

Day Not Far When All KPs Would Return To Kashmir: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that his administration's top priority is safety of Kashmiri Pandits, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday expressed hope that the day is not far when the displaced community will return to their homes in Kashmir with honour.

"Jammu Kashmir Government always stands by you. Your safety is our top priority and we are taking all possible measures to ensure that. This is the commitment of the Government of India and Prime Minister," the LG said.

He made these remarks while addressing a gathering of KPs at the 3-day long Mahashivratri Mahotsav organised at Jagti Colony and Migrant Camp, Buta Nagar here on Thursday.

"You have suffered a lot for three long decades. I pray that the day will come when you return to your homes with honour. I hope with your return Kashmir will find its lost glory," he added.

Addressing the gathering, the LG said that keeping in view Mahashivratri festival, full salaries of all PM package & other minority community employees who have resumed their duties



in Kashmir have been released.

He also highlighted the initiatives of the administration for extension of seamless public service delivery to Kashmiri Pandit community at their doorsteps.

"All the issues of the Migrant Kashmiri Pandit community are being taken up for their resolution with utmost sensitivity," Sinha said.

"Special Governance Camp is a testimony to our commitment for welfare of Kashmiri Pandit

Community. The Department of Relief and Rehabilitation and other line departments are ensuring 100% saturation of the benefits of all social security schemes, entrepreneurship development schemes and skilling programs," he added.

Urging the community members to avail the benefits of the special camps, the LG said that his administration is always ready to help them resolve all the genuine issues. **More on P6**

'Road To Amarnath Cave Within 4-5 Years'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed confidence Thursday that a road project connecting the Amarnath cave shrine will be approved this year as the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation has completed its preliminary project report.

Once the road is built, pilgrims from across the country and Jammu and Kashmir will be able to visit and pay obeisance at the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, Sinha said.

"There was an unfortunate incident during the yatra last year. I myself visited the yatra route. I have tried and I am

confident that (Amarnath) route can be constructed the way the road for the Char Daam Yatra has been constructed," Sinha said.

The lieutenant governor was addressing a gathering at a Maha Shivratri fair at the Jagti migrant camp here.

He said the route would start from Pahalgam via Panjtarni and Sangam top to Baltal. "Government of India's NHIDCL has made its preliminary report. I am assured that this year, the road (project) will be approved," he said.

The LG said the project will be completed within four to five years.

The Ministry of Road, Transport and **More on P6**



5000 Waqf Properties Missing, Defaulters Served 15 Day Notice: WB

30% Properties Are With Illegal Occupants, Directed To Pay Rent Or Vacate In 15 Days: Andrabi

Agencies

Srinagar: Chairperson of Waqf Board, Darakshan Andrabi on Thursday said that at least 5000 notified properties are presently missing and that the process has been started to locate these possessions while the illegal occupants have also been directed to pay rent or vacate the assets within 15 days.

Andrabi said that the revenue records of 5000 notified Waqf properties are available, but the possessions are missing. "The revenue records of missing properties are available and Waqf is not having the control on such properties. We



have already started a process to locate the belongings," she said.

She further stated that presently, there are 30 per cent illegal occupants in the Waqf properties. "We have asked the illegal occupants to either pay the rent as per the revised rates or vacate the properties **More on P6**

Directs Forest Dept To Expedite FRA Cases

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Forest Resource Management Center (FRMC) at Narwal here and launched the National Transit Pass System on Thursday. The LG said that the new state-of-the-art facility and the technological advancements will go a long way in ensuring required protection and management of our forests. "The FRMC has been planned to scale up the use of modern technology such as GIS, Remote Sensing and digital tools like mobile application in protection **More on P6**

Infiltrator Killed Along LoC In Kupwara: Army

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Army on Thursday claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district by killing a militant and forcing two others to retreat.

During the intervening night of February 15-16, alert troops deployed in an anti-infiltration grid in Tangdhar sector, detected the movement of three militants while they were approaching the LoC fence, a defence spokesperson said Thursday.

