and in which populations) and drivers (factors that influence vaccine acceptance, such as income or education), the study said.

To obtain these data, an international collaboration led by Lazarus and Ayman El-Mohandes, Dean of CUNY SPH, performed a series of surveys starting in 2020 across 23 highly populated countries that were hit hard by the pandemic. The data reported here

correspond to the third survey conducted between June and July 2022, the study said.

The countries surveyed were Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, the study said.

Of the 23,000 respondents surveyed, 1000 per country, 79.1 per cent were willing to accept vaccination. This finding represented an increase of 5.2 per cent from June 2021, the study said.

The willingness of parents to vaccinate their children also rose slightly, from 67.6 per cent in 2021 to 69.5 per cent in 2022. However, eight countries observed increased hesitancy from 1.0 per cent in the UK to 21.1 per cent in South Africa, the study said.

Almost one in eight, 12.1 per cent, vaccinated respondents were hesitant about booster doses. This hesitancy was higher among the younger age groups (18-29 years), the study said.

"We must remain vigilant in tracking these data, containing COVID-19 variants and addressing hesitancy, which may challenge future routine COVID-19 immunization programs," said Ayman El-Mohandes, senior author of the study.

The survey also provides new information on COVID-19 treatments received. Globally, ivermectin was taken with the same frequency as other approved medications, even though the WHO and other agencies do not recommend its use to prevent or treat COVID-19, the

Almost 40 per cent of respondents reported paying less attention to new COVID-19 information than before and having less support for vaccine mandates, the study said.

'Poetry, Meditation Power New Research Understanding'

Press Trust Of India

Combining poetry and meditation may help discover new angles on the world by enabling researchers to take an unorthodox approach to data collection and analysis, new research says.

The study reveals that "poetic meditation" can enhance qualitative data analysis by offering researchers improved sensory experience and an ability to approach data analysis from unexpected directions.

The authors of the study explain that meditation allows researchers to train their body for data collection -- improving their capacity to capture unexpected insights and deal with



uncertainty and transformation as they incorporate novel interpretations into their research.

The skills enable researchers to understand novel cultural practices. Poetic meditations may prepare the researchers to see the world from different angles.

Publishing their findings in the Journal of Marketing Management, researchers at the University of Birmingham and Kedge Business School in Bordeaux, France, outline a radical new process to help researchers enhance their work.

Pilar Rojas-Gaviria from the University of Birmingham said, 'Scientific wonder prompts us to ask questions about the purpose of consumption, the way markets are created and extended, and how life and human experience are attached to both.

"Academics have always developed theses to resolve questions and explain events, but mindfulness practice can make our bodies an instrument of research gathering data from different environmental sources. Poetry offers qualitative researchers a useful tool to

refigure their surroundings and shed new light on the data they work with."

Poetic meditation allows researchers to reveal unexpected or previously unnoticed features of market and consumption environments -- rather than simply reproducing existing categories and theories.

By recording and presenting poetic meditations through audio media, the researchers demonstrate poetry's potential to stimulate new ideas that can influence how academics approach data collection or analysis.

The researchers demonstrate the technique with two poetic meditations focusing on the colours green and red.

Apple iPhone 16 Pro May Feature Under Display Face ID San

IANS

pple's upcoming iPhone 16 Pro model will reportedly feature under-display Face ID technology to provide a more usable display area.

The tech giant is likely to place the parts needed for Face ID authentication directly under the iPhone's display next year, reports MacRumors.

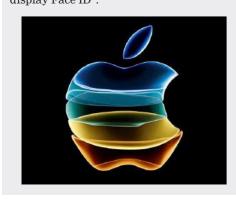
The TrueDepth camera for Face ID won't be visible under the display when it is not in use, instead it will appear seamlessly blended with the surrounding

The hole in the display for the front camera is expected to remain on the iPhone 16 Pro, however, the overall display area and sense of immersion are like-

Since the under-display technology is not yet ready, the display cutouts will not change from the iPhone 14 Pro to the iPhone 15 Pro later this year

The iPhone maker is likely to adopt an underpanel camera (UPC) once it implements under-display Face ID technology, thereby eliminating all of the display cutouts on the iPhone currently in use, the report said.

Meanwhile, in August last year, analyst Ming-Chi Kuo had said that "high-end iPhones in 2024 would adopt an underdisplay front camera alongside the underdisplay Face ID".



Office of the Principal

Government Degree College

Kangan-191202 (J&K)

گورنمنٹ ڈگری کالج کنگن

Dated: 09-01-2023 No: GDC/KGN/23/ODDIA

Tender Notice

Due to non-response to our already tendered following items with specifications and quantity as given in the table, the same items are hereby re-tendered and shall reach to this office positively within five (05) days from the publication of this notice in the daily local newspaper (s). The Sealed Tenders duly affixed with Reveue Stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited by the Principal Government.Degree College Kangan from the registered reputed/suppliers of Kashmir Valley (SSI unit holders) for the supply of Musical instruments as detailed below . Further the terms and conditions of the re-tendered items shall remain same as already specified.

S.No	Name of the item	Quantity in number		
01	Sitar	10		
02	20 strings sitar bundle	20		
03	30 Mizrabs	30		

Terms and conditions

1. The tender should be accompanied with CDR worth Rs.5000/- (Five thousand only) drawn from any Branch J&K Bank, pledged to the Principal Govt.Degree College Kangan; No tender without CDR shall be entertained.

2. The supply should be strictly according to the size/specification and sample of which can be had from the College office on any working day during office hours .

3. The rate quote should be for college premises inclusive of all taxes/VAT/GST.

4. The supply should reach to the office of the undersigend within 05 (five)days from the issuance of the supply order failing which the CDR shall be fortified.

5. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any

6. The quantity may be increased or decreased by the undersigned at th time of issuing supply order to the successful tenderer.

DATED: 11-01-2023

Principa Govt Degree College Kanga



TENDER

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K State, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following worl

Providing and Fixing of Iron Grill for Windows & Collapsible steel Shutter for Main Doors in Indus Hostel at IUST Campus						
ENIT No & Date	Advertised Cost of Construction	Class of Contract				
E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/23/TEND/IHG/01 Date: 09-01-2023	Rs. 11,33,130.00/=	"B, C & D"				
Bid submission Start Date: 09-01-2023 Bid submission End Date: 23-01-2023 Up to 6:00 PM						
Data of Submission of DD / Hard Comply 24 01 2022 From 10:00 AM Harts 4:00 DM						

RE-TENDER

The work "Construction of additional space in attic (under truss) at Engineering Wing Office (6 No Workstations)' published vide E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/22/TEND/EWO/13 Dated: - 21-09-2022 & Re-tendered vide E-NIT No: IUST/EW/22/TEND/EWO/13A Dated: - 21-11-2022 & IUST/EW/22/TEND/EWO/13B Dated: - 30-11-2022 is again

