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Govt Bans Sale Of Agri Land Belonging To 'Missing Persons'

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The LG administration has ordered revenue officials in the Kashmir Valley not to allow relatives of "missing persons" to sell off the agricultural land fearing that the money is being pumped to finance militancy.

The order has come amid the ongoing eviction drive launched by the Union Territory administration to reclaim state and Kahcharai land encroached over the decades.

According to an order from the Divisional commissioner, Kashmir, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the government has said the CID has specific inputs of the misuse of those funds in the Valley.

The government has asked Tehsildars to declare the person "GAIR HAZIR/GAIR KABIZ" (not present / not in occupation) and the person who is in possession of the land, should be recorded as "KABIZ".



"Specific input from the office of Special DG, CID has been received, in which it is apprehended that such 'GairHazir-GairKabiz' properties are used for financing militancy," the order read "In such a situation,

strict preventive action needs to be taken on priority"

The government said that the share of such "GAIR HAZIR/GAIR KABIZ " persons may be allowed to be used by the family members and other co-sharers

(in blood relation). However, they shall not be entitled to sell, gift or in any manner alienate the share of such "GAIR HAZIR/ GAIR KABIZ" persons or create 3rd party interest in the property in any manner. More on P10

BJP Leaders Commercial **Building Seized**

MAJID NABI

he Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday took possession of a commercial building raised by a senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader on state land in South Kashmir's More on P10

Over 35,000 Acres **State Land Retrieved** In Rajouri

uthorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district have retrieved over 35,000 acres of state land as a massive antiencroachment drive is underway, officials said on Thursday. More on P10

Mercury Drops After Fresh Snowfall In Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Most areas in Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Thursday while the rest of the valley was hit by rains, bringing down the mercury levels, officials said here.

The snowfall started on Wednesday night at Gulmarg ski resort in Baramulla district, which is scheduled to host the Khelo India Winter Games from Friday, the officials said.

On Thursday morning, there was snowfall in the rest of the Baramulla district, Kupwara district and Gurez sector of the Bandipora district as well.

In south Kashmir, snowfall was reported from the Shopian district and Pahalgam tourist resort in the Anantnag district.

Tourists enjoyed the snowfall with some of them experiencing it for the first time.

"This place is truly a heaven on earth. It is just beautiful," Vinod Bhosale, a resident of Maharashtra told PTI in Pahalgam.

Srinagar, the summer capital of the union territory, witnessed sleet -- a mix of rain and snow in the second half of the day. More on P10

LG Interacts With Students From North-East

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday interacted with a delegation of students visiting Jammu and Kashmir under the Student's Experience in Inter-State Living (SEIL) initiative.

The students from the Northeast in their interaction with the LG shared insightful experiences of their tour. They said it was a privilege to be a part of the tour which enabled them to witness diverse and rich culture of different parts of the country, an official spokesperson said.

Interacting with the students, he said, the LG observed that SEIL tour is a unique More on P10

KPDCL Launches Crackdown On Chronic Defaulters

Disconnect Electricity Connections Of 1329 Consumers In Valley

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (KPDCL) on Thursday launched a massive disconnection drive against chronic defaulters and snapped electricity supply to over a thousand consumers in the Valley.

The drive has been launched afresh after taking cognizance of poor revenue realization despite providing reliable power supply amid harsh winters, an official spokesperson said. He said that the Sub Divisions of KPDCL launched



a fresh massive disconnection drive against chronic defaulters.

"In the first place, connections of only 1329 consumers

were disconnected to sensitize the masses to clear their liabilities on account of electricity bills and develop habits of paying electricity bills in time," he said.

KPDCL, the spokesperson said, is overburdened with huge arrears on account of domestic electricity dues of around 804 crore and this sample base of 1329 defaulters had accumulated arrears to the tune of Rs 12.67 crore.

"The Disconnection drive has successfully realized substantial arrears as on date and is expected to More on P10

Govt Sacks PO Held With Contraband Substance

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday sacked a prosecuting officer after he was allegedly caught carrying a contraband substance, saying he violated the service rules.

An order to this effect was issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Raj Kumar Goyal.

Waseem Ahmad Qureshi, the then assistant public prosecutor in the Court of Judicial Magistrate, Ukhral, while on his way to Rajouri on May 4, 2020 was found to be in possession of eight grams of More on P10

Lithium Reserves Found In J&K: Mines Secretary

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government on Thursday said lithium reserves have been found for the first time in the country in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lithium is a non-ferrous metal and is one of the key components in EV batteries.

"For the first time, lithium reserves have been discovered and that too in Jammu and Kashmir," Mines Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj said.

Upon exploration by the



Geological Survey of India (GSI), lithium reserves have been found in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the mines ministry had said that to strengthen the critical mineral More on P10



Prestige Smart Kitchen Stores: Chandigarh: Prestige Xclusive Coco, Sco No. 1113, Ground Floor, Sector 22-B, Chandigarh (Near Aroma Chowk) 8951787413, 01725067135; R.P Delights (India), Zirakpur Sco 5, Balaji Enclave, Patiala Road – Zirakpur 9779351122 Prestige | Xclusive | Victory | Vict Shah Bazaar, Ellahi Bagh Prestige Xclusive, Ellahi Bagh, Opposite Grid Station, Ellahi Bagh, Srinagar 7889841838; Khaliq Enterprises, Srinagar Prestige Xclusive New Habba Kadal Chowk – Srinagar 9796159994, 9797997747

Shah Bazaar, Ellahi Bagh Prestige Xclusive, Ellahi Bagh, Opposite Grid Station, Ellahi Bagh, Opposite Grid Station, Ellahi Bagh, Srinagar Prestige Xclusive New Habba Kadal Chowk — Srinagar 9796159994, 97979774

Authorized Dealers- Jammu Province Dealers Narwal-Shree Ganesh Bartan & Plastic Store 941918254298 Hari Market-Sar Pal Vinord Gupta 94191191083, Vardhman Bartan Store 19192569693, Mobil Bazaar - Kewal Krishna Gupta 94191825429, Mobil Bazaar - Krishna Crockery Store 8716920050, Bharat Glass & Crockery House 9205099999, Surjeet Enterprises 9906289518, Raj Tilak Rd-Sun Chemico 8803140219, Shukla Pen & Lpg House 7006165935, Maduban Mall -9419100043 Aditya Enterprises 976459459 Gumat - Krishna Lal & Sons 9419182522 Jewel-Laxmi Bartan 9419113026 Talab Tillo Lane- Durga Bartan Store 9419292559, Rohmetra Enterprises 9066161166, Shivani Electronics 9419113179, Anil Bartan Store 7051473299 Surjeet September 1974326479, Sangar Plastic Store 9419292559, Rohmetra Enterprises 9086161166, Shivani Electronics 9419181179, Anil Bartan Store 9419282579, Rohmetra Enterprises 9086161166, Shivani Electronics 941918111, Alaba Tillo Lane- Durga Bartan Store 9419292559, Rohmetra Enterprises 90861821832, Sangar Electronics 94191811, Alaba Tillo Lane- Durga Bartan Store 9419292559, Rohmetra Enterprises 9086181166, Shivani Electronics 94191811, Alaba Tillo Lane- Durga Bartan Store 9419282570, Alama Hardware Store 941918257046, Hardeev Malik Synthesia Sangar Electronics 9419113179, Anil Bartan Store 94191821848, Per Page 19418425204, Alama Store 941921825704, Alama Store 941918218248, Per Page 1941844, Pan Notis 941918444, Pan Notis 941918444, Pan Notis 941918444, Pan Notis 941918446, Nama Bastan Store 941918406 Nama Bastan Store

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

KASHMIR OBSERVER (M) Srinagar | Friday | 10-02-2023

Video Games Neither Harm Nor Benefit Cognition: Study

Press Trust Of India

laying video games has been found to neither harm nor benefit the cognitive abilities of children and young adults, according to a new research.

Parents may rethink family's video-gaming rules as the research challenges the fears that children who spend hours playing video would manifest unhealthy results in their cognitive ability, it said.

"Our studies turned up no such links, regardless of how long the children played and what types of games they chose," said Jie Zhang, associate professor at the University of Houston, US, and a member of the research team.

According to the study, researchers examined the video gaming habits of 160 diverse urban public-school preteen students.

Participating students reported playing video games an average of 2.5 hours daily, with the group's heaviest gamers putting in as much as 4.5 hours each day, the study said.

The team of researchers looked for association between the students' video game play and their performance on the standardized Cognitive Ability Test 7, known as CogAT, which evaluates verbal, quantitative and nonverbal/spatial skills, the study said.

CogAT was chosen as a standard measure, in contrast to the teacherreported grades or self-reported learning assessments that previous research projects have relied on, the study said.

"Overall, neither duration of play nor choice of video game genres had



significant correlations with the CogAT measures. That result shows no direct linkage between video game playing and cognitive performance, despite what had been assumed," said May Jadalla, professor at Illinois State University, US, and the study's principal investigator.

However, the study also revealed another side of the issue, too. Certain types of games described as helping children build healthy cognitive skills also presented no measurable effects, in spite of the games' marketing messages, it said.

"The current study found results that are consistent with previous research showing that types of gameplay that seem to augment cognitive functions in young adults don't have the same impact in much younger children," said C. Shawn Green, professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, US.

Does this mean the world can play on? Maybe, the research suggests.

But the experts also caution that gaming time took the heaviest players' away from other, more productive activities - homework, to be specific - in a process psychologists call displacement, the study said.

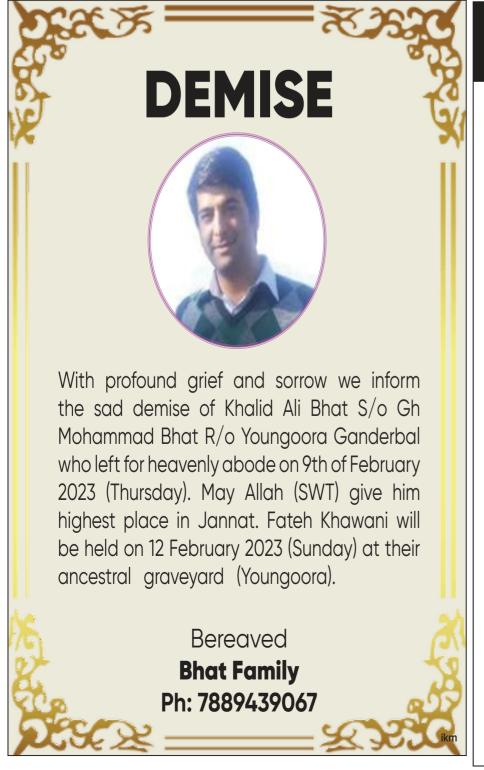
But even in those cases, the differences were slight between those participants and their peers' CogAT measures of cognitive abilities, the study said.

"The study results show parents probably don't have to worry so much about cognitive setbacks among video game-loving children, up to fifth grade.

"Reasonable amounts of video gaming should be OK, which will be delightful news for the kids. Just keep an eye out for obsessive behaviour,' said Zhang.

"When it comes to video games, finding common ground between parents and young kids is tricky enough. At least now we understand that finding balance in childhood development is the key, and there's no need for us to over-worry about video gaming," said Zhang.

Coverall, neither duration of play nor choice of video game genres had significant correlations with the CogAT measures. That result shows no direct linkage between video game playing and cognitive performance, despite what had been assumed



Office of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission For J&K Ladakh

email:- secretary-jercjkl@gmail.com phone: 0191-2470160

Objections/comments/suggestions invited from General public and various stakeholders for Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh (Grid Interactive Renewable Energy system and its related matters) Regulations, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: - Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh (Grid Interactive Renewable Energy system and its related matters) Regulations, 2023.

In exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section 5 of section 83 of the Bectricity Ad., 2003 (No. 36 of 2003), the central Government has constituted a Joint Electricity Regulatory. Commission for the Union Tenttories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh vide notification dated

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 86 read with Section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (No. 36 of 2003) and all other powers enabling, the Joint Electricity Regulatory. Commission for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakt hereby makes the following Regulations:

*Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh (Grid Interactive Renewable Energy system and its related matters) Regulations, 2023'.

The Commission has decided to seek comments/suggestions/objections from the consumers and other stakeholders in the matter, before finalizing the said regulations.

7. The Regulations are available on the website of the Commission (http://www.jercjkl.nic.iry).

8. Suggestions/comments/objections are invited from the stakeholders which may be submitted in Urdu, Hindi or English, through E-Mail/in person or by post within 10 days from the date of publication. Suggestions/comments/objections should carry the full name, postal address and E-mail address.

Contact details are mentioned below:

Secretary, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, Ambedkar (Panama) Chowk, Railway Road, Jammu Pin Code- 180016

Email: secretary-jercjkl@gov.in/jercjkl@gmail.com

9. Public hearing, if required shall be held in the office of JERC for UT of J&K and Ladakh. Date for the same shall be intimated to all concerned separately through mail.

DIPK-17254/22 dated: 09-02-2023

Sd/-Secretary, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, J&K and Ladakh.

ASF ENTERPRISES

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IN THE COURT OF JMIC, **JUDGE SMALL CAUSES, SRINAGAR**

Present:- Ms Tabasum

Mohammad Yaqoob Zeengar

Applicant

Registrar Births & Deaths SMC, Srinagar.

(Non-Applicant)

Whereas an application has been received from the applicant for registration of Birth of Mohammad Yaqoob Zeengar in the records of SMC Srinagar. Objection, if any, be submitted in writing before the undersigned within seven days from the date of this Publication. The details of the Person are as

PUBLIC NOTICE

Name:- Mohammad Yaqoob Zeengar Sex:-Male Father's Name:-Abdul Rehman Zeengar

Mother's name: Fatima DOB: 01-01-1968

R/o: Abubakar Colony Bemina Srinagar Place Of Birth:-At Home

Judge Small Causes, Srinagar

Public Notice

I have lost my Discharge Certificate of class 9th. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Higher Secondary School Palhalan Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. **Gulshan Ara**

D/o Ab Ahad Sofi R/o Saderbal Palhallan fko

The Jammu and Kashmir **State Board Of School Education**

New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued as per below

Roll No: 363492 Year & Session 2008 Bi-annual Registration: 06NKM 303425 Name · Muntazir Hussain Rhat Father's Name: Gh Mohi Ud Din Bhat Mother's Name : --Halima Begun

Date of Birth:- 15-03-1992 Residenc:- Hygam Sopore



According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 4506384 be treated as "CANCELLED") No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22 Dated 10-02-2023 **Assistant Secretary**

ازعدالت سب جج ميونپل مجسٹريث سرينگر بااجلاس مهرين مشاق

رجيٹرار برخھس اينڈ ڈیتھس الیں۔ایم سی سرینگر (سیول

Ghulam Nabi Sheikh S/o Abdul Khaliq Sheikh R/o Abi Karpora Nehru

رخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ پيدائش اوفات Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh S/o Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

ناریخُ وفات / پیدائش: 2019-08-80

عامله مندج عنوان الصدر مين سائل سائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض ندارج تاریخ پیدائش/وفات Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh S/o Abdul Khaliq Sheikh مورخه R/o Abi Karpora Nehru پیش کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کو Parak Sringgar بذر لیداشتها مطلع کیاجاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذریااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے مذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گز رنے معیاد کوئی عذریا

عتراض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت مندامیں -- کومقررہے۔ ب جج میونیل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

ازعدالت سب جج ميونپل مجسط يٺ سرينگر بااجلاس مهرين مشاق

رجيٹرار بڑھس اینڈ ڈیٹھس الیں۔ایم _سی سرینگر (سیول ٔ

Maria Shabir

رخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ پيدائش اوفات

/ يبدائش: 20/12/2002

معامله مندجة عنوان الصدر مين سائل سائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی لغرض ندارج تاریخ پیدائش/وفات Maria Shabir D/o Shabir Ahmad Gadda R/o Qureshi Mohalla مورخه 21-01-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذاعوام الناس کو Lal Bazar Srinagar

بذر بعداشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذریااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اینے مذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کےاندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کرپیش کرے _ بعدگز رنے معیاد کوئی عذریا عتراض قابلِ قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آیندہ عدالت مذامیں ۔ 2023-02-10 کومقررہے۔



CEO Smart City For Expediting Work On Prestigious Project

Reviews works executed under smart city mission

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Amir Khan, who is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Srinagar Smart City mission, Thursday, asked officials to expedite on war footing, works being executed under the smart city program.