On being challenged at close proximity to the post, he said, an intense fire-fight ensued between the militants and the alert troops, resulting in successful elimination of one **More on P6**

KATHUA GANGRAPE

HC Directs Registrar To Transfer Money To J&K Legal Aid

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has directed its registrar to transfer the amount deposited by media houses which were pulled up for disclosing the identity of the eight-year-old gangraped and killed in Kathua to a fund for sexual assault victims.

Two media houses recently deposited Rs 10 lakh each with the court and others had done so earlier. In a recent order, the court said the money should be given to the Victim Compensation Fund of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority.

"The Registrar General of this court is directed to transmit the amounts so

deposited by respondents no.8, 28 (two media houses) and by other respondents (media houses) in the present case, if any such amount is still lying with the court, to the Victim Compensation Fund maintained by the Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority for disbursement of funds to the victims/families of the deceased victims of sexual violence," a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad said.

In April 2018, the high court took up the matter on its own after coming across the media reports and issued notices to several of them for disclosing the identity of the minor girl. It also prohibited them **More on P6**



Ladakh Body Threatens Intensified Stir If Demands Not Met

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A day after they held a protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, groups from Ladakh on Thursday reiterated their demands for statehood and sixth schedule status for the Union Territory, threatening to intensify their agitation if the government does not listen to them.

At a press conference here, environmental activist and educator Sonam Wangchuk said democracy has been compromised in Ladakh and the local people



have no say in decision-making. Speaking on behalf of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, an amalgam of social, religious, and political groups from **More on P6**

Cong Demands Immediate Statehood To J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani on Thursday said the Centre should immediately restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and hold Assembly polls here.

He also accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre of creating "dictatorship" in Jammu and Kashmir. "We demand immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and holding of Assembly polls," Wani told reporters at the PCC headquarters here.

The PCC chief, however, said National Conference (NC) president **More on P6**

SHORT TAKES

Traffic Restored On Banihal Highway

One-way traffic movement was restored on Srinagar-Jammu national highway after it remained closed for two days, officials said here on Thursday. An official said that the highway was shut for two days due to shooting stones at Ramban. He said after hectic efforts, the highway was cleared of debris and one-way traffic has been restored on it. The official said passenger traffic on the highway was plying towards Srinagar, while SSG road and Mughal road remained closed—(KNO)

Harsh Dev Singh Quits AAP

Senior AAP leader Harsh Dev Singh on Thursday resigned as the chairman of its Jammu and Kashmir unit and quit the party's primary membership, citing personal reasons. Singh had joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi on May 7, 2022 in the presence of senior party leaders. He was the chairman of the J-K National Panthers Party before that. In his letter of resignation to AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Singh said, "Due to some personal reasons, I can no **More on P6**

Ex- DGP Khajooria Passes Away

Former Jammu and Kashmir DGP M M Khajooria, the first police officer in the Union territory to be inducted into the Indian Police Service, died here Wednesday night following a brief illness, officials said. He was 91. He is survived by three daughters, six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. Incumbent J-K DGP Dilbag Singh and all ranks of the police expressed grief over the demise of Khajooria. Khajooria, who was born on June 11, 1931, had **More on P6**

Redesigning of LOGO

for Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K

DIPR invites applications from the people of J&K, for redesigning its logo which is reflective of contemporary media and is in synchronization with the current technology trends.

The redesigned logo should be timeless, memorable & versatile. It should reflect the functions, vision and identity of the Department of Information and Public Relations.

Every entry must be accompanied by a brief writeup/ explanation in maximum of 1000 characters.

Contest Starting Date

16-02-2023

Contest End Date

02-03-2023

Date of result shall be announced separately.

1st Position

₹25,000

& a commendation certificate

2nd Position

₹15,000

& a commendation certificate

3rd Position

₹10,000

& a commendation certificate

4th & 5th Position

₹5,000 each

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SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES THROUGH



https://tinyurl.com/DIPRLogoCompetition

Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K



Among 156 Districts in India, Srinagar Tops under SSG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major recognition, the Srinagar District has secured First Rank among 156 Districts in the Country under Swachh Sarvekshan Grameen with a score of 137.70.