Construction of additional space in attic (under truss) at Engineering Wing Office (6 No Workstations)						
ENIT No & Date Advertised Cost of C						
ENTI NO & Date	Construction	Contract				
No: IUST/EW/22/TEND/EWO/13C; Date: 09-01-2023 Rs. 5,39,553.00/= "C & D"						
Bid submission Start Date: 09-01-2023						
Bid submission End Date: 16-01-2023 Up to 6:00 PM						
Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy): 17-01-2023 From 10:00 AM Up to 4:00 PM						
Bids shall be opened at IUST, on 18-01-2023 at 11:00 AM						

RE-TENDER

The work "Supply, Design, fabrication, installation, testing & commissioning of LT Power Panels for Boys Hostel Block-II at IUST Awantipora." published vide E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/ELE/22/TEND/BH/22/04-A, dated: - 09-12-2022 is hereby RE-TENDERED as No Bidder qualifies for the opening of the Financial Bid

Supply, Design, fabrication, installation, testing & commissioning of LT Power Panels for Boys Hostel Block-II at IUST Awantipora Advertised Cost of Class of **ENIT No & Date** Construction Contract No: IUST/EW/ELE/TEND/BH/22/04-B; Date: 09-01-2023 Rs. 8,80,000.00/

Bid submission Start Date: 11-01-2023 Bid submission End Date: 18-01-2023 Up to 6:00 PM

Tender documents can be downloaded from website: https://jktenders.gov.in Detailed Tender/Re-Tender Notices are available on university website www.iust.ac.in

Executive Engineer IUST Awantipora

DIPK-NB-5990/22 dated: 11-01-2023

Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy): 19-01-2023 (Office Hours)

Bids shall be opened at IUST, on 20-01-2023 at 10:00 AM

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pulwama

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road work/bridges/Buildings)

TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 Crores) Fresh to NIT 363 of 21-12-2022

3rd Call

NIT No:- Fresh/381/15559-69 / EEP/RNB/e-tender/ of 2022-23 Dated: 09 -01-2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis basis (as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

- 1	S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	T/Doc. (Rs. In Lacs)	EMD	Time of completion	Opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1.	Development of Bus Adda including Construction of Shopping Complex at Bus Stand TRAL	401.24	5500/-	2% of Adverti sed cost.	1.5 Years	24-01-2023	AAY
_		Major Hoad of Assount -	EC Cuanto					

= 28 of 2021 Dated: 14-09-2021

Project Authority: = Executive Officer MC-Tral

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-01-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-01-2023 10.00 A.M to 24-01-2023 4.00 P.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	11-01-2023 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama-Shopian HQ Pulwama.
4.	Bid submission Start Date	12-01-2023 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	23-01-2023 upto 4.00 P.M
6.	The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Chief Accounts Officer PWD(R&B) Kashmir and 2% EMD will be released after receiving 3% of Security Bid Performance.	As per time specified in SBD.
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	24-01-2023 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama-Shopian HQ Pulwama.
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

(The Date of Treasury e-Challan) must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

1.2 All bidders have to submit Earnest money in the Shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama-Shopian HQ Pulwama as per the circular of Finance Department. Non submission of EMD shall render the bidder as non-responsive.

2. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama-Shopian HQ Pulwama within 15 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.

Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.

4. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive** bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Chief Engineer (R&B) , Engineering Complex . The date for same shall be

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

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:a) 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. b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of letter

c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No: - Fresh/ 381 / 15559-61 /EEP/RNB/ of 2022-23 DIPK-16236/22 Dated: - 11-01-2023 Sd/-Sd/ Head Draftsman Tech. Officer

- Sd/-**Executive Engineer** R&B Division Pulwama.

Direct Tax Collection Grows 24.58% To Rs 14.71 Lakh Crore Till Jan 10

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The country's gross direct tax collection rose 24.58 per cent to Rs 14.71 lakh crore till January 10 this fiscal, buoyed by an upsurge in personal income tax mop-up, the government data showed on Wednesday.



After adjusting refunds, net in a statement. direct tax collection stood at Rs 12.31 lakh crore, 19.55 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of

last year. The net collection is 86.68 per cent of the total budget estimates of direct taxes for the current fiscal. The Budget had estimated direct tax collection at Rs 14.20 lakh crore this fiscal.

On gross basis, collections from corporate income tax (CIT) grew 19.72 per cent, while that for personal income tax (PIT) increased 30.46 per cent.

"The provisional figures of direct tax collections up to 10th January, 2023 continue to register steady growth. Direct tax collections up to 10th January,

2023 show that gross collections are at Rs 14.71 lakh crore which is 24.58 per cent higher than the collections for the corresponding period of last year," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said

After adjusting refunds, the net growth in CIT collections is 18.33 per cent and that in PIT (including securities transaction

tax) is 20.97 per cent. Refunds amounting to Rs 2.40 lakh crore have been issued between April 1, 2022, to January 10, 2023, which are 58.74 per cent higher than refunds issued during the same period last year.

Court Rescinds Ban, Allows Johnson & Johnson To Make, Sell Baby Powder

Press Trust Of India

ted Johnson & Johnson to manufacture, sell and distribute its baby powder and quashed three orders of the Maharashtra government revoking the company's license and asking it to stop the product manufacture and sale, terming them

as "stringent, unreasonable and

A division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and S G Dige also came down heavily on the state Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its delay in carrying out tests on a sample of the company's baby powder seized in December 2018.

The bench noted that while maintaining standards of quality and safety are of utmost importance for cosmetic products, at the same time it seem reasonable to shut down the whole manufacturing process when there is a slight deviation in one of the products.

Such an approach would result in considerable amount of "commercial chaos and wastefulness", it said.

The orders of suspension and revoking of license were passed based on the report of a lab which found the powder contained higher pH level than prescribed.

The HC in its order on Wednesday noted the fresh tests conducted showed all batches of the baby power product were compliant with

the norms prescribed.

The court passed its order on **MUMBAI:** The Bombay High a petition filed by the company Court on Wednesday permit- challenging three orders of the state government -

one dated September 15, 2022 cancelling the license, the second dated September 20, 2022 ordering it to immediately stop manufacturing and sale of the baby powder product, and the third passed on October 15, 2022 by

the state minister concerned upholding the earlier two orders.

The HC in its order said, "The executive cannot use a hammer to kill an ant. Is it always inevitable that when there is a single case of deviation or non-compliance (to prescribed norms) by a product the only option left with the regulatory authority is to cancel or revoke the license of the manufactur-

This seems to us as an exreme approach. There seems to be an unfairness and unreasonableness in the executive action. There is also nothing to show that the FDA has adopted such a stringent approach for any other product of the petitioner company or any other company," it added.

Noting that the government orders cannot sustain, the HC quashed them and permitted the company to manufacture, distribute and sell its baby powder products.

The court also came down heavily on the FDA for the delay in carrying out tests on a sample of the company's baby powder seized in December 2018.

CS For Branding Of Products Produced By KVIB Clusters

Board proclaims providing employment to more than 1.6 lakh youth under PMEGP



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday urged the Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) to identify certain products, give them a brand name and promote these in the market.

He expressed these ideas in the 106th Board Meeting held today under his chairmanship.