Commissioner SMC passed the directions during his Ghanta Ghar, Residency Road, M.A Road and Polo View to review the works being executed under the smart city project.

He asked the Chief Engineer concerned to speed up the work and carry out construction of drains, pipe lines and concerting on a parallel basis.

He also asked the vendors to increase men and machinery so that all the undertaken projects of Smart City are completed in a given time frame. During the tour, he further di-

rected the Chief Engineer to start the installation of electric poles and street lights and update him visà-vis progress of work on a daily basis.

He also impressed upon the concerned vendors to procure 100% required material within a given time frame, Athar said it would save time and help in the timely completion of the project.

Commissioner SMC further directed the concerned officials to complete the work on the pedestrian lane from Polo View to TRC within a week's time besides installing high lights and precautionary sign boards on chinar trees.

During the visit, he also directed the Chief Engineer to get ATS lights relocated at Polo view junction. The Commissioner SMC was accompanied by Chief Engineer Smart City and various senior officials from Smart City and Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Brenwar Residents Protest Against Numberdar Continues

'Have ordered time bound enquiry into the matter

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Braving inclement weather, residents of Brenwar village of Chadoora Tehsil in central Budgam district continued their protests against the concerned Numberdar on second straight day on Thursday.

Chanting slogans, scores of Branwar, Chadoora residents assembled at Press Enclave this afternoon and staged a protest against Numberdar Saifudin Jaraha, who they alleged is harassing people on one or the other pretext.

The Numberdar, protesters also alleged, has attained the age of 60 years and is no more eligible to continue with the post. They urged the government to hold a fresh election for the post of Numberdar in the Tehsil.

"We have been protesting for the last one month, but no concrete measures have been taken as yet. He (Numberdar) is involved in malpractice. We approached higher-ups in the administration, many a times but to no avail" a protester told Kashmir Observer, adding the Numberdar has been holding the office for the last 30 years sans elections.

The protestors urged the government to hold fresh elections for Numberdar in the Tehsil in consonance with law 1

Pertinently as per SRO 412 dated 29th September 2017, government had reduced the age limit of Numberdar to 25 years and maximum limit to 60 years. The Protestors of Branwar said the Numberdar was above 60 years and is not eligible to continue.

When contacted, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Chadoora, Noor Hamid, told Kashmir Observer that an official cannot be removed from his position merely because a handful of villagers does not support him.

He was however quick to add that there are directions from the government that Numberdars having attained the age of 60 years needs to be removed "once the process is initiated, services of all Numberdar's above 60 years of age will come to an end"

"An enquiry has been initiated in this direction while concerned Tehsildar has been appointed as an enquiry officer. I would like to assure everyone that law will take its own course. We have also sent a letter to the Police to check whether Namberdar was ever convicted, besides all aspects in this regard will be considered," he added.

On fresh elections, SDM said it is a lengthy process and the same will be held as and when notification is issued by the law department.

Two Die In Separate Road Accidents In Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Two persons died in separate road accidents in uptown Srinagar on Thursday officials said. A two-wheeler rider died, after allegedly being knocked down by a Power Development Department (PDD) official vehicle at Chanapora locality.

Identified as Javed Ahmad son of Ghulam Nabi Mir of Gojwara, a youth suffered serious injuries and died on the spot after allegedly being hit by a PDD vehicle.

Deceased, reports said, was riding his two-wheeler, bearing registration number JK01AP-0109, when a PDD truck knocked him down at Chanapora Bypass, resulting in his on the spot death.

As soon as the incident

took place, a police team immediately rushed to the spot, to ascertain facts.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and set the investigation into motion.

Meanwhile a pedestrian died after being hit by a two-wheeler at Chinar Colony in Baghat area of uptown Srinagar this morning.

Witnesses said that a pedestrian identified as Abdul Aziz Sheikh, a resident of Chinar Colony was hit by a two-wheeler (Scooty) in Baghat area. He was shifted to SMHS Hospital in critical condition, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile, police have arrested the Scooty driver and registered a case under relevant sections of law.



A lady vendor cleans fish on a rainy day at Amirakadal, Srinagar on Thursday - Photo/Abid Bhat

Police Foils AAP March To Raj Bhawan Against Eviction Drive In J&K

MAJID NABI

SRINAGAR, Feb 09: Police on Thursday foiled the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)youth wing protest march to Raj Bhawan, housing official residence of Lieutenant Governor, against the ongoing anti-encroachment drive in Jammu and Kashmir.

Holding placards in their hands which read "stop rendering us homeless and stop bulldozing poor", dozens of AAP youth wing activists assembled at Press Enclave this afternoon and staged a protest against the ongoing demolition drive in J&K.

AAP activists threatened

Srinagar, Feb 09: Kashmir Trade

Alliance (KTA) Thursday urged

the government to restore the pow-

er supply to the consumers whose

The KTA President said that

isiness activity in the valley

comes to halt in winters, while

the power department is not

connections have been snapped.

Observer News Service

to intensify protests in J&K, in case the Lieutenant Governor does not confirm in writing that poor masses having built their houses on Kahcharai or state land will not be touched.

As soon as the protesters tried to march towards Raj Bhawan, which houses the official residence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, a pose of police deployed in advance prevented them from moving ahead. The protesters later dispersed off peacefully.

"We have assembled here to register our protest against the ongoing eviction drive, which has exclusively been launched to render poor masses home-

Without Electricity: KTA Urges Govt

tions of the last five years.

non-payment of fees.

unaware of the economic condi-

he said around 1400 digital me-

ters in Srinagar have been dis-

connected at the stations for

even as the income is also reduced

activities during this season,

while laborers are also unable to

In a statement issued here,

Every consumer pays the fee

Restore Power Supply To Those

less in J&K. We demand that the drive should be immediately stopped, failing which protests will be held in all district headquarters in J&K," a protesting AAP activist, told reporters.

He also claimed that the government's ongoing demolition drive might trigger a fresh wave of 'protests' across Jammu and Kashmir as the drive has created chaos and confusion everywhere in the newly carved out Union Territory.

It may be in place to mention that the administration has launched an anti-encroachment drive across J&K to retrieve Kahcharai or state land from the encroachers.

go to daily work," he said.

cluding the shopkeepers

notice or information

He said before the disconnect-

He said department has dis-

ing meters, concerned department

should have consider the financial

conditions of the consumers, in-

connected the electricity connec-

tions of hundreds of consumers.

and vendors, without any prior

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132

PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



FAJR 5:56 ZUHR 12:45 ASR 4:30 Magrib 6:12

7:34

ISHA

PRAYERS

This Day In History

- 1940 "Tom & Jerry" cartoon created by William Hanna & Joseph Barbera debut by MGM.
- 1943 British 8th Army sweeps through North Africa to Tunisia 1952 - India holds its first general election: Prime Minister Jawaharlal
- 1954 Eisenhower warns against US intervention in Vietnam
- 1961 Niagara Falls hydroelectric project begins producing power 1974 - Iran / Iraqi border fight breaks out
- 1975 The Provisional Irish Republican Army agrees to a truce and ceasefire with the British government and the Northern Ireland Office; Seven "incident centres" are established in nationalist areas
- to monitor the ceasefire 1990 - South African President F. W. de Klerk announces Nelson
- Mandela will be freed on Feburary 11th

 1991 Lithuania votes for independence from USSR
- 1993 US officially backs peace plan in Bosnia 1997 - Soyuz TM-25 launches to the MIR
- 2013 36 people are killed and 39 are injured in a stampede at a train station in Allahabad, India

From KO Archives

Fidayeen Storm JKP Nerve Centre

Observer News Service

RINAGAR - In yet an ¬other major strike, Fidayeen this evening stormed the heavily forti¬fied police control room (PCR) here. Army was called out after a 4-member Fidayeen squad gate crashed into the sprawling complex killing two police¬men and wounding eight others including a superintendent of police. Lashkar-e-Taiba owning responsi¬bility for the attack, said it was carried out in retalia¬tion to the recent spate of custodial killings.

According to reports, a 4-member Fidayeen squad in police uniforms forced their way to the main gate of the high-security PCR, the nerve centre of the state police in the summer capital, at around 7.10 p.m. hurling grenades and fir¬ing indiscriminately on the se¬curity guards. A policeman died on the spot while eight others sustained injuries. One of them later succumbed to his injuries. The deceased were identified as head constable Mohan Lal and constable Zahoor Ahmad.

Seven of the injured person¬nel were identified as superin¬tendent of police, Jalla, and con¬stables, Rai Singh, Bashir Ahmad, Nazir Ahmad, Manzoor Ahmad, Darshan Lal and Akhtar Husain. Eighth po¬liceman whose identity could not be ascertained immediately had been admitted in the police hospital within the complex. Jalla had received a bullet in-jury in his hand and was stated to be out of danger.

When contacted, the super¬intendent of police, PCR, G

H Bhat, told Kashmir Observer one militant was killed in the retaliatory fire immediately af¬ter they stormed into the com¬plex. Police believed only one more militant, and not three as was reported, was holed up in the single storied building ad-jacent to the main PCR build¬ing. Bhat said the building houses the two PCR munshis (clerks). However, he put the number of injured policemen at four only.

While the army had laid the outer cordon around the huge complex, Bhat said, the central reserve police force (CRPF) and SOG personnel had launched an operation to flush out the holed up militant. At least eight police personnel who had been present in the building when the militants sneaked into it, were rescued, he added.

Meanwhile, agency reports said, intermittent exchange of fire was going on when the re-ports last came in inside the complex which, apart from the PCR, houses the headquarters of the 3rd. 4th, 5th, 7th, and 11th battalions of the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, besides the police telecommu-nication centre, forensic science laboratory (FSL) and police hospital. Army had surrounded the entire complex, particularly the building in which the militants were holed up.

Citing an unidentified body in the PCR premises, an armoured vehicle of the bor¬der security force (BSF) ap¬proached the spot at9.15p.m. The body was believed to be that of the slain militant, However, the vehicle had to stage a hasty retreat after it came under heavy fire from the holed up militant.

Quoting a Lashkar spokes¬man from Pakistan, a CNS re¬port identified the Fidayeen as Salahuddin, who led the group, Abu Hafiz, Abdullah Umar and Abu Mu'aavia. Meanwhile, a NAFA report said the security forces began shelling the build¬ing around 11.45 p.m. after which heavy exchange of fire was heard from a distance of three to four kilometers.

(Kashmir Observer, 10 February, 2001)



Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Branch Poloview Srinagar Pin-190001, Jammu and Kashmir, India GSTIN: 01AACT6167G1ZL

T: 0194-2476935/0194-2471307; F: 0194-2474092 E: polovw@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Shamim Ahmed, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 04.08.2021 thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely 1. Mr. Gowhar Ahmed Mir S/o Mohammed Shafi Mir and 2. Mr. Ruvais Ahmed Mir S/o Mohammed Shafi Mir both residents of Naseem Bagh Mughal Lane Bota Colony Habbak Srinagar to repay an amount of Rs. 2,43,34,879.45/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Three Lacs Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Nine And Forty Five Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 04.08.2021 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of The J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the **7**th **day of February of the year 2023.**

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of The J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 2,85,99,522.45/- (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Five Lacs Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Two And Forty Five Paise Only) as on 31.01.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.02.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred. The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

Equitable Mortgage of double storeyed residential house with attic floor along with land underneath and appurtenant thereto, measuring 1 Kanal falling under Khasra No. 3354/140 (2 Marlas), Khasra No. 3361/142 (18 Marlas) of Khata No.1006 and Khewat No. 231 situated at Umerabad B lane No. 3, Peer Bagh Srinagar in Mouza Rawalpora Tehsil District Srinagar standing in the name of Mr. Gowhar Ahmed Mir and Mr. Ruvais Ahmed Mir.

JKB/POLOVW/2023-417

Dated: 07.02.2023 Place : Srinagar Shah Hussain Authorized Offic

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T:+91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F:+91 (0)194 248 1928; E:info@jkbmail.com; W:www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-6396/22 dated: 09-02-2023

Supreme Court Has 69,000 Pending Cases, 59 Lakh In 25 High Courts: Centre



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Over 69,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court while there is a backlog of over 59 lakh cases in the country's 25 high courts, Rajya Sabha was informed on

Citing details available on the Supreme Court's website, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said in a written reply that 69,511 cases were pending in the top court as on February 1.

"There are 59,87,477 cases

pending in the high courts across the country as per the information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on February 1, 2023," he said.

Out of these, 10.30 lakh cases were pending in the Allahabad High Court -- the biggest high

court of the country.
The Sikkim High Court has the least number of 171 cases.

The government, Mr Rijiju said, has taken several initiatives to provide "suitable environment" for expeditious disposal of cases by the Judiciary.

Domestic Airlines Reported 2,613 Technical Snags In **Last 5 Years: Minister**



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Domestic airlines reported 2,613 significant technical snags in their planes in the last five years, Union minister V K Singh told the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The Minister of State for Civil Aviation said the regulations require occurrences relating to system and component failure to be reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

"These occurrences, based on their severity are investigated either by the concerned airlines under the supervision of the DGCA or by the DGCA under Rule 13(1) of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017," he said

in a written reply. Giving details, Mr Singh said there were a total of 2,613 "significant technical snags" ported by various airlines in the country during the 2018-2022

In this period, IndiGo reported 885 snags, SpiceJet (691), Vistara (444), Air India (399), AirAsia (India) Ltd (79), Go Air (54), TruJet (30), Alliance Air (13), Blue Dart Aviation (7), Akasa Air (6) and Fly Big (5), as per the reply.

AirAsia (India) has been renamed as AIX Connect and Go Air as Go First

To a query on whether the use of old aircraft is the main reason for technical snags, the minister replied in the negative.

"Aircraft is considered airworthy provided the maintenance is as per approved schedule laid down by the manufacturer. Aircraft registered in India may operate as long as the aircraft is under maintenance support provided by manufacturer for the continuous operation of the aircraft.

"No aircraft can fly without having a valid Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) issued by the DGCA," he said.