The Srinagar District has topped by scoring better than Khargone District of Madhya Pradesh which has achieved 2nd rank by achieving a score of 133.02 points followed by Badaun District of Uttar Pradesh with a score of 115.38.

The Swachh Sarvekshan Grameen is a ranking exercise taken up by the Government of India to assess rural areas for their levels of cleanliness

and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner. It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which is aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation.

Under this competition District Srinagar has done some remarkable work during the last few months and has been able to climb to the top rank.

Speaking about the achievement, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad has said that this is a pride moment for Srinagar District which has been achieved through collective efforts of the Team.



(Pic/Abid Bhat)

Searches In Qamarwari After 'Gunshot' Like Sound

Srinagar- Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday launched a cordon and search operation in Qamarwari area of Srinagar after gunshot-like sound was heard in the area.

The sound caused panic in the area with passersby scurrying for safety. "Some gunshot-like sound was heard in the Qamarwari area. Police team is in the locality to ascertain facts, there is no damage or injury whatsoever. Cordon and Search Operations launched in the area," the Srinagar Police said in a tweet.

Eyewitnesses said a police team arrived after the incident and were examining the area for any clues of a possible act of sabotage.

KU Resumes Academic Activities After 45 Days

VC Stresses On Staff, Student Punctuality

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Academic activities resumed at the University of Kashmir after the 45-day winter break for the faculty and students culminated on Thursday.

In her message to the faculty and students following resumption of class-work, Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofar Khan stressed on the sustained focus of both students and faculty on their academic and research pursuits to ensure timely award of degrees. She also emphasized on punctuality of staff and students.

She said the already-notified academic calendar must be followed in letter and spirit in the larger interest of the student community.

"Any delay in award of degrees reflects poorly on the reputation of the institution. Since the University administration, with the active support of faculty and staff, has put the academic and examination calendars on track, it

is important for the students and faculty to stay on this track with greater focus and determination to avoid any disruptions," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Saying that the University of Kashmir is hosting and organizing several important extracurricular and sports events during the current academic year—including the Youth20 event in May this year as part of country's G20 Presidency—Prof Nilofar sought the cooperation of Heads of Departments in facilitating active participation of student community from main and satellite campuses in these activities of national importance.

The Vice-Chancellor also said the University's NAAC re-accreditation is due in 2024 and the administration's plan is afoot to see that the varsity improves its ranking and visibility to make an indelible mark on the country's academic arena.

Air Quality Deteriorates In Srinagar, Gets More Polluted In Winters

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The air quality in Kashmir has been consistently deteriorating for the past three years, reveals the data compiled by the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board (PCB).

Pollution Control Board (PCB) data revealed that the air quality has been deteriorating more in winters and Lasjan area has the most polluted air.

The Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM or PM 10) levels at all four stations in Srinagar have shown a steep rise in the last three years.

At Raj Bagh station, the yearly average of PM-10 level for year 2021-22 was 139.26 µg/m³ against the permissible limit of 60 µg/m³ while at the same station it was 73.88 µg/m³ in year 2019-20 and 89.61 µg/m³ in year 2020-21.

At Khonmoh station, the yearly average of PM-10 level for year 2021-22 was 162.86 µg/m³ against the permissible limit of 60 µg/m³ while at the same station it was 120.03 µg/m³ in year 2019-20 and 163.97 µg/m³ in year 2020-21.

At Khrew station, the yearly average of PM-10 level for year 2021-22 was 132.65 µg/m³ against the permissible limit of 60 µg/m³ while at the same station it was 119.48 µg/m³ in year 2019-20 and 127.98 µg/m³ in year 2020-21.

At Lasjan station, the yearly average of PM-10 level for year 2021-22 was 227.80 µg/m³ against the permissible limit of 60 µg/m³ while at the same station it was 197.74 µg/m³ in year 2019-20 and 235.29 µg/m³ in year 2020-21.

As per the data, the highest RSPM levels have been reported in winter months as the RSPM level in year 2021at

Rajbagh and Khonmoh were 237.41 µg/m³ and 255.43 µg/m³ respectively in month of December while at Khrew and Lasjan the levels were highest in month of November with 176.6 µg/m³ at Khrew and 330.08 µg/m³ at Lasjan.