The meeting was attended by the board members including Vice Chairperson, KVIB; Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; DG, I&C, Jammu; Director, I&C, Kashmir; CEO/ Secretary, KVIB and many other concerned officers and officials.

Dr Mehta impressed upon the Board to certify their products so that their saleable value increases in the market. He observed that people prefer quality products and the quality has to be certified by the third party for its acceptability. He enjoined upon the officers to use

for enhancing the appeal of products among the customers.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the average time of loan disbursement to the applicants. He stressed on shortening the waiting period for applicants besides further accelerating the process to increase their number.

Dr Mehta asked the Board to take innovative measures in value addition and creation of market linkages. He advised the Board to look into handholding of youth in establishment of Leather processing in J&K, the raw material for which is available locally. He told them to take better consultancy advice in this regard so that employment generation for youth takes place.

He also told them to hold the Board meetings regularly and look for avenues to generate revenue for the Board to meet its expenses. He made out that the recruitment rules should be reviewed wherever necessary as per updated requirements.

standard certification methods He asked for bringing in fresh talent to KVIB by engaging the management and other technical professionals in it.

The meeting was informed that in the previous 6 years from 2018-19 the Board has been successful in establishing 20772 units under PM Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) generating employment for about 166172 persons. It was elucidated that the board has achieved its target by more than 5 folds thereby achieving first rank in the country in implementation of this programme.

It was also given out that under JK Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) the Board has established more than 3000 units from 2018-2022 thereby generating employment for nearly 18000 persons.

It was revealed that the board invites applications online so that the process is more transparent, smooth and hassle-free for the benefit of all the applicants.

'Budget 2023-24 To Incorporate Ideals Of Viksit J&K, Women Empowerment, RCB, Skill Development'

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In the aftermath of the 2nd Chief Secretaries Conference chaired by Prime Minister recently the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta took a detailed review of way forward for achieving different objectives set out during the conference.

The meeting was attended by all the Administrative Secretaries, DG Budget, Directors of Finance of different departments and other concerned officers.

Dr Mehta stressed on including all themes mentioned by the Prime Minister maintained that all of these lowed and achieved in a time bound manner. He directed for making necessary inclusions in the budget 2023-24 for implementing these ideals set for the UT.

It was set out that the agenda of this year's conference was based upon the broad counters of Viksit Bharat that were decided after extensive deliberations between nodal Ministries, NITI Aayog, States/UTs and domain experts. The discussion during the Conference were held on six identified themes viz Thrust on

MSMEs, Infrastructure and lar economy and UTs being Minimising Investments. Compliances, Women's Empowerment, Health & Nutrition and Skill Development.

The Chief Secretary encouraged the officers to continue strengthening MSME sector as being significant to integrate the helplines refor attaining the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and to popularise local products. Further the ideals of 'Ease of Living' and 'Ease of Doing Business' also needs to be focussed upon.

He called upon them to focus on ending mindless compliances and those laws ers for their greater role in or rules which are outdated. such men-dominated acin the upcoming budget. He He remarked that in a time tivities. Promotion of women of unparalleled reforms, SHGs for carrying out their form the guiding principles there is no scope for over entrepreneurial for us to be earnestly fol- regulation and undue re- was also promulgated as a strictions. So time has come to reduce the compliance Hostel for working women burden (RCB) on common and pink bus service to be citizens as much as possible, used as transport was also

Besides the meeting held focused deliberations on in- tor the Chief Secretary decorporation of themes like clared that whole adult pop-Vocal for Local and use of ulation should be screened new emerging technologies. It was decided that districts eases (NCD) besides children being the fulcrum of de- and girls for malnutrition velopment should be given and anaemia respectively. It more autonomy in utiliza- was targeted to have 100% tion of funds through PRI's institutional births and to enable their unrestrained maintenance of fertility rate growth and progress. It also at national average of 2.1 discussed the idea of circu- here in the UT as well.

model of development for all other states.

Dr Mehta impressed upon all the Administrative Secretaries to create a single helpline as envisaged in the conference. He asked them lated to women and children like 181 and 1098 with 112 Emergency Response Support System. It was further made out to

create women hubs in each district and women exclusive shopping centres, women tourist guides and taxi drivpriority area for the budget discussed in this meeting.

With regard to Health secfor Non-Communicable Dis-

Electric Vehicles Steel The Limelight Of First Day Of Auto Expo 2023

Press Trust Of India

GREATER NOIDA: Electric vehicles hogged the limelight on the first day of India's flagship motor show Auto Expo 2023 with the likes of Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Kia, Tata Motors and MG Motor showcasing their futuristic products, while also committing to invest in sustainable mobility.

The show, returning after three years having been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, opened with the global premiere of Suzuki Motor Corporation's con-

driving range on single charge.

We plan to bring it to market by 2025. At the Suzuki Group, addressing global warming is a priority," SMC Representative Director and President Toshihiro Suzuki said here at the expo while unveiling the product.

On the other hand, Hyundai Motor India launched its all-electric model Ioniq 5 at an introductory price of Rs 44.95 lakh (ex-showroom) for the first 500 customers in the presence of Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan. The model is based on the company's dedicated



cept electric SUV 'eVX' which is slated to hit the market by 2025.

The company's Indian arm Maruti Suzuki India is among the major manufacturers participating at the expo, in which some major manufacturers such as Mahindra & Mahindra, Skoda, Volkswagen and Nissan along with luxury car makers like Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi are not participating.

The Concept eVX is a mid-size electric SUV concept designed and developed by Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), Japan. It will be powered by a 60 kWh battery pack offering up to 550 km of E-GMP.

"Ioniq 5 represents our shift towards future mobility with tenets that encapsulate intelligent technology, innovation and sustainability," Hyundai Motor India MD and CEO Unsoo Kim said. Hyundai already sells one EV model, Kona Electric, in the

country. Another carmaker Kia India, which unveiled an all-electric SUV Concept Kia Concept EV9, said it plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore over the next four years to scale up its presence in the elec-

Non-Residents From 10 Countries Will Soon Be Able To Use UPI For Fund Transfer

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The NPCI has permitted non-residents from 10 countries, including the US, Canada and UAE, to digitally transfer funds using the UPI platform from NRE/NRO accounts.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in a circular said it has been receiving requests for allowing non-residents to use international mobile numbers for transacting in Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Accordingly, the NPCI in a circu-UPI participants to put in place a mechanism by April 30 under which non-residents having NRE/ NRO accounts will be allowed to transfer funds using their international mobile numbers.

To start with, this facility will be available to non-residents in 10 countries -- Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the United Kingdom.

While NRIs and PIOs can open Non-Resident (External) Rupee (NRE) bank accounts, Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) accounts can be opened by any person residing outside India for bonafide transactions in the rupee.

The NPCI, which operates the

UPI platform, said, "To begin with, we shall be enabling transaction from mobile numbers having the country code of (10 nations)... and shall extend for other country codes in near future...". Payments Council of

Chairman Vishwas Patel said the major convenience factor would be in the form of 'payment/money transfer convenience' for NRIs when they visit India. Sarvatra Technologies Found-

er MD Mandar Agashe said all these years, NRIs couldn't access the UPI network since SIM binding, which is an important security feature of UPI, was available only to Indian SIM card phones.