In a separate written reply, the minister said the DGCA conducted 91 planned surveillance inspection of airports in 2022 and 7 planned surveillance inspection of airports till January 31, 2023.

The regulator conducts surveillance inspection of airports and seeks compliance of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) from the aerodrome operator.

The Level-I (significant) and Level-II (non-significant) findnicated to the aerodrome operator for the corrective action and compliance of the same is ensured by the DGCA.

The minister, in another written reply, said that "a few complaints against airline/airport operators for not providing adequate protocol facilitation to Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been received".

Airlines and airports operators are apprised from time to time to comply with the guidelines issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) regarding protocol/ courtesy/ facilitation to be extended to the Members of Parliament at civil aerodromes/civil enclaves in the country.

Turkiye-Syria earthquake: 'It's as though someone dropped a nuclear bomb'

t around 4 o'clock on Monday morning, Malik Abu Ubaidah awoke to his home rocking on its foundations. He got up, gathered his children together and stepped outside into a wall of smoke and dust.

Snatched from sleep, he did not know it yet, but what Malik had felt was a 7.8 magnitude earthquake which hit northwest Syria and south-east Turkiye yesterday, and was felt in Lebanon, Jordan and Cyprus.

It has left a trail of destruction in its wake, destroying bridges, razing buildings to the ground and reducing homes to rubble. The death toll is climbing. At the most recent count, over 5,000 people have been confirmed dead.

Malik lives in the village of Al-Bab in the north of Syria after his family was displaced from the south due to a decadelong war fought by the Syrian regime and its allies.

"Frankly, I have never felt as much fear for my life as I felt today," Malik said. "We have been at war for 12 years but, throughout that time, I have not felt what I felt today in terms of fear and helplessness."

least the bombing doesn't come all at once," he continues. "You can predict it, or you might hear planes and be able to hide somewhere. During bombing you know that you are in a state of war, and you believe that God is with you. But the earthquake itself is

GAZIANTEP, TURKEY: Tem-

peratures in the quake-

stricken Turkish city of Ga-

ziantep plunged to minus

five degrees Celsius early

Thursday but thousands of

families spent the night in

cars and makeshift tents --

too scared or banned from

of the city -- close to the epi-

centre of Monday's earth-

quake that has left more

than 15,000 dead -- carrying

their children in blankets

because it was warmer than

painful, and I fear for anyone

who is trapped under the

rubble in this," said Melek

Halici, who wrapped her

two-year-old daughter in

a blanket as they watched

rescuers working late into

"Eventually we will have

to go to the tent, but I don't

want to," she added. "I can't

bear the cold, but nor can I

think about going back to

City authorities have

"When we sit down, it is

sitting in a tent.

the night.

our apartment.'

Parents walked the streets

returning to their homes.



Villages close to Al-Bab have met an even more tragic fate. 'I went to the city of Jindires in the Aleppo countryside," realls Malik

"I'm not exaggerating if I say that there is no house still standing there. There are more than 100 completely collapsed buildings, each containing no less than four or five families, so up to 15 families per building."

"We saw destruction even worse than the war," he re-"Entire neighbourhoods have been flattened in two minutes, as if someone dropped a nuclear bomb."

The northern provinces of Syria, where roughly 60 per cent of the 4.5 million Syrians who live there are internally displaced, is already a vulnerable area with a high population density and weak infrastructure.

Nine out of ten people live in poverty and there is a malnutrition crisis, a lack of water, inadequate medicine and a cholera outbreak. After the earthquake,

In Sub-Zero Turkey, Quake Survivors

Burn Park Benches, Children's Clothes

dents from going back to

apartment blocks that are

considered at risk from af-

tershocks shaking the re-

'Our children are freezing'

Around the Halicis, smoke

from dozens of fires filled the

night air. Supermarkets and

other businesses gave wood-

en pallets to families to burn.

sanctuary with neighbours

or relatives. Some have left

the region. But many have

Gyms, mosques, schools

and some stores have

opened up at night. But beds

are still at a premium and

thousands spend the nights

Some people have found

gion each day.

nowhere to go.

barred thousands of resi- in cars with engines running

wells have been covered with debris and bakeries have been destroyed.

Because the destruction is so vast, civil defence teams are overwhelmed and unable to recover either bodies or survivors from the wreckage

"In my estimation the civil defence will have to recover bodies for a month and a half, the effort is slow and debilitated," says Malik. "We heard many cries coming from under the buildings but after four hours these sounds disappear. They have only managed to save 10 per cent of people."

At roughly the same time Malik and his family were escaping their apartment, across the border in the city of Killis in southern Turkiye, Mustafa Otri felt what he thought was an explosion emanating from the depths of the earth.

He hurried out of his bed and took shelter in a closed basketball court, which was to become a makeshift shelter for the thousands of people who had lost their homes.

"I have no choice," said

Suleyman Yanik, as he sat

with one child playing with

his car steering wheel and

his wife and another child

we cannot go home," he said.

Burhan Cagdas said he had

been sleeping in a car since

Monday's quake because of

his family's "psychological"

opposition to returning home.

they could hold out.

quake relief operation.

He was unsure how long

Many families have com-

plained about the govern-

ment's handling of the

"The smell is horrible, but

asleep on the back seat.

Restaurant

2.25 Lakh People Gave **Up Indian Citizenship In 2022: Centre**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Over 16 lakh Indians renounced their Indian citizenship since 2011 including 2,25,620 last year, the highest during the period, while the lowest of 85,256 was in 2020, according to government data.

The year-wise number of Indians who renounced their citizenship was provided by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in response to a question in Rajya

Mr Jaishankar said the number of Indians who renounced their Indian citizenship in 2015 was 1,31,489, while 1,41,603 people gave it up in 2016 and 1,33,049 in 2017. In 2018, the number was 1,34,561, while 1.44.017 renounced their citizenship in 2019, 85,256 in 2020 and 1,63,370 in 2021. The number in 2022 was 2,25,620, according to the minister.

For reference purposes, Jaishankar said the data for 2011 was 1,22,819, while it was 1,20,923 in 2012, 1,31,405 in 2013 and 1,29,328 in 2014.

The total number of Indians who gave up their Indian citizenship since 2011 comes to 16,63,440.

To a specific query, he said, according to information, five Indi-



an nationals obtained the citizenship of the United Arab Emirates during the last three years.

Mr Jaishankar also provided a list of 135 countries whose citizenship Indians acquired.

To another question, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said the government is aware of the issue of professionals having been laid off by US companies in recent months.

"Of these, a certain percentage is likely to be Indian nationals on H-1B and L1 visas. The government of India has consistently raised issues relating to the movement of high skilled workers, including IT professionals, with the US government," he said.

"It has also been working with various stakeholders, including industry organisations and business chambers on these issues," Mr Muraleedharan said.

RTI Can't Be Used For "Childish Curiosity": **University On PM Degree Row**

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat University on Thursday told the High Court here the Right to Information Act can not be used for satisfying someone's "child-ish curiosity" as it defended its petition seeking the quashing of an order under the transparency law to provide information on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Citing exceptions granted under the RTI Act for not complying with the seven-year-old order of the Central Information Commission (CIC), Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the university, argued that merely because someone is holding a public office, one can not seek his private information which is not connected with his public activity.

Mr Mehta submitted that inormation about PM's degrees is "already in public domain" and the university had also placed the details on its website in the past, and claimed the 2005 Act is being used for settling scores and to make "childish jabs" against opponents.

However, Mr Kejriwal's advocate claimed information about PM's degrees was not available in public domain as claimed by Mehta.

The advocate also referred to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) searches at residences of former US President Donald Trump and his successor in the White House Joe Biden, and said no one is above the law. After hearing arguments from both sides, Justice Biren Vaishnav reserved his order on the petition.



In July 2016, the Gujarat HC stayed the Central Information Commission's order asking the Ahmedabad-based university to provide information on the degree earned by PM Modi from the educational institute to Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal.

In April 2016, then-CIC M Sridhar Acharyulu directed the Delhi University and the Gujarat University to provide information on degrees earned by Modi to the AAP leader.

CIC's order came a day after Mr Kejriwal wrote to Mr Acharyulu, saying he has no objection to government records about being made public and wondered why the commission wanted to "hide" information on Modi's educational qualifications.

During the hearing on Thursday, Mr Mehta claimed there was nothing to hide in the first place because information about PM's degrees is "already in public domain" and the university had also placed the information on its website on a particular date in the past.

Citing some past judgements of the Supreme Court and by other HCs about the exemptions granted under section 8 of the RTI Act, Mr Mehta said one can not seek someone's personal information "just because you are curious about it".

NEWS MAKERS

Kerala Man Dies By Suicide By Jumping Into His "Funeral Pyre": Cops

Press Trust of India

KOLLAM, KERALA: A 68-year-old man allegedly died by suicide by lighting his own funeral pyre at Puthur in Kollam district, police said on

Vijayakumar, a native of nearby Maranad, was found charred to death in his ancestral property. Vijayakumar had been suffering from some ailment and could not go for work for some

time, they said His sister, who is living alone in a house on the property, noticed a blaze at midnight and thought that wood might have caught fire accidentally

She also doused it with the help of another relative living in the neighbourhood. In the morning, they found the body, they said.

A suicide note, allegedly written by Vijayakumar, was recovered by the police.

In the letter addressed to his friend, Vijayakumar stated that he was ending his life as he was unable to work anymore due to his health condition, they added.

IRGC Quds Force commander in Aleppo to supervise aid delivery

The commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force, Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, arrived in Aleppo, Syria, late on 8 February to supervise the delivery of emergency aid for those affected by Monday's 7.8 magnitude earthquake.

His arrival coincided with the latest Iranian aid plane to Syria, which landed at Aleppo airport on Wednesday evening. The first Iranian aid plane arrived on

Tuesday in Damascus carrying 45 tons of food and medical resources. The second and third Iranian planes landed respectively in Aleppo and Latakia.

Iran has been among the most supportive nations for Syria since Monday's earthquake, which left over 3,000 people dead and destroyed hundreds of buildings. According to Syrian officials, aid

deliveries for the war-torn nation

are being hampered by US sanctions. Moreover, western powers have made it clear they have no intention of dealing with the government in Damascus and only plan to direct aid to armed groups in control of the country's northwest.

Even before the earthquake, US sanctions on Syria blocked reconstruction efforts and inflicted collective punishment on the civilian population.

The White House has shown no inclination to ease sanctions or

reach out to the Syrian government to coordinate humanitarian assistance for people in governmentcontrolled areas.

When asked earlier this week why Washington wasn't contacting Damascus or considering lifting sanctions, US State Department spokesman Ned Price brushed off the suggestions and said that "it would be quite ironic, if not even counterproductive, for us to reach out to a government that has brutalized its people."

Kerala Trans Couple Have Baby, A First In India, Keep **Gender Secret** cause, at the time of delivery,

Agencies

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A transgender couple gave birth to a baby at a government hospital here on Wednesday. However, the trans couple has not disclosed the gender identity of the newborn.

Zahad, a trans man, delicered the baby on Wednesday.

"This is the happiest day of my life. I got several messages that hurt me. The birth of our child is our reply to them. I thank all those who supported us," Zahad's partner, Ziya told ANI. "Both the baby and Zahad, her partner who delivered the child, are doing well, Ziya added.

"The baby was born around 9.30 am through a Cesarean Section at the Government Medical College Hospital be-

Zahad's sugar level in the body was high," said Ziya Paval, one of the trans partners. "Both the baby and Zahad,

her partner who delivered the child, are doing well," Ziya added. Health minister Veena George

also congratulated transgender partners on the birth of the baby and expressed her wish to meet them in person whenever they are in Kozhikode.

The minister also spoke to the superintendent of IMCH (Institute of maternal and child health) in Kozhikode Medical College and directed them to be vigilant and to provide all necessary treatment to both of them free of cost.

Zahad undergoing treatment after delivery at Kozhikode Medical College.

Chief Secretary Takes Stock Of

Progress Of All RDD Schemes

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr

Arun Kumar Mehta on Thurs-

day reviewed the progress of

all the schemes implemented

here by the Rural Development Department (RDD) for welfare

and upliftment of rural masses

The meeting was attended by

Commissioner Secretary, RDD;

DG, Budget; Director, RDD Kashmir/Jammu; MD, NRLM;

Director, Rural Sanitation; COO,

Himayat; Director Finance,

RDD; Director, IWMP; Director,

Social Audit, RDD; Chief Engi-

neer, REW and other concerned

officers of the Department

through in person or virtually.

ficers about the progress made in

each scheme so far. He impressed

upon them to accelerate the

work so that the targets fixed are

Dr Mehta enquired from the of-

throughout J&K.

Police Solves Burglary Case In Baramulla, 4 Arrested

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have solved a burglary case within 72 hours by arresting four persons involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen property from their possession.

On February 5, Police Station Pattan received a complaint from Ghulam Hassan Rather of Pakipora village claiming that during intervening nights of February 1-2, some unknown burglars barged into his shop and stole cigarettes and other items, a police spokesperson said Thursday

Accordingly, he said, a case vide FIR No. 32/2023 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Pattan and investigation was initiated.

During the preliminary course of investigation, with the help of technical and human resources names of some suspects came to surface, one among them identified as Azad Mukhtar Hajam son of Mukhtar Hajam resident of Singhpora Pattan was identified and was called for questioning," the spokesperson said.

After thorough interrogation, he said, Hajam disclosed that he alongwith three more persons identified as Altaf Ahmad Dar son of Gh Mohd Dar resident of Reshipora Hanjiwera, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Rasool Bhat resident of Singhpora Pattan & Jamshed Ahmad Waza Gh Mohd Waza resident of Singhpora Pattan are involved in the commission of crime, who were subsequently arrested in the instant case.

"On their disclosure stolen property alongwith tools used for burglary were recovered from their possession. They have been shifted to the police station where they remain in custody,"

During the argument be-

tween the two doctors the

patient lying on the bed was

Confirming the incident,

CMO Baramulla, Dr Bashir

Ahmed told a local news agency KNT that he received

a complaint from a doctor

against his colleague and

sought a detailed report from

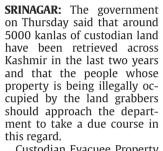
BMO Pattan. He said that the

doctor in question has been

shocked, insiders said

Around 5000 Kanal Custodian Land Retrieved In Two Yrs: Govt

A CRPF MAN TAKES COVER under the roof of a mobile shop on a rainy Day Thursday in



Custodian Evacuee Property Department, Kashmir, Tariq Hussain Naik said the department has been putting every effort to identify the custodian land that has been notified years ago.

"We have been working from the last two years to ascertain how much land is notified and how much land is in the records in the Revenue department. Almost 80 per cent of our reconciliation has been completed with the Revenue Department so far," he said. He also added that so far, the department has been able to retrieve around 5000 kanals

of custodian land in different disturbed anywhere.

districts across Kashmir.

He added that there is a misconception and to end it, the people should know that the custodian land is only a private property. "We are retrieving the land and the process under Evacuee Act is being followed. If a property is notified once, it will remain so until and unless somebody will not claim the land through proper procedure," he said.

Stating that the retrieval of custodian land at present is not new, but it is a continuous process; however, he said that nobody will be displaced or

Bukhari Demands Regularization

"As per the procedure, if a structure is being raised anywhere illegally on the custodian land, we demolish it, but if a structure is already raised years ago, then we have a provision for that and we will have to notify it following which the rent is being fixed," he said.