However, as per data the Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) levels in Srinagar have been found below the permissible mark as average NO2 levels at Rajbagh, Khonmoh, Khrew and Lasjan were 20.27, 20.09, 22.10, 20.84 respectively in year 2021 as compared to the yearly permissible level of 40 µg/m³ for NO2 while SO2 levels were below 11 at all stations.

Notably, Director SKIMS Dr Parvaiz Koul had recently stated that yearly around 10 thousand deaths are attributed to particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) exposure and there is need to control it by countering it.

DC Srinagar Approves 28 Cases Under KVIB/JKREGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad cleared 28 cases under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program (JKREGP) thereby providing loan amounting to several crores to eligible beneficiaries of the District for setting up income generating units.

At the outset, the District Officer, KVIB Srinagar, Mohammad Rouf Wani submitted 30 proposals before the District Level Task Force Committee for consideration of financial assistance from different banks to unemployed youth of the Srinagar District for setting up of income generating units including manufacturing & establishment of small units of Dairy, Sheep, Poultry, Grocery Stores, Ready-made Garments, Cutting and Tailoring, Bakery, Automobile etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the renewal of my fertilizer license bearing no; CAOB/FL/2010-11/485. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agriculture Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Bashir Ahmad Baba S/O Haji Ghulam Baba R/O Goshbugh Pattan FKO

AGRICULTURE INSURANCE COMPANY OF INDIA LIMITED
Plate B & C, 5th Floor, Block 1, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi - 110023
CIN: U74999DL2002PLC118123, IRDAI REGISTRATION: 126

Recruitment of Management Trainees- Finance and Investment Discipline
Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC), a leading Crop Insurance Company, invites applications for recruitment of 10 Management Trainees-Finance and Investment Discipline.
Reservation: Reservations shall be applicable as per the D.O.P.T guidelines.
Emoluments: The selected candidates would be paid a consolidated pay of Rs. 60,000/- p.m. during training.
Minimum Educational Qualifications as on 01.02.2023:

| Discipline/NOs | Qualification |
|----------------|---|
| Finance | • Qualified Chartered Accountant of ICAI and • Graduation in Commerce from a recognized University/Institution/Board recognized by Govt. of India approved by Govt. Regulatory Bodies with minimum 60% (55% for SC/ST) marks |
| Investment | • Qualified Chartered Accountant of ICAI or CFA Level 2 Passed or FRM L1 and • Graduation in Commerce from a recognized University/Institution/Board recognized by Govt. of India approved by Govt. Regulatory Bodies with minimum 60% (55% for SC/ST) marks |

Age (as on 01.02.2023): Minimum Age: 21 years & Maximum Age: 30 years
i.e. a candidate must have been born not earlier than 2nd February 1993 and not later than 1st February 2002 (both dates inclusive).

Age relaxation for various categories will be as per rules.
Important dates- Submission of online application & payment of fees:-
Start Date:- 17.02.2023 (10:00 hrs.)
End Date:- 06.03.2023 (20:00 hrs.)
For details regarding the eligibility conditions, age, educational qualifications and other details, please visit "Career Section" of company's website www.aicofindia.com.

CBC 01115/120112/2223 DGM-HR

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Reservation: Reservations shall be applicable as per the D.O.P.T guidelines.
Emoluments: The selected candidates would be paid a consolidated pay of Rs. 60,000/- p.m. during training.
Minimum Educational Qualifications as on 01.02.2023:

- Passed or have been exempted from at least 9 CT Papers (as per old curriculum) or 7 Core Principle papers (as per 2019 curriculum) conducted by Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI) or Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, UK and
- Graduation from a recognized University/Institution/Board recognized by Govt. of India approved by Govt. Regulatory Bodies with minimum 60% (55% for SC/ST) marks.