"NRIs will just need to link their NRE and NRO accounts linked to their international SIM to UPI and use it like any other Indian UPI user for merchant payment as well as peer-to-peer payments," Agashe said.

SHORT TAKES

Google Fails To Get Interim Relief In App **Store Case**

NEW DELHI: In a setback for Google, an appellate tribunal on Wednesday refused an interim stay on the competition regulator imposing a Rs 936-crore penalty on the US tech giant for abusing its dominant position in the market.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal directed Google to deposit 10 per cent of the fine that was slapped by the Competition Commission of India in a case related to its Play Store policies.

A week back, Google failed to get relief from the NCLAT on a separate Rs 1,337.76 crore fine imposed by CCI on alleged abuse of the dominant position that the US tech giant has in the Android smartphone operating system in the country. It was asked to deposit 10 per cent of the fine within four weeks.

Google challenged that order before the Supreme Court, which agreed to hear it on

While in the first case, CCI had in October last year asked Google to allow smartphone users on the Android platform to uninstall apps and let them select a search engine of their choice, the regulator had stated that the company to take corrective steps on policies that forced developers to use Google Play's billing system to list their apps on its Play Store. PTI

Sebi Imposes Securities Market Ban On 8 Entities

NEW DELHI: Sebi on Wednesday barred eight entities, including BRH Wealth Kreators and BRH Commodities, from the securities markets for up to seven years and imposed penalties totalling Rs 11.5 crore on them in a case related to misuse and diversion of clients' funds.

Individually, the regulator has slapped a fine of Rs 5 crore each on BRH Wealth Kreators and BRH Commodities and Rs 1 crore on Anubhav Bhatter, who was the director of the two companies and also held significant beneficial interest in these firms. These three entities have been prohibited from the securities markets for seven years.

Also, a fine of Rs 10 lakh each has been levied on five entities -- Prosperous Vyapaar, Polo-Setco Tie Up, Parton Commercial, AB Investments and Bluesnow Supplies. They have also been restrained from the securities market for five years.

In its order, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said BRH Wealth Kreators and BRH Commodities have violated regulatory norms by misappropriating clients' funds or securities and diverting funds to five related entities. The related entities have also played a major role in aiding and abetting BRH Wealth Kreators and BRH Commodities in misappropriating the securities and funds of their clients, it added. PTI

GeM Onboarding For Walnut (ODOP) By JKTPO Concludes

KUPWARA: Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) in collaboration with Invest India and District administration Kupwara successfully concluded the onboarding drive of ODOP products on Government e-Market place(GeM) for walnut exporters, FPO, entrepreneurs, traders of district Kupwara at DC office complex, Kupwara Wednesday.

On the directions of Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, JKTPO is engaging with all the districts of UT to promote local ODOP products and create awareness regarding advantages of selling their products on the Government's e-Marketplace and other e-commerce platforms.

Walnut is the ODOP of district Kupwara under District as Export Hub Scheme/ODOP initiative. Jammu and Kashmir accounts for more than 98% of walnut production in India. Locally known as "Doen", Walnuts of Kupwara are naturally organic as no sprays and fertilizers are used in their cultivation.

The onboarding will open Government market for ODOP products especially for gifting/souvenir purpose during major government events, conferences, summits especially in view of various G20 meetings to be held across the country in 2023. ons

J&K Bank Shifts Its Khaag **Branch To New Premises**

SRINAGAR: Upgrading its infra-structure for customer convenience, J&K Bank threw open its new premises of Khaag Branch on Tuesday for public in Budgam.

The Bank's Zonal Head Budgam Sajad Hussain inaugurated the new premises in presence of Cluster Head Azad Ahmad Bhat amid a gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens, residents and other bank officials. Pertinently, the new premises also houses a hub, with an ATM and Cash Deposit Machine (CDM), so that people not only withdraw but can deposit cash as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head said, "In line with the policy to upgrade our banking infra-structure so as to ensure customer comfort, I feel pleased to dedicate this centrally-heated and spacious new building equipped with state-of-the-art banking facilities for public. The branch space has been organised carefully to take care of the different types of visitors especially women and elderly."

"Besides providing the best customer services in the branch, an ATM and a CDM have also been installed within the premises to extend easy and accessible banking services to the people of catchment area even beyond the office hours", he added. ONS

170 Youth Appear In Interview For Self-**Employment Schemes**

BANDIPORA: In an endeavour to empower youth, 170 unemployed youth today appeared in an interview process meant for selection of youth on the basis of merit under Mission Youth.

The interview was organised with the aim to select different eligible beneficiaries to avail benefits under Mission Youth to establish their units in manufacturing sector, service sector and other employment avenues.

Project Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Bandipora, Mehraj Wani said that under the scheme the eligible beneficiaries take loan from 2 lac to 20 lac with the facility of availing interest subsidy.

He said District Administration is working in mission mode to prioritise self-employment and self-empowerment of youth.

He said all the line departments dealing with individual schemes including DIC, KVIB, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and other departments have jointly carried out skill mapping of youth during Back To Village programme and 15 candidates from every panchayat have been Counselled for different entrepreneurship programmes. The Project Manager urged youth to come forward and take benefits from youth oriented Government schemes to speed up their socio-economic development under Mission Youth. ONS

Govt Decides To Do Away With VIP Haj Quota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: The government has decided to do away with the discretionary Haj quota that was available with people in top constitutional posts and the minority affairs ministry, Union minister Smriti Irani said on Wednesday while asserting that the step has been taken as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to end 'VIP culture'.

Minority Affairs Minister Irani hit out at the Congress-led UPA government, saying the discretionary quota was introduced during its period.

"A decision has been take (to end discretionary quota in Haj). Prime Minister Modi had put forward his resolve to end VIP culture on the very first day of his term. VIP culture was put in place with respect to Haj during the UPA rule under which there was a special quota allocated to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Haj Committee and all those in top constitutional posts," she told TV9 Bharatvarsh here.

"The President, Vice President, me (have all dedicated it to the people). The Haj Committee was urged to end this quota and all the Haj committees in various states supported this. This VIP culture has been ended in the Haj process," Irani said.

She said that when it was started in 2012, there were around 5,000 seats under this special quota and if one knew someone in the government, one would be given a special category seat.

PM Modi To Flag Off 'World's Longest River Cruise' On Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the world's longest river cruise, MV Ganga Vilas, and inaugurate a 'Tent City' on the banks of the Ganga river in Varanasi on January 13 via video conferencing.

His office said in a statement that he will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for several other inland waterways projects worth more than Rs 1,000 crore during the event.

MV Ganga Vilas will begin its journey from Varanasi and sail around 3,200 km in 51 days to reach Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh, traversing across 27 river systems in the two countries, it said.

Modi said the 51-day river cruise is a unique opportunity to connect with the country's

cultural roots and discover beautiful aspects of its diversity.

The cruiser has three decks, 18 suites on board with a capacity of carrying 36 tourists and having all luxury amenities. The maiden voyage has 32 tourists from Switzerland signing up for the entire length of the journey, it noted.