He also said that if the land of any person has been grabbed illegally by anyone, he or she should approach the department and a due course will be taken as per the provision of the Act to restore the property under section 14 of the Evacuee Property Act—(KNO)

able with the department. He enjoined upon the officers

to create durable assets under MGNREGA and look after the priorities in each village with respect to the creation of amenities there. He directed for completing highest number of works under MGNREGA this year. He advised them to carry out the social audit of every work and compare with other States/UTs and take appropriate measures to address those issues pointed out by audit.

velopment in our villages. He made out that the villages are the mirrors to reflect the success of this department.

He also made appraisal of the infrastructure created by the department to support rural institutions. He directed creating Panchayat Ghar in each GP and create model Panchayats out of each Panchayat in the UT. He also directed for holding the monthly convergence meetings in the Panchayats to ensure that the process of development is not hindered there for any reason.

Regarding the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)Grameen, the Chief Secretary made it clear that all the villages should look clean in all respects before the Independence Day this year. He directed for creating the necessary infrastructure as envisaged in the mission in each village or cluster of villages taken together. He



met without any fail especially in terms of person days in MGN-REGA. He directed for clearing all the pending liabilities regarding the material bills in MGNREGA and seek rest of the designated funds after utilizing those avail-

The Chief Secretary observed that the role of the department is pivotal in terms of changing the face of J&K being responsible for looking after our rural areas. He maintained that the department is predominantly responsible for development, cleanliness and employment generation in these areas. He said that the performance of the department directly impacts the pace of delaid emphasis on efficient door to door collection of waste and clearing of legacy waste in each village besides the progress made in construction of Soak pits, Composit pits, Twin pits or grey water treatment in the villages.

Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Mandeep Kaur in her presentation made during the meeting revealed that the department has made strides in all the aspects of rural development and sanitation. She said that the Department has succeeded in generating 2.08 Cr person days of work under MGNREGA thereby completing 69608 works registering an expenditure of nearly Rs 705.07 Cr so far.

She further apprised the meeting that a total of 83246 works have been completed last Financial Year. The majority of works (21892 works) are on Rural connectivity, 20317 works on individuals land (Category IV), 11848 works on Flood Control and Protection, 11534 works on Land Development, 9366 works on Micro Irrigation. This is the largest number of works that the UT has completed in any Financial Year.

Of Land, Unauthorized Colonies of packages, two doctor s are hereby banned from doing any private practice across the Union Territory of Jammu 'Forced Demolition Drive Is Causing Misery To The Poor People' & Kashmir, with immediate effect." reads the order. **Observer News Service**

JAMMU: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Thursday urged the Govt to stop the ongoing forced evictions and demolition drive and regularize the unauthorized colonies and the land which is under the occupation of the people for years and decades in jammu anď Kashmir.

He was addressing the party workers' convention at Nagrota in Jammu today.

According to a press release issued here, Bukhari said, "Uprooting people through a forced eviction and demolition drive is an inhuman act which will bring more miseries to the people who have already suffered hugely over the years and decades due to the protracted conflict and wars."

He added, "J&K people need a sigh of relief as they have been facing agonies for years due to the turmoil. People here have suffered due to the wars in 1947, 1965, and 1971. And, for the past more than three decades



they are grappling with bloodshed, destruction, violence, and so on due to the conflict situation. Government must realize that J&K people need solace, not further miseries in terms of demolition drives."

Bukhari promised that Apni Party will not leave any stone unturned to ensure the government revokes its policies that are causing trouble to the people.

He said, "I assure you that the Apni Party will stand like a rock with the people in these tough times, and we will do everything to ensure poor people are not harmed."

"It is very painful to see poor people suffering due to the ongoing demolition drive. Small

houses and shops are being raised to the ground." He added. Taking a dig at the government officials, Bukhari said, "Government officials must stop harassing innocent people in the name of demolition drive. They must understand that uprooting people is an inhuman act."

He urged the Lieutenant Governor (LG) to take action against the officials who are harassing the common people in the name of retrieving state land in their occupancy.

Apni party leader emphasized on peace and harmony among the people and said, 'They will try to engage you in hatred towards each other in the name of religion, political affiliation, and so on. And, they will even try to divide you on the name of regions you belong to but you must be smart enough not to fall prey to their political gimmicks. You must understand that J&K needs peace and communal harmony, and people must stand united for democratic and constitutional rights."

Pregnant Woman Found Dead Ashraf of Mukhdamyari was

pregnant woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances at her residence in Mukhdamyari village of Hajin in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday.

Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that the woman identified as Ulfat Bano, wife of Mohammad found lying unconscious at her He said soon after she was

taken to Community Health Centre Hajin where she was declared dead on her arrival. "The cause of death will be ascertained after postmortem,"

he said. Meanwhile, police have started inquest proceedings

100 Kashmir Schools Selected **To Organise Youth-20 Talks**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Kashmir Valley, authorities have selected 100 schools from all ten districts to organize Youth-20 (Y20) talks in order to provide a platform to youth to express their vision and ideas on the G20 priorities.

Youth 20 (Y20) is the official youth engagement group of G20 that provides a platform to allow youth to express their vision and ideas on the G20 priorities.

Chief Accounts Officer at Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in this regard has forwarded the list of all such schools to the government.

The officer said that a list was submitted for the organization of Y20 Talk or Awareness program on Y20 in every District of JKUT.

"These schools have been selected in consultation with Chief Education Officers on the basis of good enrolment, gender proportion and coverage in the entire district," it reads—(KNO).



Drama Unfolds At Trauma Hospital Pattan

Doctor 'Abuses' Colleague Inside Operation Theater, CMO Seeks Report

permission.

Agencies

BARAMULLA: Chief Medical Officer Baramulla has sought a detailed report from Block Medical Officer (BMO) Pattan after a doctor accused his senior colleague of abusing him inside the operation theater while he was performing surgery of a patient at Trauma Hospital Pattan.

In his complaint to CMO Baramulla, Dr Tufail alleged that Dr Imtiyaz Itoo not only restrained him from operating on a poor patient but also abused him and the patient inside the operation theater.

He has alleged that Dr Imtiyaz, who is a senior consultant, doesn't want any sur-

asked to explain his position. BMO Pattan, Dr Mastoora said that he has sent a detailed report to CMO Baram-

ulla about the incident. "Both are colleagues and I think the situation will cool down after gery to take place without his that it is not a big issue.

some time," she said, adding **2 GMC Doctors Banned**

From Private Practice SRINAGAR: The authorities on Thursday banned two doctors of Government Medical College Baramulla from doing

any private practice across Jammu and Kashmir. According to an order, Dr Zafarullah assistant professor (ENT) and Dr Shafaqat Ahmad Lone associate professor (ENT) have been banned from doing any private practice.

"Pending enquiry to the allegations, regarding the issue related to the referral of patients from Public hospital to Private Hospitals for availing treatment/benefits under AF PM-JAY & AB PM-JAY SEHAT Scheme and illegal up-coding

Woman In Critical Condition Airlifted In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Braving heavy snowfall, the Army and the Indian Air Force on Thursday airlifted a pregnant woman in critical condition from a hamlet in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar.

Responding to a distress call, Army troops rushed to the village in remote Nawapachi area and carried the woman on a stretcher through snowfields, officials said.

The IAF flew a MI chopper to Nawapanchi and airlifted the woman, who was transported to the district hospital in Kishtwar for specialised treatment, they said.

"Indian Army in close coordination with the Indian Air Force evacuated a pregnant lady in critical condition from a remote winter isolated Nawapachi area of Kishtwar district to Kishtwar town where the lady is being treated at district hospital," Defence Spokesperson Lt Col Dev-

The people of Nawapanchi expressed gratitude towards the Army and the IAF and some of them also raised slogans praising the two forces.

ender Anand said.

Lt Col Anand said the Army has been making efforts to reduce the hardships faced by people in the area that has harsh weather and extremely difficult living conditions especially during winters when it gets cut off from the rest of the district due to closure of roads.

"Indian Army has always been rendering life-saving humanitarian assistance to people apart from conducting counter-terrorist operations in the region," he said.

Police Arrests Absconder In Awantipora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in Awantipora on Thursday claimed to have arrested a man, who was evading arrest from last 20 years.

Police received a non-bailable warrant from the Court of Principal Session Judge Pulwama against an accused namely Manzoor Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Mohd Bhat resident of Reshipora who was evading his arrest from last 20 years, in-

volved in case FIR No. 96/1997 of Police Station Awantipora, a police spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a special team under the supervision of SDPO Awantipora was constituted and the accused person was arrested from Reshipora area.

"Subsequently, the arrested accused was produced before the Court of Law. The court ordered to lodge the said absconder in District Sub Jail Pulwama," he added

Two Women Drug Smugglers Among Four Arrested In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Two women interstate drug smugglers were among four people arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba and Kishtwar districts on Thursday, officials said.

Intercepting a bus on the highway in Samba's Vijaypur area, a police team recovered 200 grams of heroin and Rs 24,920 lakh in cash from the two women, they said.

The duo has been identified as Sheema alais Jhulfan and Chanchlo Sharief of Punjab. Both were arrested and a case registered against them.

The police also arrested a peddler, identified as Mohammad Iqbal Khanday, and supplier Shahnawaz Ahmed in Kishtwar, the officials said.

They also seized heroin from the duo and registered a case against them.

So far, six drug suppliers, including three women, have been arrested within a month. Traps are being laid and raids conducted to track down the others involved in trafficking and supplying drugs.

Arms Cache Recovered In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Security forces on Thursday busted a hideout and recovered ammunition and explosive material in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, sources said.

A team of police, assisted by the Army, launched a search operation in the Naka Manjari area. It busted a hideout and recovered ammunition and explosive material, they said.

Four AK rifle magazines with ammunition, two grenades, some explosive material, one binocular and other material were recovered, the sources said.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday | 10-02-2023

LG's Assurance

he anti-encroachment drive has been in full swing in the Valley over the last few weeks. The government is retrieving land occupied by people. The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has reassured that only the big land grabbers will be targeted and that the poor people will not be harassed. However, the drive has run up against opposition from the political parties, who have accused the government of trying evict all occupiers of the government land. On Monday, top Valley leaders such as Omer Abdullah, Mehboba Mufti and Sajad Lone held a press conference urging the government to limit the drive only to well-heeled people who have grabbed more land. They alleged that on ground, the government machinery was retrieving land from poor people.

Abdullah asked the administration to issue notices to encroachers and give them chance to produce documents before moving to evict them. Mufti held her press conference at the Delhi Press Club. She said evictions had turned Kashmir into "Afghanistan". A day after Mufti held a protest in Delhi prompting Delhi Police to detain her. Lone said that empathy and not bulldozer should represent New Delhi in Kashmir.

The administration in its defense is saying thatby retrieving government land it is only doing its job. The land being retrieved is the Roshni land, which was earlier handed by the previous governments to its occupiers under a scheme. The scheme, which was meant to raise Rs 25000 crore to finance buying of hydropower projects by selling state land under unauthorized occupation turned out to be a damp squib. It has fetched only a few hundred crore rupees since it was enacted in 2002 which makes therevenue earned from the land disproportionately less than the target.

Roshni scheme was enacted by the then National Conference government. However, it was amended by the PDP-Congress led coalition government in 2004 and 2007. In 2006, the Government had estimated that the total state land was 1,25,03,973 kanal, of which 20,64,972 kanal was under encroachment. The encroached land was valued at Rs 25,448 crore. Though on paper, the scheme looked fantastic, it turned out a massive disappointment. Once again, the culprit was the ineffective and the corrupt implementation.A part of the reason was that many of the scheme's senior functionaries were themselves its beneficiaries including the rich businessmen and prominent civil society figures. But there were thousands of poor people who have occupied less than a kanal of land to build their houses. The administration certainly should show empathy towards them. Just imagine the goodwill it will generate.

O THER OPINON

Charlie Hebdo's Insensitive Cartoon

KLAUS JURGENS

he proud nation of Türkiye is in the middle of a period of mourning trying to come to terms with the devastating earthquakes that occurred earlier this week. Even seasoned journalists are hard pressed to find the correct words to describe the horrors, sorrows and the unbearable suffering. As I wrote this piece, over 8,500 citizens had lost 10,000 citizens were injured.

rity not just verbally but in practical man catastrophe and crisis best characterizes this fine nation. It does not take away an inch of the suffering, the feeling of loss of loved ones but it underlines that victims realize they are not alone.

Then there are others, bizarre self-styled "commentators" or "cartoonists." Enter Charlie Hebdo. Not a person,

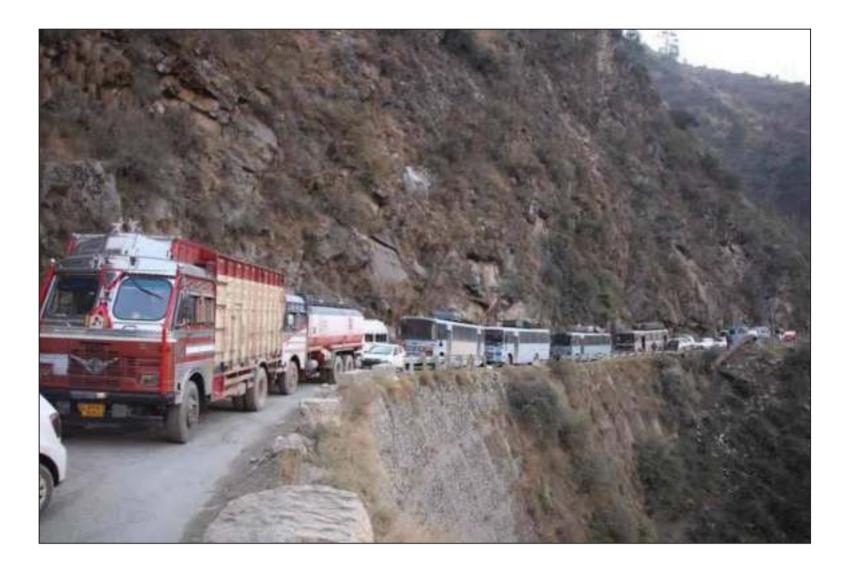
but a foreign publication. On Feb. 6, 2023, Charlie Hebdo under the byline "drawing of the day" with a mention of "#Juin" as cartoonist, showed a destroyed building resembling a destroyed town with an overturned car, with the mention of "Earthquake in Türkiye" in the top-right corner and then at the bottom "Don't even need to send (the) tanks" (author's own translation from the French language original).

When the news broke that this publication went live and first shocked reactions poured in from abroad as well as Türkiye, commentators everywhere were lost for words, indeed; the author of these lines asked himself "that must be fake news, certainly?" Then the sobering reality kicked in -a quick look at Charlie Hebdo's website confirmed the rumors.

The cartoon in question cannot be defended with freedom of expression. It cannot be regarded as freedom of speech. It is not simply bad taste. It does indeed incite hatred within society at home in France and everywhere else

In many countries hate speech is a criminal offense. When will the French watchdog for the domestic media react and tell Charlie Hebdo's editors in no unmistaken words that this time, they really went a step too far?