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CBC 01115/120110/2223 DGM-HR

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower
Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Impaired Asset portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Pulwama (J&K)-192301
E: iapmd.zks1@jkbmail.com
T +91 (0)1933 242 237 +91 (0)1933 240 341

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. Parvez Rashid, 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 30.06.2021 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Latif Ahmad Lone S/O Abdul Salam Lone R/O Nowpora, Bala, Pulwama, sole proprietor of M/s Lateef Agro Industries, IGC, Lassipora and Mr. Bashir Ahmad Mir S/O Ahad Mir R/O Lassipora, Pulwama (Guarantor/mortgagor) to repay an amount of Rs.2,16,66,938.00 (Rupees Two Crores Sixteen Lacs Sixty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Eight only) being the balance outstanding as on 30.06.2021 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 borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken 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 15th 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 of Rs.2,12,01,666.27 (Rupees Two Crores Twelve Lacs One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six and Paise Twenty Seven 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
Shopline along with land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 05 Marlas falling under Khasra No.354, Khata No. 83, Khawat No. 54, situated at Lassipora, Pulwama, standing in the name of Bashir Ahmad Mir S/O Ahad Mir R/O Lassipora.

Place: Lassipora, Pulwama (Neelofar Jan) Authorized Officer
Dated: 15.02.2023

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK19385G000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-6487/22 DATED: 16-02-2023

Office Of The Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal Vice Chairman District Health Society Ganderbal
(Old District Hospital Duderhama, GANDERBAL-191201)
Telephone-0194-2416033

Subject: Notice inviting online Bid(s) for supply of equipment's for Health and Wellness Centers-Sub centers under National Health Mission, and cancellation Notice thereof.

Reference: E-Tender Notice No: 03 of 2022-23 Dated: 02-02-2023

Due to the poor response of the E-NIT issued by this office on JK Tenders under NIT No 03 of 2022-23 dated 02-02-2023 dully endorsed under No. DRHS/NHM/GBL/22-23/4364-67 dated 02-02-2023 for the supply of Equipment's for Health & Wellness Centers (Sub-Centers) is hereby cancelled ab-initio.

Chief Medical Officer Vice-Chairman District Health Society Ganderbal

No. DRHS/NHM/GBL/22-23/4586-90
DIPK-17531/22
Dated: 16/02/2023

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS
FAJR 5:50
ZUHR 12:45
ASR 4:37
Magrib 6:19
ISHA 7:41
HIJRI CALENDAR
25 Rajab 1444

This Day In History

- 1370 - Battle at Rudau: Germany beats Lithuania
- 1461 - Wars of the Roses: Second Battle of St Albans - Lancastrian army defeats Yorkists and recaptures King Henry VI
- 1500 - Battle of Hemmingstedt - German peasant army repels ducal army of Schleswig and Holstein
- 1670 - France & Bavaria sign military assistance treaty
- 1814 - Battle of Mormant: French Imperial army defeat Russian Austrian forces (War of the Sixth Coalition).
- 1837 - Charles Lyell makes his presidential address to the Geographical Society, London and announces that Richard Owen has concluded from Darwin's fossils that extinct species were related to current species in the same locality.
- 1854 - Britain recognises independence of Orange Free State (South Africa).
- 1864 - Confederate submarine HL Hunley sinks Union ship Housatonic - world's first successful submarine attack
- 1865 - Battle of Charleston, South Carolina
- 1865 - Columbia in South Carolina burns down during the American Civil War
- 1867 - Gyula Andressy becomes premier of Hungary
- 1880 - Alexander II of Russia survives an assassination attempt
- 1897 - Emilio Aguinaldo and a group of katipuneros defeat Spanish forces led by General Camilo de Polavieja at the Battle of Zapote Bridge in Cavite
- 1911 - 1st hydroplane flight to & from a ship (Glenn Curtiss, San Diego)
- 1913 - 1st minimum wage law in US takes effect (Oregon)
- 1915 - Edward Stone, 1st US combatant to die in WW I, is mortally wounded
- 1916 - Sigmund Romberg, James Hanley, Harold R. Atteridge and Edgar Smith's musical Robinson Crusoe Jr. premieres in NYC
- 1917 - In Australia, Nationalist Party takes over a coalition government
- 1928 - Johan Grottnusbråten leads a Norwegian sweep of the medals in the 18k cross country at the St. Moritz Winter Olympics; he also wins the Nordic combined gold the following day
- 1930 - French government of André Tardieu falls for the first time
- 1936 - The world's first superhero, The Phantom, a cartoon strip by Lee Falk, makes his first appearance in comics.
- 1959 - 1st weather satellite launched, Vanguard 2, 9.8 kg
- 1965 - US Ranger 8 launched, will transmit 7,137 lunar pictures
- 1966 - French satellite Diapason D-1A launch into Earth orbit
- 1967 - Kosmos 140 (Soyuz Test) launches into Earth orbit
- 1969 - Golda Meir sworn in as the first female Prime Minister of Israel
- 1974 - 49 die in stampede for seats at soccer match, Cairo, Egypt
- 2008 - Kosovo declares independence from Serbia.
- 2012 - Approximately 70 ancient Olympic artifacts are stolen from the Archaeological Museum of Greece
- 2013 - 37 people are killed and 130 are injured in a series of Baghdad car bombings.