The PMO said the cruise has been curated to bring out the best of the country to be show-cased to the world. The cruise is planned with visits to 50 tourist spots, including world heritage sites, national parks, river 'ghats' and major cities like Patna in Bihar, Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Kolkata in West Bengal, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Guwahati in Assam.

The journey will give the tourists an opportunity to embark upon an experiential

voyage and indulge in the art, culture, history, and spirituality of India and Bangladesh.

In line with the prime minister's endeavour to boost river cruise tourism, the service will help unlock the huge untapped potential of the sector and herald a new age of tourism for India, it said.

The 'Tent City' at Varanasi has been conceptualised on the banks of the River Ganga to tap the potential of tourism in the region, the PMO said.

The project has been developed opposite city ghats which will provide accommodation facilities and cater to the increased tourists influx in Varanasi, especially since the inauguration of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham.

It has been developed by the Varanasi Development Authority in PPP mode. The tourists will reach the 'Tent City' by boats from different ghats situated in the vicinity. The 'Tent City' will be operational from October to June every year and will be dismantled for three months due to rise in river water

level in the rainy season.

Among other projects, Modi will inaugurate Haldia Multi Modal Terminal in West Bengal. Developed under Jal Marg Vikas Project, it has a cargo handling capacity of around over three Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA) and the berths are designed to handle vessels up to around 3000 Deadweight tonnage (DWT).

Modi will also inaugurate four floating community jetties at Saidpur, Chochakpur, Zamania in Ghazipur district and at Kanspur in Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh. Besides, foundation stone will be laid for the five community jetties at Digha, Nakta Diyara, Barh, Panapur in Patna district and Hasanpur in Samastipur district in Bihar by Modi.

More than 60 community jetties are being constructed along Ganga across the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal to boost economic activities and improve the livelihood of local communities in the region, the PMO said.

The community jetties would play a key role in improving the livelihoods of people by providing simple logistics solutions for small farmers, fishery units, unorganised farm producing units, horticulturists, florists and artisans focussing on economic activities in and around the hinterland of Ganga.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

In Cold Desert

committee hasn't included this in the agenda. So there's no point in engaging with it. We'll be holding a protest to press our demands now."

Sajjad Kargali, a KDA member said that they aren't against the committee but want inclusion of their four-point agenda in the meeting.

The four-point agenda, according to Kargali, includes full-fledged statehood for Ladakh, constitutional safeguards under the sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution, early recruitment process and Public Service Commission for Ladakh, and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

"We also object to the selection of some of the irrelevant members in the HPC," Kargali said. "These members are there when the Suni sect from the region has been totally ignored."

Sensing the ire, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's Ladakh lawmaker Jamyang Tsering Namgyal is trying to woo the dissidents with the declaration that no government has formed such a committee before despite Ladakh facing many challenges and agitations in its political history

"So this is the high and right time for all the members of the HPC to realise its importance, discuss and deliberate the common issues of Ladakh," Namgyal said. "They should keep the national interest as well as the larger interest of Ladakh in mind."

Snow Again

Helpdesk Control Rooms for the general public in order to facilitate them in case of any untoward incident or distress. For any emergency or exigency, general public can also dial 112.

For Bandipora district, the helpline numbers are; PCR Bandipora 01957225278, 9596767430, ASP Bandipora 9596767453, DYSP HQRS Bandipora 9596767440, SDPO Gurez 7006795292, SHO PS Gurez 7006250037, SHO PS Tulail 7780922131, DO Police Post Izmarg 9419991882, SHO PS Bandipora 9596767411, SHO PS Pethkote 9596767415, SHO PS Aragam 9596767421, DO Police Post Aloosa 9596767416, DO Police Post Sumlar 9596767413, DO Police Post Ajas 9596767452, SHO PS Hajin 9596767431 & SHO PS Sumbal 9596767441.

Budgam the helpline num For district bers include PCR Budgam 01951-255207, 01951-255042, 8082567612, SHO Budgam 9419000538, SHO Magam 9906449794, SHO Khansahib 9596000212, SHO Chadoora Charar-e-Sharief 7006411196, SHO 9797279660, SHO Khag 9419905840, SHO 7006252476, DO Humhama Breewah 6005599737, DO Soibugh 9906000474, DO Narbal 9797626526, DO Waterihail 9419007052, DO Pakerpora 9797985415, Out-Post Hardipanzo 9596203940, DO Mouchwa 9797290222.

For district Kulgam, the helpline numbers include Police Control Kulgam (PCR) 01931260486, 7889786112, ASP Kulgam 9906605555, DySP Hqrs Kulgam 7051510654, SDPO DH Pora 7051510676, SHO PS Kulgam 7051510661, SHO PS Yaripora 7051510662, SHO PS DH Pora 7051510663, SHO PS Devsar 7051510664, SHO PS Qazigund 7051510665, SHO PS Qaimoh 7051510667, SHO PS Manzgam 7051510671, SHO PS Behibagh 7051510669, SHO PS Kund 7051510670, IC PP Frisal 7051510668, IC PP JT 7051510680, IC PP Mishere 7051510670

Mirbazar 7051510679.
PCR Srinagar 0194-2477567, 9596222550, 9596222551, PCR Ganderbal 01942416564, 01942416478, 9906668731, PCR Awantipora 01933247369, 7051404001, PCR Shopian 9596768831, 01933-261891, 9596768831, PCR Anantnag 01932-222870, 01932-222100, 9596777669, PCR Handwara 01955262295, 9906767076, PCR Sopore 01954-222312, 01954-225333, 9596773024, PCR Baramulla 01952234410, 01952237830, 9596767768, PCR Kupwara 01955-252451, 9596152621, 7051404938, PCR Pulwama 01933-241280, 01933-241986, 8491942867, 9070123536 and PCR Kashmir: 0194-2506506, 0194-2506507.

Police also appealed to people to avail any kind of assistance by dialing 112

Dense Fog

as fresh western disturbances likely to hit after with weather is expected to improve after January 15.

"Due to fog, flight operation also remained affected," the Jammu Airport official said. He added that no flight took off in the morning due to poor visibility. Meanwhile a senior railway official said that the trains are arriving 3 to 4 hours late from their scheduled time as the rail operation is badly affected due to dense fog

in northern parts of the country.

However, a weatherman said that snowing at Sonmarg, Gulmarg and other higher reaches of Kashmir, light rain in plains of North and Central Kashmir and cloudy and Fog in plains of Jammu.

"There will be a gradual increase in intensity and distribution of snow and rain as the day progresses with main activity towards evening and night. Some places, mainly higher reaches may receive heavy snowfall," he said and forecast widespread light to moderate rain in plains of Jammu tomorrow and weather will be mainly dry from January 14 to 17.

In view of prevailing harsh cold conditions, the administration already extended winter vacations in schools till January 16. Many schools are conducting online classes for primary wings.

Jammu recorded maximum temperature 11.5 degree Celsius and minimum temperature 9.5 degree Celsius.