Excerpted from Daily Sabha



The Killer Highway

Amir Suhail Wani

There are aspects to this road which are naturally determined and are therefore beyond the scope of human repair but there are areas which can be very well dealt with by means of careful planning, roping in of technical and administrative resources and these areas shall not be left unattended lest they amount to the loss of life and property on part of our own negligence

magine the only road connecting you to the rest of the world being shut for the most part of the year and this is an exact description of the Jammu and Kashmir national highway - the lifeline of the state. The road, as it exists on date is highly susceptible to landslides and avalanches. making it a tough terrain for commuters and exposing them to highest possible degree of loss in terms of life and resources. And indeed this is no imagination or thought of situation - but something occurring on daily basis. The frequency of road closure is so high that there are hourly and half-hourly statuses provided by the concerned department to inform if the road is in motor-able condition or not. The

Politic van datie de ses suffered the to read closure

Shooting stones lead to the closure of highway, landslides cause closing down of highway for nine hours, and there are two instances from the last month of stranded vehicles and of rolling boulders being deadly on the national highway. . When the magnitude of problem is such, the scale of response should have been proportionate. But the administrative apathy and wholesale negligence is of such order that we don't even have medical points to attend to the first cilities and essential services, reference to which has been made above, to the earmarking of hotspots on the highway and giving them due engineering and technical cushion using state of the art technology should be the utmost priority of the government and the authorities as far as the J&K national highway is concerned. There are aspects to this road which are naturally determined and are therefore beyond the scope of human repair but there are areas which

To present a miniature idea of how the highway is treating commuters, few news-links are in order, to enable the readers to estimate for themselves the severity of the problem under discussion

highway. It has been pleaded by means of careful

sil impacts of the vulnerab ity of this road do not rema confined to the major losses

miss their exams, patients loss their battle, the prices of commodities sky-rockets in the valley – all because of the problems arising out of the

topology of this road. While I am writing these lines, a news item pops up on my screen informing that the highway has been closed again in view of the bad weather!

To present a miniature idea of how the highway is treating commuters, few news-links are in order, to enable the readers to estimate for themselves the severity of the problem under discussion.

number of problems to regular commuters, who might in need of normal medical help on this long and rugged route The absence of medical facili-ties is one of the many lacunac this highway has and the list of be extended from the absence of toilet points to the scarcity of rest houses -all of these fuelling the pre-existing threats and vulnerabilities associated

with the road. The refurbishing of the patches of the highway and the construction of tunnels which shunt the otherwise dangerous parts of the road has been catalytic in improving the topography and motorablity of the road, but that's not the entire plot. Starting from the incubation and installation of fa-

diate measures like of rest houses, medical units and round the clock availability of emergency services is no only mandatory but critical and indispensable to avert any ack of necessary services can further miseries to the commuters and to let the existing problems snowball into larger catastrophes. This is what administration and governments are meant for and this is what they need to wake up to.

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

> > The author is a Srinagar based columnist



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

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All Hands On Deck For Privacy

openly shared at various digital platforms, it is all the more critical that there are sound firewalls to protect it from any breach. If the Centre itself has given too much access to per-

sonal data and the common public has the fear of getting exploited then they do not have anywhere to go for reprieve. Yes, there have been revisions over the last draft but if there are still some huge gaps which are still putting people at risk then they

must be sorted out without any delay before this personal data protection bill is passed and becomes law. With the kind of dynamic environment we are living in and technology playing a huge role in our lives, we would become all the more vulnerable in terms of personal data, so GoI would do well to take a pragmatic approach and not make people live at their mercy. Personal privacy and data protection is too serious a matter to be left to the discretion of the government alone.

Bal Govind

Mindful Fridays

ASK ME ANYTHING: Frequently Asked Questions About Mental Health

Last but not least, disordered attachment

occurs when a person exhibits traits from

both anxious and avoidant attachment

styles. The attachment style theory sug-

gests that people who exhibit this attach-

ment style may have experienced neglect or abuse as children.

that an individual's attachment style, which

is theoretically impacted by their relation-

ship with their caregivers as a child, isn't

set in stone as an adult. They can change

during the course of a person's life, just like

Q3: We hear a lot about how our mental

health is related to childhood traumas or

experiences. Often times parents have to go

to work when their children are only about

0-2 years old, even though they have other

loving caregivers. Does it affect their mental

Yes, a child's mental health and wellbe-

ing can be significantly impacted by early

events and interactions. According to re-

search, children who receive consistent,

nurturing caregiving (even by caring and

loving grandparents etc.) during their ini-

tial years of life are more likely to even-

tually enjoy better outcomes in terms of

emotional control, social competence, and

This does not imply that all kids who

spend time away from their parents during

their formative years would suffer negative

consequences, though. In fact, the presence

of abusive parents around can be more det-

rimental than absence of parents. Other

elements, such as the child's temperament,

the caregiver's level of care and the general

It's also crucial to keep in mind that the

consequences of early experiences may not

always become apparent right away but in-

stead may surface

later in life, such

family environment, are also important.

overall mental health.

health and do these things show up later?

However, it's important to keep in mind

and distant.

personalities can.

WASIM KAKROO

get multiple responses and questions on my Mindful Fridays weekly column on Kashmir Observer. In today's column, I've tried to answer the most frequently asked questions which we've received.

Q1: How can we make each other aware of mental health given there's so much dismissal around it?

A multifaceted approach that incorporates education, open and honest interactions with others, and a change in cultural attitudes can help people understand the importance of mental health and lessen the stigma associated with it. Here are some methods you may use to spread awareness and promote mental health:

Beginning the discussion: Initiate the conversation yourself to de-stigmatize mental health and encourage others to do the same. Share your own insights or lend a hand to struggling friends and family mem-

Educate yourself: Find out about the warning signs and symptoms of mental health issues as well as the services available to help people who need them. You'll be able to converse with others in a knowledgeable and encouraging manner as a re-

Utilize social media: Share articles, videos, and resources on social media to increase awareness and promote mental health. Use hashtags to join the discussion and connect with other people who are trying to de-stigmatize mental health.

Encourage change: Advocate for programmes and policies that promote mental health and lessen stigma. This can involve campaigning for the inclusion of mental health in workplace wellness programmes or supporting legislation that expands access to mental health resources.

Keep in mind that everyone can contribute to the promotion of mental health and the reduction of its stigma. We can all work together to build a world that is more encouraging and understanding by making modest changes and being an ally.

Q2: Are attachment styles in relationships a real thing or are they just something of a pop-psychology stuff on the internet?

Psychoanalysis is the

THIS DOES NOT **IMPLY THAT ALL**

KIDS who spend time away from their parents during their formative years would suffer negative consequences, though. In fact, the presence of abusive parents around can be more detrimental than absence of parents

foundation of the attachment theory. John Bowlby, a British psychoanalyst, was the person who initially put the concepts of attachment theory forth in an effort to comprehend what infants go through when they are taken away from their parents. According to Bowlby's view, newborns are physically predisposed to develop a bond with their carer from the moment they are born. Bowlby hypothesised that any interruption to a secure bond can have serious repercussions because such an attachment aids in their survival. Bowlby goes on to say that a baby's attachment style developed with their caregivers serves as a model for all future relationships, including romantic ones.

Bowlby's theory was elaborated upon by developmental psychologist Mary Ainsworth, who proposed that caregivers act as an infant's "secure basis" and classified attachment styles into four categories: secure, anxious-ambivalent, disorganised,

Researchers first popularised the notion, but the pop psychology book "Attached: The New Science of Adult Attachment, and How It Can Help You Find — and Keep — Love" published in 2010 is when the idea of attachment styles first took off as it related this concept to adult love. Dr. Amir Levine, a clinical psychiatrist and neuroscience researcher, and psychologist Rachel Heller wrote that best-selling book.

According to attachment theory, someone who exhibits a secure attachment style can build loving relationships with others. Such people do not fear intimacy and do not become alarmed or frightened when a partner requests privacy. Social psychologists Cindy Hazan and Phillip Shaver's seminal study on attachment in the 1980s indicated that 56% of persons experience safe attachments.

The theory does, however, also propose additional attachment "styles" besides secure. Anxious attachment style individuals are said to have a deep fear of abandonment. This might show up when, for example, a partner takes too long to respond to a text. According to theory, the caregiver of a person with an anxious attachment could be erratic with their love and affection or even partially absent.

A person with avoidant attachment is said to have a profound fear of intimacy and a tendency to withdraw from a romantic partner when the connection becomes too close. This person's caregiver tended to be dis-



Q4: What are some ways to make our mental health better on a day to day basis?

Here are some daily strategies to enhance your mental well-being:

Exercise regularly: Regular physical activity can help with mood, stress, and anxiety reduction.

Get adequate sleep: it's important for your mental health and wellbeing. Attempt to get 7-9 hours of restful sleep each night. Have a healthy diet: Eat a balanced diet to maintain a healthy mood and sufficient

with family and friends or taking part in social activities can lift your spirits and lessen symptoms of loneliness and depression. Practice mindfulness: Mindfulness

Connect with others: Spending time

practices such as yoga, deep breathing, and meditation can help people feel less stressed and anxious. Learn to identify and handle negative

thoughts: Learning how to identify and handle negative self-talk and replace it with more compassionate self-talk can increase your sense of self-esteem.

Do what you like to do: Try to relax and have fun by doing things like reading, writing, or following a hobby.

Help others: Volunteering or providing assistance to others can increase feelings of happiness and contentment.

To find what works best for you, keep in mind that everyone has different needs, so it could take some trial and error. A professional's help from mental health professionals such as a clinical psychologist and/ or a psychiatrist should always be sought if necessary.

Q5: Does the mental health of your partner affect your general wellbeing?

Yes, a person's general wellbeing can be significantly impacted by their partner's mental health. When one partner has men

tal health problems, it can lead to stress and tension in the marriage, which can subsequently have a bad effect on both couples' mental health and wellbespouse's capacity to

engage in activities and communicate with their partner, for instance, may be affected by their mencut off. This

A SPOUSE'S CAPACITY TO ENGAGE in activities and communicate with their partner, for instance, may be affected by their mental health, which may make them feel lonely, isolated, and cut off. This may then have a domino effect. causing the other partner to experience frustration, irritation, sadness and stress

have a domino effect, causing the other partner to experience frustration, irritation, sadness and stress.

On the other side, couples who are in good mental health are better able to deal with the difficulties that arise in a relationship and are more likely to have a happy and fulfilling relationship.

Couples should support each other's mental health and seek assistance, when necessary, whether that be through therapy, counseling, or other types of treatment. Both spouses can strengthen their mental health and wellbeing by cooperating which will result in a more solid and satisfying relationship.

Q6: What are some places which provide free mental health services in Kashmir?

In Kashmir, there are several organizations and govt. institutions that offer free mental health services to those in need. Some of these include:

Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar: This Medical College-run institution namely, Institute of Mental Health And Neurosciences (IM-HANS) Kashmir offers mental health services, including diagnosis and treatment, at no cost to patients.

There are department of psychiatry in almost every District hospital and major medical colleges across Jammu and Kashmir where free diagnosis and treatment is provided.

In addition, there are several NGOs such as Mass Sans Frontiers (MSF), Kashmir Life Line, that have been offering free mental health services to such patients at no cost for past several decades.

It is important to note that these services may vary depending on the specific organization or institution, and it is best to check with each one for specific information about the services they provide.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196



SPY Here Are 7 Kinds Of Intelligence Spies Want, And How They Get It

The Conversation

he news of a so-called Chinese spy balloon being shot down over the US has reignited interest in how nation-states spy on

It's not confirmed that the balloon, seen floating over US military areas, was indeed a dedicated vessel for spying. China has claimed it was a civilian airship deployed for weather research and blown off-course by the wind. Nonetheless, the very threat of potential spycraft has the US up in arms.

And that makes sense. The significance of intelligence can't be overstated. Nations make important political, economic and military decisions based on it.

While people may chuckle at the idea of using a balloon to passively float above a country to spy on it, the reality is anything goes when it comes to getting the upper hand on your adversaries. So what are some other ways nations collect intelligence today?

Signals intelligence

One major intelligence collection strategy is signals intelligence. This involves using a variety of ground- and space-based technologies to target the signals and communications coming from a target's device/s.

The results, called the product, often reveal highly sensitive information, which explains why signals intelligence is also the most contested form

Countries that turn this capability inward face mounting criticism from those caught in the net, and from citizens concerned with privacy. In 2013, Edward Snowden disclosed the US National Security Agency's use of signals intelligence for bulk data collection from the public. The US government has since worked to convince citizens the NSA's efforts are largely focused on external collection.

The White House also recently published an executive order on this topic.

Geo-spatial intelligence

Geo-spatial intelligence concerns human activity on and beneath the ground, including waterways. It's generally focused on military and civilian construction, human movements (such as movement of refugees and migrants) and natural resource use.

Geo-spatial intelligence exploits information obtained through satellites, drones, high-altitude aircraft and, yes, even balloons!

Spy balloons can collect not just images and signals, but also chemical analyses of the air. They aren't common, since this approach lacks plausible deniability and (as we have seen) balloons are easily observed and shot down. On the other hand, they do offer a low radar signature, are cheap and can seem innocuous. Imagery intelligence

Closely related to geo-spatial intelligence is imagery intelligence, which is also often conducted using satellites, drones and aircraft.

This is intelligence derived from the overhead collection of images of civilian and military activities. Imagery intelligence often focuses on the strategic movements of troops and weapons systems, and specifically targets military bases, nuclear arsenals and other strate-

Measurement and signature intelligence

One highly technical form of intelligence collection and one that's rarely mentioned is measurement and signature intelligence. This is intelligence derived from the electromagnetic signatures of rockets, command and control systems, radar and weapons systems, and other military and civilian equipment.

The data collection is done using high-tech instruments, designed specifically to identify and categorise the electromagnetic emanations. Among other things, this form of intelligence collection allows for the remote identification of weapons deployments and detailed information on space platforms.

Cyber intelligence

Cyber intelligence is generally lumped together with signals intelligence, but is distinct in that it uses direct human interaction (such as through hackers) to penetrate protected systems and gain access to data.

One highly technical form of intelligence collection and one that's rarely mentioned is measurement and signature intelligence. This is intelligence derived from the electromagnetic signatures of rockets, command and control systems, radar and weapons systems, and other military and civilian equipment.

Cyber intelligence refers to the overt and covert collection of information from friendly and adversarial networks. It can be obtained through signals collection, malware, or through hackers gaining direct unauthorised access into a systems. Nations may even target their own allies' networks.

One example of cyber intelligence was the 2015 data breach of the US Office of Personnel Management. This breach was designed to collect all the available information on US government and military personnel who had been screened for a security clearance.

Open source intelligence

The newest of the intelligence collection disciplines is open source intelligence. Emerging in the late 1980s, open source information comes from a variety of primary sources such as newspapers, blogs, official postings and reports, and secondary sources such as leaks on sites including WikiLeaks, The Intercept and social media.

Although this information is readily available, turning it into actionable intelligence requires specific tools such as web scrapers and data miners, as well as trained analysts who can find connections between large datasets.

Human intelligence

Human intelligence is the oldest form of intelligence collection and perhaps the most well-known. Spies are generally divided into three categories:

declared intelligence officers (overt) people working under official cover, such as spies working as diplomats, military personnel and embassy/civilian support personnel non-official cover spies, often ostensibly working in commercial, academic and trade positions.

Human intelligence officers will recruit citizens of a country to spy, wittingly or unwittingly, and run agents (co-operating citizens of a host nation) to support the strategic objectives of

Thanks to the internet and dark net, we now have cyber-based human intelligence that allows spies to assess, recruit and operate assets and sources from the safety of their home nation. This is even happening on LinkedIn.

While intelligence collection disguised as a stray weather balloon seems rather sloppy, the latest events remind us of the constant war for information that nations are waging. Analysts following the war in Ukraine are reviewing reams of information to compare Russian, Chinese and Iranian weapon systems with those of Ukraine and its NATO supporters.

As the world continues to face new challenges, including climate change and the rapid development of new technologies, the intelligence focus of nations will likely need to expand to keep up.

'Vitamin D Supplements Linked With Lower Diabetes Risk'

Press Trust Of India

igher vitamin D intake may be associated with a lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes in adults with prediabetes, a review of clinical trials has found.

Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin available in or added to some foods, as a supplement, or produced by the body when ultraviolet rays from sunlight strike the skin.

Although sunlight is great for making vitamin D, too much sunlight can be dangerous

Vitamin D has many functions in the body, including a role in insulin secretion and glucose metabolism. Observational stud-

ies have found an association between having a low level of vitamin D in the blood and high risk for developing diabetes, the researchers said. The team from Tufts

Medical Center in the US conducted a systematic review and metaanalysis of three clinical trials comparing vitamin D supplement impacts on diabetes risk.

The researchers found that over a three-year follow-up period, new-onset diabetes occurred in 22.7 per cent of adults who received vitamin D and 25 per cent of those who received placebo, a 15 per cent relative reduction in risk.

The study, published in the journal Annals of Internal Medi $cine, extrapolated \ the \ findings$ to more than 374 million adults worldwide with prediabetes.

The research suggests that inexpensive vitamin D supplementation could delay the development of diabetes in more than 10 million people.

In an accompanying editorial, authors from University College **Dublin and Food Safety Authority** of Ireland, cautioned that previous research has demonstrated significant adverse impacts of high vitamin D intake.



They argue that professional societies promoting vitamin D therapy have an obligation to warn physicians about both required vitamin D intake and safe limits.

The researchers advise that a very-high-dose vitamin D therapy might prevent type 2 diabetes in some patients but may also cause harm.

'Al Could Help Deliver Personalised Cancer Treatments'

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have leveraged artificial intelligence (AI) technology to identify genes critical to a cancer cell's survival, and could help deliver personalised cancer patient treatments, according to a new study.

They analysed different types cancer cells to understand different gene dependencies for identifying the genes, the study said.

the technology so that it can be offered to oncologists and help in the treatment pathways for their patients," said Pearl.

Cancer treatments are primarily prescribed on the basis of the location and type of cancer.

Genetic differences in tumours can make standard cancer treatments ineffective.

Using a personalised approach to guide treatment could improve life expectancy, quality of life and



Researchers at the University of Sussex, UK, have done this by developing a prediction algorithm that works out which genes are essential in the cell, by analysing the genetic changes in the tumour. This can be used to identify actionable targets that in time could guide oncologists to personalise cancer patient treatments, the study said.

"Our vision is to take advantage of the decreasing cost of DNA sequencing and to harness the power of AI to understand cancer cell differences and what they mean for the individual patient's treatment.

"Through our research, we were able to identify cell-specific gene dependencies using only the DNA sequence and RNA levels in that cell, which are easily and cheaply obtainable from tumour biopsy samples," said Dr Frances Pearl, Senior Lecturer in Bioinformatics at the University of Sussex.

"This is an incredibly exciting step in our research which means that we can now work to improve reduce unnecessary side effects of cancer patients, the study said.

In each cell, there are around 20,000 genes that contain the information needed to make proteins.

Around 1,000 of those genes are essential, meaning they are required for the cell to survive.

When normal cells become cancer cells, oncogenes, or genes with the potential to cause cancer, become activated and tumour suppressor genes become inactivated, causing a rewiring of the cell.

This causes the cell to become dependent on a new set of genes to survive, and this can then be exploited to kill the cancer cells.

By using this new AI technology to target protein products of tumour-specific dependent genes, cancer cells can be killed, leaving the normal cells which are not dependent on these genes relatively unharmed, the study said.

Although dependencies can be determined using intensive laboratory techniques, it is costly and time consuming and would not be feasible to analyse all tumour samples in this way, the study said.

Gulf Nations Will Remain India's Major Oil Suppliers For 'A Long Time': Minister



BENGALURU: India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, has diversified its sources of energy imports but will continue to buy most of its oil from the Middle East for a long time, the South Asian country's oil minister said on

Wednesday. "I continue to maintain that the Gulf, countries of the gulf, will continue to be major suppliers and account for a large percentage of our imports for a long time to come," Hardeep Singh Puri told reporters at India Energy Week.

sider buying oil from Iran and Venezuela if sanctions are lifted and would continue purchases from Russia if prices "continue to be good".

India has diversified its sources of oil imports to 39 countries from 27 two years ago, he said.

Rising purchases of Russian oil have reduced the share of supplies of India's crude imports from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to the lowest in more than a decade.

Secretary-General Haitham Al Ghais has invited India to be a part of an OPEC

Online Interviews, Appointments Outside India: US Moves To Cut Visa Delay



Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The US State Department has quietly implemented recommendations of a presidential commission which has suggested steps like opening up American diplomatic missions outside India for visa appointments to reduce the visa backlog in the country.

India was one of the very few countries where applications for US visas saw a major upswing after coronavirus-related travel restrictions were lifted.

Moved by a commission member, Ajay Jain Bhutoria from Silicon Valley, the presidential commission observed that inordinate visa appointment delays were causing huge problems for the students and visitors who have plans to come to study in the US and visit the

The State Department should allow virtual interviews where applicable and allow staff from embassies around the world and the US consular staff to help conduct the virtual interviews at embassies with high backlogs and help clear them, the commission recommended.

The recommendations included opening up American diplomatic missions outside India for visa appointments, having more counters and deploying additional resources to

process visa applications. The US Embassy in India processed over 1 lakh applications just in January 2023, their highest total in a single month and the highest in any month since July 2019.

In its December meeting, the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders recommended several steps to reduce the growing delay in visa appointment times in India and other countries like Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

It recommended the State Department hire new Full-Time officers/consular or Temporary Staff or contractors or bring back retired consular officers to clear the backlog at Embassies in Asia which have wait times of 400 or more days and shrink the wait time to 2-4 weeks be clearing the visa application backlog

The State Department could also use staff from other embassies around the world to help clear the backlog in countries in Asia which have huge backlogs and delays in visa appointments, it had recommended.

The advisory committee noted that in 2012 President Barack Obama issued a memo to reduce the wait time from several months to a few days and this memo streamlined the visa process. The Trump administration had rescinded the President Obama memo, and this is also contributing as one of the factors in causing delays for Visa appointments, it said.

More Trouble For Adani? Himachal Excise Department Raids Adani Wilmar Warehouse

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Himachal Pradesh government's Excise and Taxation Department inspected an Adani Group company, scrutinising records and checking the stock at the Adani Wilmar warehouse in Parwanoo, officials said on Thursday.

The officials were apparently investigating possible GST violations by the company, a 50:50 joint venture between the Adani conglomerate and Singapore-based Wilmar.

The inspection on Wednesday evening in the Congressrun state comes at a time when the group finds itself in the middle of a political row at the Centre, triggered by a scathing report by US-based Hindenburg Research.

However, a Himachal Pradesh excise department official told PTI that it was a routine exercise, a point also made by an Adani Wilmar statement later.

Adani Wilmar sells cooking oil and other food products like rice, wheat flour, sugar, besan and soya chunks under the Fortune brand. In Himachal Pradesh, it is a major source of these products for the Civil Supplies and police departments.

A state excise department official said the company's entire GST input was adjusted through tax credit but no payment was made in cash. But, in its statement, Adani Wilmar



cited the Goods and Services Tax rules and claimed "the company is not required to pay tax liability in cash".

Another Adani company, which produces cement, has been facing a tough time in Himachal Pradesh.

Two cement plants, in Solan and Bilaspur districts, remain closed since December 14 following a dispute with truckers over freight rates.

The new government in the state has intervened in the dispute, trying to break the stalemate between the cement company and the truckers' association.

The Adani Wilmar statement claimed that officials who visited the warehouse did not find any irregularities. All operations by the company are in full compliance with relevant laws and regulations, it said.

It said depot operations are

functioning normally after the inspection.

This was a routine inspection carried out by the relevant authorities and there was no raid as previously stated or reported in the media," it said.

The staff extended their support during the inspection, fully cooperating with officials and local authorities, the company spokesperson said.

Adani Group stocks took a severe beating after Hindenburg Research accused it of share price manipulation and other irregularities last month. The conglomerate has dismissed the allegations as lies.

Parliament has been repeatedly disrupted over the row, with the Opposition questioning the rise of the Adani Group over the past decade and demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the allegations in the Hindenburg report.

'2.5 Lakh Youth To Get Skill Training In Agri, Allied Sectors'

Dulloo reviews final stage of course modules

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a meeting to discuss skill development and design of skill courses under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) in agriculture and allied sectors here at Civil Secretariat.

The aim of the meeting was to ensure effective implementation of the mission, which intends to provide skill training to approximately 2.5 lakh educated youth in the next 5 years.

ACS stressed on the importance of ensuring that the courses being provided are relevant to the local region and climate. He instructed that the course material be provided in multiple vernacular languages along with other assistance like subtitles and voice overs. He also underscored the need for at least half of the 57 courses proposed by the SKUAST to be available through online mode on priority for wider reach.

The meeting covered various aspects of the skill development program including the courses, course modules, lectures, and modes of instruction.

Dulloo was informed that resource persons and course coordinators have been identified and the skilling would constitute various modules including Skilling, Business, Funding and Schemes and Business Plan.

The sectors to be trained under the program included development of seeds and seed multiplication, vegetables and exotic vegetables, agriculture marketing, aromatic and medicinal plants, niche crops such as kala zeera and saffron, apiculture, oil seeds and Nutricereals, integrated farming systems, mushroom cultivation, formation of FPOs, production and processing of mutton, fish and poultry besides development of fodder resources.

During the meeting, management and marketing related skills have also been proposed to be delivered by IIM Jammu.

Atal Dulloo directed that the entire skill plan and learning management system be finalised within this month and a subsequent calendar of all the stages be issued. He also called for incorporating certifications in the courses to ensure effectiveness of

'Is There Pressure On NSE, SEBI To Go 'Easy' On Adani Group?', Asks Congress

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Congress alleged on Thursday that the National Stock Exchange (NSE) "failed" to take action against the embattled Adani Group and asked if there was "pressure" on the bourse and market regulator SEBI to go easy on the conglomerate.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed a set of three questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the party's "HAHK (Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun)" series to target the government in the wake of the fraud-allegationtriggered rout in Adani Group

Ramesh alleged that the "failure" of market regulators like the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to protect Indian capital markets has "tarnished" their image and put a question mark on the integrity of India's financial markets.

In a statement addressing the prime minister, Ramesh said, "You (PM) have used strong words in the past, calling on world leaders at G20 meets 'to eliminate safe havens for economic offenders', to 'track down and uncondi-



tionally extradite money launderers' and to 'break down the web of complex international regulations and excessive banking secrecy that hide the corrupt and their deeds'."

'Yet these same world leaders cannot have missed the high degree of tolerance value of Adani Group stock you have shown for such acvities by your own cronies Ramesh said, attacking Modi.

The opposition has been demanding a joint parliamentary committee probe or a Supreme Court-monitored investigation into the allegations of fraud and manipulation made by the US-based seller Hindenburg Research against billionaire Gautam Adani's companies that triggered an unprecedented stock crash. The group has denied the charges.

The opposition parties have alleged that the meltdown in Adani Group shares is a common people's money as public sector LIC and SBI have invested in them and have questioned the government on steps taken by it.

Ramesh said there are serious charges of "brazen stock manipulation" against the Adani Group.

The collapse in publiclylisted stock prices following the publication of these allegations has financially damaged lakhs of retail investors who invested in Adani Group stocks after being duped by artificially-inflated prices. The crashed by Rs 9,50,000 crore netween January 24 and Feb. ruary 6, 2023," Ramesh said.

He said that on July 19, 2021, the Ministry of Finance had "admitted" to Parliament that the Adani Group was under investigation for violating SEBI regulations.

"Yet Adani Group stock prices were allowed to spiral after that. When will SEBI be held accountable for this serious lapse and allowing the destruction of huge retail savings? Did the Modi government put pressure on SEBI to go slow in its investigation?" he said.

Entrepreneurship Education Will Have Long-Term Benefits For J&K Economy: Dir JKEDI



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Thursday organized a oneday Awareness Program cum workshop on J&K Startup Policy with a special focus on innovation and incubation at the Bari Brahmana Regional Campus of the Institute at Jammu. Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat (IAS) presided over the pro-

The program was conducted by the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Business Modelling (CI-IBM), a program vertical of JKEDI in association with Central University of Jammu. The program is a part of the Institute's campaign to involve and collaborate with academic Institutions to create a sustainable entrepreneurial culture in the UT of J&K.

Director [KEDI has given special instructions to conduct such programs across all districts of J&K. "It is extremely crucial to inculcate the principles of entrepreneurship in young minds and we have strived hard towards achieving this goal since the inception of the Institute. This initiative will help

voung minds develop an innovative mindset and they will be able to reach their full potential in order to become leaders in their respective fields," said the Director.

Students were provided with a platform for open and productive exchanges of ideas and knowledge to become entrepreneurs. They were also given a detailed insight into the basic prerequisites for the creation of a successful enterprise. will also emphasize the impor tance of such enterprises in a rapidly changing startup environment where innovation and creativity are considered the drivers of economic and social stability.

During the program, many aspects of J&K Startup policy including incubation, funding, patents, networking and access to market support, legal support, regulatory and compliance support as well as infrastructure support were discussed in detail with the students. The university students were also acquainted with the Startup India interventions and support available for the Startups. The Students also visited the incubation facilities at the Institute.

Handicrafts & Handloom Jammu Signs MoU With NIFT Srinagar On Designing, Branding

Observer News Service

IAMMU- Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu and National Institute of Fashion Technology, Srinagar Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here at Udyog Bhawan.

The MoU was signed in presence of Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K and Rohit Kansal, Union Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, (Director General NIFT).

The MoU was signed between the two parties under the project titled "DESIGNING INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAIN-ABLE PACKAGING AS A BRAND-ING INITIATIVE FOR HANDI-CRAFTS AND HANDLOOM SECTOR OF JAMMU".

The MoU document was signed by Dr. Vikas Gupta, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, and Dr Javid Ahmed Wani, Director National Institute of Fashion Technology, Srinagar.



Secretary Industries & Com-Department, Smita Sethi, MD JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir; MD Handicrafts & Handloom Corporation, Atul Sharma and other officers of Industries and Commerce Department were present on the occasion.

The objective of the MoU is to create a strategic and attractive packaging design solution for branding Jammu Handicraft and Handloom items in view of enormous potential of this sector for growth, export and wealth creation and also employment generation.