People in plains of Jammu especially the roadside vendors were seen burning fire-wood and charcoal to protect themselves from chill while the business houses have installed warmers and electric heaters to provide respite to the visitors from the harsh weather

JCO, Two

into the gorge on Tuesday.

"During a regular op task in forward area, a party of 01 JCO & 02 OR slipped into a deep gorge, when snow on the track gave way. Mortal remains of all the three #bravehearts have been retrieved," the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps tweeted.

Giving details, a defence spokesman said the incident took place at around 5.30 pm on Tuesday when a team of soldiers was on a routine operational task along a narrow winter track.

"While moving towards the forward post, snow along the narrow track broke, leading to slipping of one JCO and two jawans into a deep gorge," the spokesman said.

He said a search and rescue operation was immediately launched with troops from the nearest post.

"Inspite of adverse weather condition and rough terrain, sustained efforts of the search party led to the recovery of mortal remains of the three brave soldiers today morning between 04:15 to 04:45 AM," he added.

The deceased soldiers were identified as Naib Subedar Parshotam Kumar, Havildar Amrik Singh and sepoy Amit Sharma.

Kumar (43), a native of Jammu and Kashmir's Bishnah area, had joined the Army in 1996. He is survived by his wife and two children. Singh (39) had joined the Army in 2001 and hailed from Una district in Himachal Pradesh.

He is survived by his wife and one son.

Sharma (23) had joined the Army in 2019 and belonged to Hamirpur district in Himachal

and belonged to Hamirpur district in Himachal Pradesh. He is survived by his mother. "The mortal remains of the three bravehearts

will be taken for last rites to their respective native places, where they would be laid to rest with full military honours," the spokesman said. LG, Cong Pay Tributes

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and the Congress Wednesday paid tributes to the three army personnel.

"I salute the resolute courage of our braveheart army personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty in the Machil sector, Kupwara. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families of martyrs. Their sacrifice and selfless service to the nation will always be remembered," Sinha wrote on Twitter.

Chief spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir Congress Ravinder Sharma also expressed grief over the death of the soldiers in the "unfortunate accident".

"We offer glowing tributes to the slain soldiers and express our sympathies with the bereaved families," he said.

BSF Steps Up

allow infiltration by terrorists. Such attempts are on from across the border but we prevent them forcefully," said Ashok Yadav, the inspector general of the BSF Kashmir Frontier.

"Our alertness doubles whenever there is an event like this (Republic Day). We have strengthened our patrolling and deployment. Many of our companies are also deployed for law-and-order duties and the endeavour is to prevent any such incident," he told reporters here

He was addressing an event to flag off the educational-cum-motivational Bharat Darshan Tour to Mumbai of 29 Kashmiri students of different schools.

Asked if there was any input about the possibility of any terror incident like the recent one in Jammu, the IG BSF said he had no such knowledge.

Govt Designates

only three designated courts for trial of offences under the UAPA- 1967 in the Valley.

fences under the UAPA- 1967 in the Valley.
As per the notification, the additional sessions judge (TADA/POTA) Srinagar has been notified for districts of Srinagar and Ganderbal,

additional district and sessions judge, Anantnag for district Anantnag, additional district and sessions judge, Baramulla for district Baramulla, additional district and sessions judge, Pulwama for districts Pulwama and Budgam, additional district and sessions judge (fast track court) Kulgam for districts Kulgam and Shopian and additional district and sessions judge, Bandipora for districts Bandipora and Kupwara.

BJP Asks J&K

abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, he said it has paved the way for development and granting of rights to every single community.

In August 2019, the Centre abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories.

Tarun Chugh, in his address, laid stress on reorganising the party at various levels taking into account the changes made through the delimitation exercise.

He said party leaders have to work out plans in advance and implement them in a harmonious way on the ground.

Congress Invites

joined it at different stages.

"I now invite you to personally join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to be held in Srinagar on January 30 at noon. The function is dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who lost his life on this day in his tireless struggle against the ideology of hatred and violence," Kharge wrote.

"At this event, we will commit ourselves to fighting hatred and violence, to spread the message of truth, compassion and non-violence, and to defend the constitutional values of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice for all. At this time of crisis for our country, where public attention is systematically diverted from people's issues, the yatra has emerged as a powerful voice. I hope you will participate and further strengthen its message," he said.

Among the opposition parties which have been invited are Trinamool Congress (TMC), JDU, Shiv Sena, TDP, National Conference, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, DMK, CPI, CPI-M and the JMM.

The RJD, RLSP, HAM, PDP, NCP, MDMK, VCK, IUML, KSM and RSP have also been invited.

Among the leaders invited by the Congress are Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah of the NC, and former parliamentarian Sharad Yadav.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7 and will conclude in Srinagar on January 30, with Rahul Gandhi hoisting the national flag there.

The march has so far covered more than 3,300 km passing through Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and is now in Punjab. The yatra will cover a total distance of 3,570 km during its entire journey.

Kharge said, "Today, India faces an economic, social and political crisis. At this time, when the Opposition's voice is being suppressed in Parliament and the media, the yatra is connecting directly with lakhs of people." "We have discussed the grave issues affecting our nation - inflation, unemployment, social divisions, weakening of democratic institutions and the threat on our borders. All sections of society have also participated and shared their problems – youth, women and elderly, farmers, labourers, small businessmen and industrialists, dalits, adivasis, and linguistic and religious minorities, activists, artists and spiritual leaders. This direct conversation with the people has been a major achievement of the yatra," the Congress president wrote.

Lal Singh's DSSP

Kathua district from Punjab on January 20. The DSSP was formed by former minister Choudhary Lal Singh after parting ways with the BIP in 2018.

Singh, a two-time MP and three-time MLA who switched from the Congress to BJP in 2014, asked all like-minded parties to support the yatra and defeat the "nefarious designs of enemies" within and outside the country.

"The DSSP which is heading the Municipal Council Kathua will accord a warm welcome to the Bharat Jodo Yatra on behalf of all Dogras of Jammu. The forces hell bent upon to break the secular fabric of Jammu and Kashmir need to be defeated," he said.

Earlier, the president of the J-K unit of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), Manish Sahni lauded Gandhi for the march and appealed to people to join it in huge numbers to give a "befitting reply to those who do politics of hatred and religion".

"We will welcome and join the Bharat Jodo Yatra on its arrival in the city of temples as per the instructions of party's national secretary and MP Anil Desai. In this era of despair and hatred, the Yatra which is carrying the message of brotherhood is most needed in the country, especially in Jammu and Kashmir," he told reporters here.

He charged that religion and casteism are being resorted to to divert public attention from various important issues like unemployment, inflation and economic distress.

"Jammu and Kashmir, the crown of the country, is suffering after it was bifurcated into two union territories (in August 2019) and its special status under Article 370 taken away," he said, adding people have been waiting for restoration of the democratic process over the past three years.

He also added that terrorist attacks on minorities have witnessed a spurt over the past couple of years.