Speaking on the occasion, Prashant Goyal appreciated the effort of entering into MoU

with NIFT Srinagar as having professionally designed packaging prototypes, in tune with the market-demand, would definitely increase the sales of products viz-a-viz wage earnings of our artisans and weavers.

Union Additional Secretary. Ministry of Textiles, Rohit Kansal, who is also DG NIFT, said that the Government of India is willing to support the artisans and weavers of Jammu and Kashmir in any capacity.

He said they can offer courses to these craftsmen to upgrade and enhance their skills so that the products of these artisans will have value addition for better marketing.

'Under Holistic Development Of **Agri, Allied Sectors Special Focus Shifted To Mushroom Cultivation'**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Thursday visited Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC) Lalmandi Srinagar.

During visit, the Director took round of different sections (spawn production centre pasteurized compost unit, mushroom research laboratory) of IMDC and interacted with the officers and scientists of the centre regarding working of IMDC.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that IMDC has been upgraded with the vision to attract more and more unemployed youth of the valley towards mushroom cultivation. He said that under the holistic

development of agriculture and allied sectors special attention has been given to the agriculture cottage industries like Mushroom and Apiculture wherein the introduction of modern technologies during the cultivation of mushroom has been adopted.

He said this year the centre (IMDC) will not only provide basic inputs like pasteurized compost and spawn among the mushroom farmers in addition to the technical assistance, but will also double the last years targets.

Director Agriculture impressed upon the officers to raise the awareness about the economic importance of mushroom cultivation. He said this is a cash crop and plays an important role in contributing to the overall income of the concerned farmers.

Project Coordinator Mushroom Tabssum Naz briefed Director regarding various activities being carried out by the centre. She said that the IMDC has been commissioned to make available quality Germplasm which serves as a basic input for mushroom cultivation.

Later, the Director Agriculture visited Kitchen gardens Lalmandi Srinagar and took stock of preparations for the distribution of vegetable seedlings of different crops among the farmers in coming days.

J&K Bank Customers' Insurance Claims Settled Without Hassles



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a quick and hassle-free settlement of insurance claims, PNB-Metlife - Partner of J&K Bank in Life Insurance segment - Thursday gave cheques amounting to Rs 45 lac to legal heirs of two J&K Bank custom-

ers, who passed away recently. Zonal Head Rajouri Satish Kumar handed over the cheques of Rs 30 Lac and Rs 15 Lac to the husband of late Farzana Latief and legal heirs of Manu Sharma respectively in presence of MetLife official Nissar Ahmad

and other officials of the Bank. "Customer well-being continues to be our primary concern that includes the safety



members. That's why the bank always counsels its customers to get their loans insured so that their families and children are protected against financial hardships in case of unforeseen eventualities", said the Zonal Head on the occasion. The legal heirs of both the de-

and welfare of their family

Bank and PNB-Metlife on the occasion for fast and hassle-free settlement of their insurance claims.

ceased customers thanked the

Notably, both Farzana Latief and Manu Sharma had availed housing finance from the bank and had got it insured fully under Met Loan and Life Suraksha

Why Are They Ashamed Of Using Nehru Surname, PM Modi Targets Gandhi Family Members

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a frontal attack on the Gandhi family members asking why they were ashamed of using the Nehru surname even as he criticised Jawaharlal Nehru as well as Indira Gandhi for repeatedly using Article 356 to topple state governments led by non-Congress parties.

He targeted the Congress on the issue of federalism, saying the Congress dispensations including those led by former prime ministers Nehru and Gandhi used Article 356 of the Constitution at least 90 times to topple state governments of many regional outfits. Modi alleged that Indira

Gandhi alone used Article 356 to topple governments of regional parties in states as many as 50

He questioned parties such as the DMK, TDP and Left and the NCP of Sharad Pawar for aligning with the Congress which had in the past toppled their governments.

Replying to a debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address, Modi said, 'I had read in some newspaper, I have not verified it, but a report said as many as 600 government schemes are only in the name of Gandhi-Nehru family.'

He said if Nehru's name is not mentioned, some people get upset and their blood boils. They ask why Nehru's name is not mentioned.

..if Nehru ji's name is left out by us, we would correct our misminister of the country. But I do not understand why anyone from his clan is afraid of keeping Nehru surname? Is there any shame in having the Nehru

us," he said. His attack was targeted at Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Sonia Gandhi.

surname? What is the shame?

When the family is not ready to

accept such a great personality,

why do you keep questioning

Modi delivered his 90-minute speech amidst the Opposition members shouting for a probe by a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) into allegations raised against the Adani Group by the US-based Hindenburg Research firm.

Responding to charges that his government was not cooperating with states, Modi said he was a chief minster before becoming the prime minister and he understood the importance of federalism.

"I have come here after being the chief minister of a state for long. I fully understand the importance of federalism. And that's why we have emphasized on cooperative, competitive federalism."

The prime minister asked political parties to compete, cooperate and move forward in the same direction.

"We have taken care of national progress in our policies and have addressed regional aspirations. The perfect combination of national progress and regional aspiration is reflected in our policies and we all move forward to fulfil the dream of a developed India by 2047," he

He, however pointed out

"MGR's soul must be watching where you are standing. Sitting here is the senior mem-

ber of this House whom I always consider a respected leader, Mr. Sharad Pawar. Sharad Pawar ji was 35-40 years old in 1980. A young chief minister went out to serve his motherland, his government was also toppled, today he is there," Modi said.

ments of stalwarts like M

Karunanidhi in Tamil Nadu were

also dismissed by the same

Ramachandran and M

He further said the Congress harassed every regional leader, including N T Rama Rao and M G Ramachandran.

"Some people here must have changed clothes, names...after being advised by astrologers. but they were also with them at one time. NTR government was sought to be toppled at a time when he had gone to America for health check-up. This was the level of Congress politics," Modi said.

Modi did not stop his tirade against the grand old party.

Every newspaper used to write that the Raj Bhavans were converted into Congress offices and headquarters of the Congress, he stressed.

In 2005, the NDA had more seats in Jharkhand but the Governor called the UPA to form government. In Haryana in 1982, the BJP and Devi Lal had a prepoll agreement, but the then governor invited the Congress to form the government.

This is the Congress's past and today it is trying to mislead the

Foreign tourist footfall now 75% of pre-pandemic level: **Tourism minister Reddy**

Agenceis

Noida: Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said the footfall of foreign tourists in India has reached 75 per cent level of what it was in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out.

The minister hoped that by December 2023, the footfall of foreign tourists would not only return to pre-pandemic level, but the country would also register a record number of tourists.

Reddy was speaking after inaugurating the 30th edition of the South Asia's Travel and Tourism Exchange (SATTE), being held from February 9 to 11, at the India Expo Mart and Centre in Greater Noida.

The number of domestic tourists within the country is also on a rise. For example, Jammu and Kashmir had record number of tourists which was not seen ever earlier. Similarly, foreign tourists have reached 75 per cent of what it was in 2019 before Covid," he said.

"Australian tourists have come to India in numbers more than it was in 2019, while the number of tourists from the US has reached 85 per cent of the pre-Covid level. I have full faith, by December 2023, the foreign tourist footfall will not only reach the pre-COVID level, but cross it," he said.

The minister said the Centre is working towards promotion of tourism in the country and committed to making it number one in the world. He also called on stakeholders from the tourism and hospitality industry to contribute to this effort.

Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India, which is organising the SATTE, said the tourism sector has a large potential and holds opportunity to provide 137

million jobs and entrepreneur-

The Government of India has also allocated funds to the tune of Rs 2,400 crore in Union Budget 2023-24 for the development of tourist infrastructure, prioritising sustainability, aiming for a green economy and net-zero carbon emission by 2070," he said.

"Promotion of tourism is on a mission mode and SATTE 2023 is anticipated to bring together various tourism stakeholders for three days and expand tourism in India. The expo will showcase composite tourism products profile of India and global tourism destinations," he added.

Mauritius' Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Minister of Tourism Louis Steven Obeegadoo, Indonesia's Deputy Minister for Tourism Ni Made Ayu Marthini, Saudi's Chief Markets Officer Asia Pacific, Saudi Tourism Authority Aldabbagh, Alhasan Ali Maldives' Minister of Tourism Abdulla Mausoom, Malaysia's Deputy Minister of Tourism, Art and Culture Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan, among others, attended the inaugural event.

Reddy said India is hosting the G20 summit this year and delegations from all participating countries will be visiting the country. He also exhorted tourism and hospitality stakeholders to provide best of facilities to the visitors in line with Indian philosophies of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam' and 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.

"G20 has given us the opportunity to showcase our travel and tourism through multiple events across 56 different countries. Our culture, heritage, food, clothes, thinking, respectability and our 'Athiti Devo Bhava' beliefs are what we should put

HC nixes NIA court order, allows agency to frame charges against Akhil Gogoi for anti-CAA stir

pened to you," he said.

opposition today had taken

Take a look at the history and

see, which party was it, who

were the people in power who

misused Article 356 the most

and toppled elected govern-

ments 90 times. Who are the

Modi said a prime minister

used Article 356 as many as 50

times, hit half a century and

the premier's name was Indira

with them in Kerala today, just

remember, Left government

was elected in Kerala which

Pandit Nehru did not like. The

first elected government was

sent home within a short span

of time. Today you are standing

there, just remember what hap-

He also sought to remind

"Those who are standing

ones who did it," he said.

Gandhi.

"I just want to expose them.

away the rights of states.

Press Trust of India

Guwahati: The Gauhati High Court on Thursday allowed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to frame charges against Independent MLA Akhil Gogoi and three of his associates in connection with anti-CAA protests and suspected Maoist links.

Hearing a petition by the probe agency challenging the order of a Special NIA Court giving clean chit to the four, a divi-Suman Shyam and Malasri Nandi asked the agency to go ahead with framing charges after reopening the case.

The high court has accepted NIA's plea to reopen the case and frame charges against the four persons. The case will be heard again in the Special NIA Court," Gogoi's counsel Santanu Borthakur said.

The other three accused were Dhaijya Konwar, Bittu Sonowal and Manash Konwar, all of

whom got bail in the NIA case and were released from the jail.

Gogoi was the only one whose bail was rejected by the court and he was released after spending 567 days in jail once Special NIA Judge Pranjal Das cleared him along with the three others of all charges.

The Assam assembly legislator said he and the three others have been asked to appear before the Special NIA Court on February 23.

"I am going to challenge this verdict in the Supreme Court. I am hopeful of a positive outcome there," the Raijor Dal chief

The NIA was investigating two cases of Gogoi related to anti-CAA protests. In one of those, the Special NIA Court had granted him bail, which was upheld by the Gauhati High Court too in April 2021 after the probe agency challenged it.

The RTI activist continued to be in judicial custody as he was



rejected bail in the second case related to anti-CAA violence and was being investigated by the

Later, the Special NIA Court

on July 1, 2021 released Gogoi and his three associates for their alleged role in the violent anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act

stir in the state in December

2019 and observed there was nothing to indicate "talk of blockade" threatened the country's economic security or was

"a terrorist act."

The NIA then moved the Gauhati High Court appealing it to allow the agency frame charges under various sections, including sedition, of the IPC and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

A senior advocate, who wished not to be named, said that if the Supreme Court does not give relief to Gogoi, he will be arrested as soon as he appears before the Special NÎA

"All the sections are non-hail able and Gogoi's bail application was rejected by that court. He was released because the case was closed. So, he will be arrested if the apex court does not give him bail or any relief," she added.

Once Gogoi is arrested, he will then have the option to move a bail application from jail. This process will take around one month, meaning Gogoi might have to spend at least one month in jail again, the advocate said.

Addressing a press conference in the evening, Gogoi said, "I never compromised in my life. This is another test for my honesty and pro-people stand. I was asked to compromise while I was in jail, but never did so."

In a strongly worded judge-ment, the Special NIA Court had said that in the interests of justice, it found the conduct and approach of the investigating authority in the case to be "discouraging" to say the least.

"The court has high expectations from a premier investigating agency like the NIA, entrusted with the profoundly important task of protecting our country and us, citizens from the menace of terrorism.

"The court hopes and expects that, such high standards will be upheld, for sake of the country and this one will be just an exception," the Special NIA Judge Pranjal Das had said in his order.

CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

Govt Bans Sale

"No FARD-INTIKHAB (revenue documents) of such lands shall be issued." the order said.

While giving the reference of a case in North Kashmir's Tangmarg, the government said that during investigation that some land patches in the district, belong to people who have been "untraceable" and are not receiving any share of crops produced on these lands.

"They are neither traceable nor receive their share of crop yield. In such a situation there is difficulty in getting such land mutated," the order reads.

In such a situation, the government has asked Tehsildars after making reasonable efforts/ enquiry; the concerned Tehsildar shall presume that he is dead and pass orders on the case accordingly. "Before making formal entry into the revenue record, he shall also get it confirmed/ approved from the District Collector concerned," the order reads.

The order, however, notes that the provisions shall not be applicable to the immovable property of Migrants. As provisions of J & K Migrant Immovable Property (Prevention, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sale) Act 1997 have a "superseding effect over all other laws"

BJP Leaders

Anantnag district.

The building belonging to Sofi Yousuf, Vice President, J&K BJP was seized as part of the administration's intensified drive to reclaim the state and Kahcharai land from the encroachers. Yousuf's building in main chowk Srigufwara,

which has 20 shops, was first seized by the Revenue Department as it was found that it

was constructed on state land, officials said. It was later handed over to the rural development department (RDD) for public use,

According to officials, the building was constructed on an encroached state land measuring 25 marlas. Meanwhile, Yousuf, a former MLC, has

claimed that he is in possession of valid docu-

ments of the land on which the building has been constructed. "Law is equal for one and all and I am not above the law. However, I have valid docu-

ments and I can produce the same in the court if need arises," Yousuf told Kashmir Observer. He further added that notices have been

pasted on around 175 buildings including some residential houses, shops and Wakf building by the revenue authorities in the area.

Over 35,000 Acres

Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal said the drive will continue till the entire encroached land is retrieved.

"A massive anti-encroachment drive in all tehsils of the district is on and over 2.86.875 kanals and 14 marlas (35,859 acres) encroached state land has been retrieved so far," he said.

The state land retrieved from the illegal occupants includes 7,671 kanals and 5 marlas of kacharai land and 2,79,204 kanals and 9 marlas of state land, including the Roshni Land, Kundal

As per the eviction plan and on the directions of the deputy commissioner, a series of anti-encroachment drives have been conducted across the district in the past one month, the officials said.

Teams of police and revenue officials have conducted drives in Rajouri, Darhal, Thanamandi, Nowshera, Sunderbani, Siot, Kalakote, Terayth, Beripatan, Manjakote, Moughla and Khawas, they said.

Mercury Drops

In the rest of the valley, light to moderate rainfall has been reported which ended three days of sunshine and brought back wintry

conditions Meanwhile, authorities have issued a medium danger level avalanche warning for areas above the altitude of 2400 metres in the Baramulla district.

"Avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2400 metres over Baramulla in the next 24 hours. People are advised to restrict movement to only carefully selected safe routes with extreme care and evacuate from unprotected settlements near to the avalanche path," Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority said.