The Vatra, which started from Kanyakumari

The Yatra, which started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, will conclude in Srinagar by January 30, with Gandhi hoisting the national flag in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The march has so far covered Tamil Nadu,

Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Welcoming the decision of the DSSP and Shiv Sena to join the yatra, J&K Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said several top leaders of different political parties are likely to join the yatra in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The support to Yatra has unnerved the BJP whose leaders are issuing irresponsible and illogical statements as they feel that the failure of the policies and programmes of the centre government and UT administration would get exposed before the nation," he said.

Continue Providing

facilitating entrepreneurship. "The Lt Governor impressed on the MD & CEO to continue providing quality financial services to the people and to ensure benefits under the various schemes, pensions etc are extended to the beneficiaries living in remote villages faster and more efficiently," the spokesperson said.

Also, he said that Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, former Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, called on the LG at the Raj Bhawan.

Man Carrying

Magistrate, and the total amount came in tune of rupees 57,43,800.

Confirming the recovery, a police officer told GNS that cognizance has been taken and an FIR number 6/2023 registered under relevant sections for further investigations.

Woman Pilgrim

remains were buried in the holy city only.

ACB Arrests Patwari

"On receipt of the complaint, a case under FIR number 01/2023 under section 7 PC Act 1988 in Police Station ACB Udhampur and investigation taken up," the statement said.

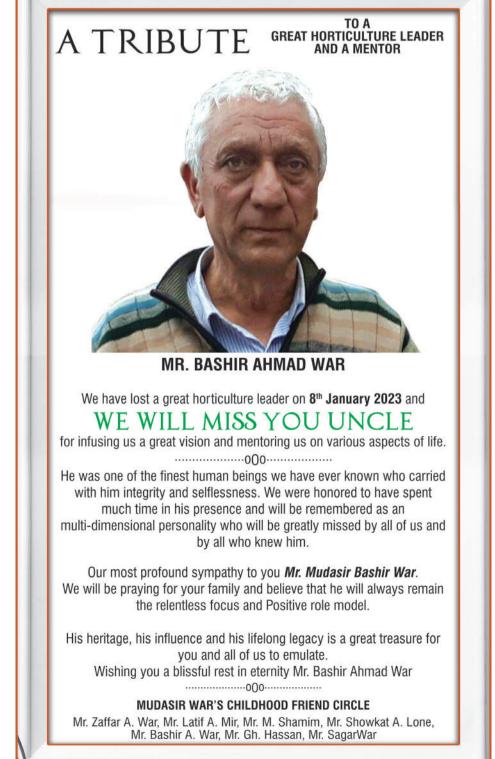
"During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team caught the accused officer Darbinder Singh along with his driver while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 in presence of independent witnesses. Both of them were arrested on spot after completing necessary legal formalities. The bribe amount was also recovered in the presence of the independent witnesses," ACB said.

Further investigation of the case is going on, the statement said

Man Held With

Abdul Razaq Parray of Lawaypora Zainkote in Srinagar.

Meanwhile, a case under FIR number 03/2023 under section 8/21, 29 of NDPS Act has been lodged at Police Station Amargrah and further investigation has been taken un—(KNO)



India Eyeing Another Big Win With Rohit, Virat In Full Flow

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Buoyed by the form of its top three batters, a clinical India will look to take an unassailable 2-0 lead when they face Sri Lanka in the second ODI here on Thursday.

Having ended his century drought for nearly three years in a T20I against Afghanistan in the Asia Cup in September, Virat Kohli has not looked back since then especially in the white ball format and brought up his 73rd International century in their 67-run win in Guwahati on Tuesday.

He looked in supreme control in the first ODI in Guwahati on Tuesday and made Sri Lanka pay the price for two dropped chances to slam a back-to-back ODI hundreds that formed the backbone of India's massive 373 for seven. It was like the

Kohli of the old as he looked uncluttered and no Sri Lankan bowler troubled him.

Returning from an injury, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma too allayed any concerns whatsoever of being short on matchfitness as he took on the Lankan attack in a 67-ball 83 to set the foundation for a mammoth total. He seemed to be in his zone before coming to his favourite venue Eden Gardens.

The last time the two teams met in an ODI here, Rohit struck that world record 264 eight years back. Now here in his favourite venue as the Indian skipper, Rohit would be definitely keen to get to a big score. That an ODI century is also eluding him since a long time -- his last ODI hundred came against Australia in January 2020 would also be an added motivation. Add young



opener Shubman Gill's splen-

did ODI run to Indian top three and Indian top-order looks

sorted and would once again look to dominate the pedestrian Lankan attack.

Having got unflinching support from his skipper, Gill was back as opener in the ODI format at the expense of left-handed keeper-batter Ishan Kishan, a selection that copped a lot of criticism in Guwahati. But Gill silenced all that debate with yet another aesthetic knock of 70 off just 60 balls as he continued his fine form from last year during which he has averaged 70-plus from 12 innings.

With Shreyas Iyer also coming back from a dream ODI run last year and occupying the no 4 spot with his flair for tackling spin and rotating strike in the middle overs, the only spot that may open up in the batting order is that of KL Rahul.

Rahul, who also doubles up

as a wicketkeeper, has been in wretched form of late but may get a longer run especially in the series to prolong Kishan's wait.

Mohammed Siraj continued to raise his stakes and looked terrific with the new ball in an opening spell of 5-1-15-2, laced with 25 dot balls on a flat deck at Barsapara Stadium.

On Eden's fast deck, Siraj will relish the challenge bowling with old warhorse Mohammed Shami as it remains to be seen whether the team think tank opts for an extra seamer.

Umran Malik played the role of the enforcer in the middle overs till Dasun Shanaka took on him en route to a fine century. The young pace gun is a work in progress and would look to improve with every match.

Match starts: 1.30pm IST.

Real Kashmir Play Sudeva **Delhi In I-League Today**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC is all set to take on Sudeva Delhi at Chhatrasal Stadium, New Delhi in I-League today, Thursday, January 12.

After a string of poor performances, the Snow Leopards will hope to bounce back against the experienced Delhi side. RKFC has lost 3 and drawn 1 of their last four matches. The team had started well early in the cam-

paign, but the form fizzled out. Real Kashmir head coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo was with Sudeva Delhi in the previous season, but is adamant that the team is focused on their "own brand of football".

"I think we started well but went on to lose three games in a row before the draw against Aizawl. The only thing I can say is that this is football. It can happen and we have to be ready for everything. We are prepared for the game against Suveda, and we will pay close attention to detail so that we do not repeat past mistakes." Wadoo said.

"I know Sudeva. I was the coach here last season but for me, it's how we play, not the opponent. We respect Sudeva, they are a good team, but our focus is on how we perform on the day," he added.

The match kicks off at 2:00

Australia Name Spin-Heavy Squad For Test Tour Of India



Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Uncapped offspinner Todd Murphy, with all of seven match first-class experience, received his maiden Test call-up as Australia on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, announced a spin-heavy squad for their upcoming four-Test series in India starting February 9.

Looking for their first Test series win in India since 2004, Australia will play Test matches in Nagpur (February 9-13), New Delhi (February 17-21) Dharamsala (March 1-5) and Ahmedabad (March 9-13).