LG Interacts

initiative to promote the spirit of brotherhood, unity and the values of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

Pertinently, the SEIL tour was commenced on February 1st and the delegation earlier visited parts of Uttar Pradesh before reaching Jammu for a four-day visit.

KPDCL Launches

be cleared soon," he said.

Time and again, the spokesperson said, people are informed of the Amnesty Scheme launched by the Govt of JK (UT) for its domestic electricity consumers with large outstanding dues, wherein a consumer can pay his outstanding bill in maximum 12 easy monthly

"It is impressed upon all the consumers of

KPDCL with huge electricity bill outstanding dues that this successful disconnection drive shall be continued with greater force," he

"Important to mention that KPDCL has come out with large infrastructure additions for providing better, efficient and reliable power supply while keeping extremely low tariff rates to its consumers," he added.

The spokesperson said that though the department has played an active role in motivating and facilitating revenue realization by way of social awareness of judicious electricity use and timely payment of electricity bills, still a large percentage of KPDCL consumers are hesitant in clearing their long outstanding electric-

"All consumers in general and defaulters in particular are advised to clear their electricity outstanding dues or avail Amnesty Scheme without further delay and help KPDCL to avoid the inconvenience to consumers by the act of disconnection of their power supply," he

Govt Sacks

a contraband substance by a police party. Subsequently, a case was registered against him and he was placed under arrest, as per the order.

The officer has acted in a manner unbecoming of a public servant and has also failed to maintain absolute integrity thus violating service rule of I-K government employees (conduct) rules, it said.

An inquiry found him guilty and he was dismissed from service, Goyal said in the order.

"The report of the inquiry along with all other relevant details were placed before the competent authority for consideration and decision. The authority approved the report submitted by the Inquiry Officer and directed imposition of a penalty upon the delinquent officer Waseem Ahmed Qureshi, Prosecuting Officer, which is dismissal from service of the State which ordinarily disqualifies from future employment", the order read.

The official was also issued with showcause notice in connection with a penalty imposed on him, which he failed to respond resulting in dismissal from service as well as disqualification for future employment in government, it

"Therefore, in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir civil services (Classification, Control & Appeal) rules, 1956, Waseem Ahmed Qureshi, prosecuting officer, is dismissed from service. with immediate effect, which will also disqualify him from future employment," Goyal said in

Lithium Reserves

supply chain for emerging technologies, the government was taking several proactive measures to secure minerals, including lithium, from Australia and Argentina.

Currently, India is import-dependent for many minerals like lithium, nickel and cobalt. Speaking at the 62nd Central Geological Programming board meeting here, Bharadwaj also said that whether it is a mobile phone or a solar panel, critical minerals are required

everywhere. In order to become self-reliant, it is very important for the country to find out critical min-

erals and also process it, he said. He also said that if gold imports are reduced, then "we will become aatmanirbhar (self-reliant)".

1st Test: Jadeja Troubles Australia With Fifer, **Rohit Hits Attacking Half-Century**

Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: Ravindra Jadeja marked his return to international cricket with a five-wicket haul that knocked the stuffing out of Australian middle order and put India firmly in the driver's seat on the opening day of the first Test, here Thursday.

Jadeja did bulk of the bowling on the Jamtha dustbowl, earning his 11th fifer (5/47) in 22 overs that helped India skittle Australia out for a paltry 177 after the visitors decided to take the first strike in the series-opener.

Ravichandran Ashwin, who probably dominated the Aussie mind space more than his spin colleague, got 3/42 in 15.5 overs and in the process completed 450 wickets in Test cricket.

At stumps, Rohit Sharma's counter-attacking 56 not out put India in complete command with hosts ending the day at 77 for one and trailing by 100 runs.

KL Rahul's lean patch continued as he was caught and bowled by Australian debutant Todd Murphy after making a 20-run contribution from 71 balls.



With pitch set to deteriorate further, Indian skipper's decision dends in the final hour. But no accolades will be enough for Jadeja, inarguably the 'MVP'

(Most Valuable Player) in the Indian Test set-up. The iconic Sachin

When India plays abroad, he becomes a batting all-rounder, often bailing the team out at No.6 and when it comes to Indian dustbowls, he is just lethal.

On the day he showed that a knee surgery and five month layoff hasn't taken away anything from his armoury.

The Australians prepared for Ashwin's guile and variations but perhaps forgot to factor in Jadeja's impact on tracks that offer above

Save Marnus Labuschagne (49), who got an unplayable delivery from Jadeja, the others either played rank bad shots or erred in judgement

Once Labuschagne was dismissed after an 82-run stand with Steve Smith, floodgates opened as left-handed Matt Renshaw fell prey to a Jadeja delivery that hit the same spot and turned back sharply to find him plumb in-front.

Smith (37), who hit a few boundaries, was dismissed when he played the wrong line to an arm-ball from Jadeja and was bowled bat-pad.

From 84 for 2, it soon became

109 for 5 and although Peter Handscomb (29) and the counterattacking Alex Carey (36) got quick runs to get the team past 150-run

Ashwin, who primarily bowled from round the wicket, induced a false shot from Carey who went for a non-existent reverse sweep while Pat Cummins became Ashwin's second victim when he offered a regulation catch to Virat Kohli at slips.

Earlier, Smith and Labuschagne handled the Indian spinners with a lot of confidence in the first session as Australia recovered from early jitters to reach 76 for two at lunch.

Mohammed Shami (1/18) and Mohammed Siraj (1/30) removed Usman Khawaja (1) and David Warner (1) in quick succession but Labuschagne and Smith led the Australian fight back in an engaging first session.

Smith and Labuschagne showed that good technique is key to adaptability in any conditions but what they lacked was patience to bat long enough to put 275, which was an ideal first innings score.

Gulmarg To Host Khelo India Winter Games From Today

Agencies

BARAMULLA: Gulmarg is all set to host Khelo India Winter Games 2023 from today with all arrangements in place to make it a grand event.

The meadow witnesses massive flow of foreign tourists especially during winters for skiing.

The Khelo India Winter Games 2023 are jointly organised by India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

pants from across the country are here. They will participate in 11 games in the 6-day-long Khelo India Winter Games. This will be the biggest such event till date," he said.

Officials said that all the necessary arrangements including accommodation, health facilities, transportation, parking and other facilities are in place. The event will start from February 10 till 14.

About 1700 athletes from across the country and 350 VIPs and VVIPs are scheduled to attend the event, they said.



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur visited Tangmarg ahead of the commencement of the Winter Games and played snow cricket amidst snowfall.

He told reporters that Khelo India is a campaign wherein youth games, university games and winter games are organised.

"This snowfall marks the commencement of Winter Games in Gulmarg, the heaven on earth. Over 1500 partici-

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme

Court on Thursday said it must

bring the curtain down on is-

sues plaguing the All India Football Federation (AIFF), including

the objections raised to certain aspects of its draft constitution.

finality...I mean the curtain

down on the issue related to the

federation (AIFF),'

a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y

The bench, also

comprising Justices

P S Narasimha and

J B Pardiwala, asked

senior advocate Go-

constitution of AIFF.

bench said.

pal Sankaranarayanan,

assisting it as an amicus

curiae (friend of the court), to

have a meeting with the coun-

sels of all stakeholders and find

out key objections to the draft

after the hearing of the Con-

stitution bench concludes," the

will have some kind of objec-

the bench as to who is head-

The amicus said everybody

Responding to the query of

'We will list it for hearing

Chandrachud said.

"We must now bring the

INDIA

Recently, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur along with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the 3rd Khelo India National Winter Games Anthem, mascot and jersey.

In 2020, the first edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, which was aimed to popularise winter games among the youth across the country were held in Leh and Gulmarg, marking the first of its

ing the AIFF currently after

the elections, the amicus said

Kalyan Chaubey, a former goal-

keeper from West Bengal, is the

Chaubey has become the Presi-

dent. Mr. (Bhaichung) Bhutia

was part of the list of 24 emi-

nent sportspersons. This man

(Chaubey) was not there. But he

has been elected as the Presi-

anan said.

ball House here

dent," Sankaranaray-

Chaubey was elect-

ed the president in the

elections conducted

as per the order of the

top court on Septem-

ber 2, 2022 at the Foot-

Earlier, the bench had ob-

served that the popular sport

of football needs to be taken

forward and asked people to

give suggestions to the amicus

curiae on the draft constitution

for the sports national federa-

tion, observing that "we are do-

On November 9 last year, the

bench had asked senior advo-

cate Sankaranarayanan, who is

assisting the bench as an amic-

us curiae, to tabulate the objec-

tions so that the draft constitu-

tion can be finalised.

ing anything except football".

"We do not know how this

president of the sports body.

IND v AUS: Jadeja Applies 'Ointment On Sore Finger', Triggers Debate



Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: Ravindra Jadeja drew attention not only for demolishing Australia with his fifer on the opening day of the first Test but also for applying something on his spinning finger, triggering a debate on what it was.

A video made way to social media, showing Jadeja receiving something from his teammate Mohammed Siraj and then applying and rubbing that on his left index finger, something that had Australian media and a former player interested.

When a fan shared the footage with former Australia captain Tim Paine, he replied,"interesting".

However, a BCCI source told PTI that it was an "ointment for pain relief for the sore finger".

David Warner and Steve Smith, who are part of the visiting side, served bans for their role in the ball-tampering scandal in 2018 in South Africa.

Nagpur Pitch 'Tricked' Us:

Australia batter Peter Handscomb on Thursday admitted that the Nagpur track "tricked" the visiting side as it did a lot less than what they had feared in the opening Test of the fourmatch series.

"It definitely wasn't easy out there. It's tough because when the pitch is playing tricks that starts to play with your mind

a little bit as well," Handscomb said at the press conference after the opening day's play.

"The ball that doesn't do as much you expect to do a little bit more and that's where you can come undone with the ball that goes straight on, rather than the big turners we saw out there as well."

Handscomb, who in the Australian innings, said the Indian team bowled really well as a unit and didn't give

away easy runs. "It's tough out there, Jadeja was obviously bowling very well, not really giving our batsmen a lot to hit and I found him tough to score (against)," the 31-year-old right- handed batter said.

Ghana Footballer Atsu Still Missing In Turkey Earthquake

Agencies

■ hana international footballer Christian Atsu is Jailler Christian And earthquake in Turkey, his club and agent said on Thursday, despite earlier reports he was rescued from the rubble of a collapsed building and taken to a hospital.

Atsu's whereabouts were still unknown, Aydin Toksoz, the deputy head of Hatayspor soccer club, told Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency news service. The club's sporting director,

of Monday and devastated the region. Atsu and Savut were believed to have been in buildings that collapsed, the club had said. Nana Sechere, the agent for

Atsu, said in messages to The Associated Press that he traveled to Turkey to try and find Atsu but the player "is yet to be found." Hatayspor and the Ghana

Football Association announced on Tuesday that Atsu was rescued from a ruined building on Monday night and taken to a medical facility for treatment.

Toksoz said Hatayspor was now "not able to confirm this



after the massive earthquake that struck southern Turkey and Syria and has now killed more than 17,000 people.

The 31-year-old Atsu, who previously played for Chelsea and Newcastle in England, signed for Hatayspor late last year. The club is based in the southern city of Antakya, near the epicenter of the earthquake that struck in the early hours

"We have not been able to reach Atsu or Taner Savut," Toksoz told the Anadalou Agency. Ghana's ambassador to Turkey said she was also searching for Atsu. Atsu scored late in injury time

to give Hatayspor a 1-0 win over Istanblul-based Kasimpaşa S.K. in the Turkish League on Sunday, earning him praise from his new club hours before the earthquake struck. (AP)

Real Madrid Ease Past Al Ahly To kind event in India. (KNO) **Reach Club World Cup Final Must Bring Curtain Down On Issues Concerning AIFF: SC**



Agencies

RABAT: Real Madrid reached the Club World Cup final after goals from Vinicius Jr, Federico Valverde, Rodrygo and Sergio Arribas secured a 4-1 win over Egypt's Al Ahly in Morocco on Wednesday. Playing without several key

starters like forward Karim Benzema and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, Real Madrid experienced a home field environment, with the local fans turning up the noise at the sold-out Prince Moulay Abdallah stadium in Rabat.

The white Real Madrid jerseys outnumbered Al Ahly's red by a huge margin and the Morocco fans even displayed a giant banner in support of the Spanish giants, creating a vibrant atmosphere and a din that is rare for a Club World Cup in what was supposed to be a neutral stadium.

They struggled to break the deadlock, however, against Al Ahly's well organised defence, with the Egyptians threatening on the counter-attack. Vinicius shot wide in the

the post but Real opened the scoring right on halftime. Aliou Dieng gave a poor pass to Mahmoud Metwaly who, ressured by Vinicius, lost the

28th minute and Rodrygo hit

ball to the Brazilian and he dinked a fine strike over the goalkeeper, his 50th goal in 202 matches for Real Madrid.

Valverde extended Real's lead just after the break, tap-

ping into an empty net after the

goalkeeper had palmed away

Rodrygo's point-blank strike.

Vinicius twice wasted opportunities to extend the lead and Al Ahly received a lifeline when Eduardo Camavinga tripped Hussein El Shahat inside the area in the 65th minute and defender Ali Maaloul tucked away the penalty.

Afsha missed a sitter from close-range that would have been the equaliser for Al Ahly and although Real's Luka Modric missed a penalty three minutes from the end of the game, Rodrygo and substitute Arribas completed a comfortable win in stoppage time with close-range strikes.

Real will face Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal in the final in Rabat on Saturday after they shocked South American champions Flamengo 3-2 in the first semifinal. (Reuters)

Super League Organisers Set Out 80-Team Competition Idea

Agencies

GENEVA: Organisers of the Super League project presented a longpromised new proposal Thursday for a multi-division competition involving up to 80 European soccer teams and operating outside of UEFA's authority.

Setting out 10 principles for the project, Spain-based A22 Sports Management said it had talked to "nearly 50 European clubs" about the revived proposal two years after the original idea collapsed. It is unclear if any clubs have supported the privately owned commercial project that would compete directly

with the Champions League. The document follows an initial legal setback for A22 in December at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg in a challenge to what it claims is monopoly control by UEFA, the governing body of European soccer. Advocate General Athanasios Rantos proposed then that the court recognize UEFA's authority over Euro-

pean soccer competitions. An official ruling from the court is expected before the end of the season.

"Our objective is to present a sustainable sporting project for European club competitions, available to, at a minimum, all 27 EU member states, as soon as possible after receipt of the judge-



ment," A22 said Thursday.

The document provides detail on an idea first conceived by A22 leaders in 2021 that their next proposal would be a more inclusive multi-tier competition involving more countries.

"Participation should be based on annual sporting merit and there should be no permanent members," A22 said.

Twelve clubs from Spain, Italy and England launched the original breakaway plan in April 2021. That project called for a 20-team league with 15 founders protected from relegation. It was backed by J.P. Morgan Chase bank, which later apolo-

gized for a "misjudgement." The project collapsed within two days amid a fierce backlash from UEFA, fans and lawmakers, who in England threatened legislation to counter it. Only Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus publicly backed the case at court in Luxembourg.

"To stay afloat, clubs in Spain and France have mortgaged their futures," noted A22. (AP)





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