The 22-year-old from Victoria will join fellow spinners Ashton Agar, Mitchell Swepson and Nathan Lyon in the 18-member squad which also includes Peter Handscomb and Matthew Renshaw as batting

Owing to a finger injury, Mitchell Starc will miss the first Test in Nagpur on February 9 and is likely to join his pace colleagues - captain Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Scott Boland and Lance Morris later for rest of the series.

All-rounder Cameron (will also be part of the contingent as he races against time to recover from a finger fracture. Murphy will be Nathan Lyon's understudy, having taken 29 wickets in his seven first-class games so far. He has also played 14 List A and 8 T20

Australia squad:

Pat Cummins (C), Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Peter Handscomb, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Lance Morris, Todd Murphy. Matthew Renshaw, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, David Warner.

French Football Prez Steps Back Pending Investigation

PARIS: Noël Le Graët agreed to step back from his duties as president of the French soccer federation on Wednesday following an emergency executive committee meeting into his behavior.

The 81-year-old Le Graët has faced claims of sexual harassment and the soccer federation is the target of an investigation ordered by French Sports Min-Amélie Oudéa-Castéra.

comments after facing a barrage of criticism.

Le Graët is currently a candidate for another four-year term on the FIFA Council, the soccer body's decision-making committee. He is being challenged for the seat by Portuguese soccer federation president Fernando Gomes. The election is set for April 5, when UEFA member nations meet in Lisbon.

Last March, Le Graët was re-elected on a four-year term



The federation said in a statement Wednesday that Le Graët agreed to step away from his role until the audit's findings have been fully reviewed by the executive committee.

On Tuesday, sports agent Sonia Souid accused Le Graët of improper conduct over several years, saying he only was interested in her sexually. Souid said in an interview with L'Equipe sports daily that Le Graët repeatedly tried to approach her

from 2013-17. Le Graët has had a tumultuous week after saying he "couldn't care less" about France football great Zinédine Zidane's future as a coach. He subsequently apologized for his

Agencies

LONDON: Portugal forward

João Félix joined Chelsea on

loan from Atletico Madrid on

Wednesday in a deal that will

keep him at the Premier League

club until the end of the season.

contract with Atletico for one

teams in the world and I hope

to help the team reach their ob-

jectives, so I am very, very hap-

more year until June 2027.

Felix has also extended his

"Chelsea is one of the great

despite opposition from antiracism activists who describe him as out of touch.

Le Graet had downplayed racism in soccer, telling broadcaster BFM: "This phenomenon of racism in sport, and in soccer in particular, does not exist at all or barely does.'

Le Graët was against the idea of players wearing rainbowcolored armbands to campaign against discrimination d the World Cup in Qatar.

Leadership roles in French sports have come under scrutiny in recent months. French Rugby Federation president Bernard Laporte is fighting a suspended two-year sentence on corruption charges. (AP)

"From Atletico de Madrid we

wish João Félix every success in

this new professional stage," the

Spanish club said in a statement.

his best form at Chelsea, which

has been struggling for attack-

ing inspiration in a poor run of recent results that has left

manager Graham Potter under

expectations that came along

with his high-profile transfer in

Félix never fully fulfilled the

Felix will hope to rediscover

Kashmir Arrows Win **National-Level Tournament**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Valley based football club Kashmir Arrows on Tuesday won the Amar Shaheed All India Football Tournament 2023 held at Kothi, Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

whil Mohammad Shadab was adjudged as the Golden Gloves winner.

DFA Srinagar congratulated Kashmir Arrows for their exemplary performance which led them to win their first ever All India Level.

Jammu & Kashmir Football Association also wished the team best of luck in future as

There Is An Attempt To Weaken Skipper Babar Azam's Position: Misbah

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Former captain and coach Misbah-ul-Haq believes some people in the Pakistan Cricket Board are trying to weaken the position of current skipper Babar Azam and said this will have an adverse impact on the team's dressing room. "Cricket is my blood and I

watch cricket matches and read about cricket all the time. And from what I see Babar Azam's position in the team is being weakened," Misbah told reporters in Lahore on Tuesday. "Look at some of the ques-

tions being asked to him what do they indicate he is being weakened as a captain and I am afraid that will have adverse effects on the team's dressing room." Misbah, who held the all pow-

erful positions of head coach



and chief selector in 2019-2020, said if the cricket board had issues with Babar's captaincy then they should sit down with him and the selectors and discuss it across the table.

"If you put pressure on someone like this it eventually will disturb the team and that is not good for Pakistan cricket."

"Test teams are built after a



lot of hard work and time and frequent changes don't help. We had a good test side but the changes disturbed everything," he said.

''Pakistan no doubt has a very good white ball squad so at least in those formats they are no problems at all. I personally would support Babar to the end." he added.

Arthur Rejects Offer To Return As

bent Saglain Mushtag.

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday said it was in discussions with Arthur for a new stint as head coach but the South African won't be able to take up the role right away



''Unfortunately,

statement.

however. this option is proving difficult to materialise for various reasons on both sides.

to act as a consultant to the

PCB on a time-sharing basis

with Derbyshire," PCB said in a

"Under the circumstances, the PCB will continue its search for the right person to fit the slot of the national team head coach and some top names are already under consideration.'



Felix Joins Chelsea On Loan,

But Extends Atletico Contract

his existing deal.

py to be here and very excited to play at Stamford Bridge," the player said.

Felix became the third most expensive player of all time when Atletico triggered the 126 million euro (around \$140 million) buyout clause in his contract in 2019 to sign him from Benfica.

The 23-year-old Felix is no longer a guaranteed starter under coach Diego Simeone, but Atletico still moved to extend

2019 to replace Antoine Griezmann, who had left Atlético to ioin Barcelona, Then 19, Félix was considered by many in Portugal as the successor to Cristiano Ronaldo and Atlético fans expected him to become one of the team's biggest stars.

His departure comes amid reports that he became increasingly at odds with Simeone, who has repeatedly denied having any problems with the player. (AP)

Thakur Ranmat Singh Memorial

After fine performances in the tournament, Umair was declared the Golden Boot winner,

J&K vs Punjab: Only 11 Overs Played On Day 2 **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's cricket team reached 176/6 in 44 overs on Wednesday as bad weather allowed only 11 overs

J&K built on their overnight

score of 146/6 after 33 overs on

of play at the end of Day 2.

Day 1, when bad weather halted For J&K, wicketkeeper Fazil Rashid 46 (70) and pacer Aquib Nabi 16 (61) were on the crease at stumps. The duo added 30 runs on Day 2, while building an overnight partnership of

50 runs. Aquib came on to bat



when the team was crumbling at 126/6 and, along with Fazil, ensured the team didn't lose any more wickets.

Earlier on Day 1, quick fire innings by Vivrant Sharma 41 (45) and Abdul Samad 46 (29) saved J&K from a humiliating batting

Pakistan Coach

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Mickey Arthur has spurned an offer from the PCB to return as the head coach of the national team, forcing the board to continue its search to find a replacement for incum-

with Derbyshire.

as he has a long-term contract

"Owing to his long-term contract with Derbyshire, we have also discussed a proposal







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