From KO Archives
3 Kids injured While Fiddling With Explosives

Observer News Service
Srinagar- A left-over explosive device went off today at Gund Rahman, Ganderbal when young boys fiddled with it. It exploded with a bang leaving three kids injured. Reports said three boys were injured when a device they found near a recent encounter site went off when they were fiddling with it. Profusely bleeding boys were rushed to neighbouring Soura Medical Institute, where condition of two is critical. Reports said the device had remained unexploded after a fierce, encounter broke-out between the militants and the security forces in the area on February 9. Both sides had hurled explosive devices at each other during the fire fight. One of the devices had not exploded on that day. It was, found by the boys of the locality today. The three injured have been identified as Ghulam Mohammad Magray, Rais Magray and Aijaz Ahmed Dar of the same locality.

(Kashmir Observer, 17 February, 1999)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday | 17-02-2023

Election Year

It is now one year before general elections will be held. But considering the BJP's continuing dominance, the return of the BJP to power in 2024 is almost a foregone conclusion. The party could end up achieving a bigger victory than it did in 2019.

However, the outcome of the ten Assembly polls scheduled to be held before the 2024 general elections will be equally important. Among them the elections in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telengana will be very crucial. The BJP will hope to win all of them. But should the party suffer reverses in the majority of these states, this may not bode well for its 2024 chances. The elections in these five major states represent the last chance for the opposition to hurtle back into the reckoning.

It appears, however, very unlikely that the BJP may not do well in the upcoming Assembly polls. Despite being in power for over nine years, the party remains untouched by anti-incumbency. The overarching political persona of the prime minister Narendra Modi seems to trump everything. Neither the Congress nor the combined opposition are in a position to mount a credible challenge to the BJP. Or so it seems.

As things stand, the opposition is unable to even unite over a governance issue such as inflation, let alone against the BJP. True, Rahul Gandhi's 4000 kilometre padyatra has put some wind back in the sails of Congress but the party's actual test will be its performance in the upcoming Assembly polls. It remains to be seen whether it does well in the major states such as Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telengana. This will also be a test for Gandhi's perceived new leadership skills. While many agree that he has gone through a makeover, people generally remain skeptical about his ability to generate a public groundswell in favour of the Congress. He has so far singularly failed to match up to the political persona of prime minister Narendra Modi. Will he pull it off this time around? The odds are heavily against it. Ever since he took over the leadership of the Congress, both in his formal and de facto roles, Gandhi has proved incapable of rallying people behind the party.

Things will certainly become clearer in the weeks and months to come. But considering the popularity of the PM Modi, it is unlikely that the one party, even if it is of Congress' pedigree would be able to mount a credible challenge to his leadership. The opposition would need a powerful narrative to make some dent. But that is still far from materializing, yatra notwithstanding.

OTHER OPINION

Fossil and time

Sporadically, but surely, palaeontologists report intriguing discoveries from India. In January, a team discovered 92 dinosaur nesting sites with 256 fossilised eggs of the titanosaurus — among the largest of its kind, from 100-66 million years ago, when 'India' was a continent and yet to merge into the Eurasian land mass. Similarly, the deserts of Kutch, Gujarat and the Deccan traps in Maharashtra bear witness to the forces that shaped the diverse geography, and tangentially history, of the most populous country. Unlike the quest to preserve cultural history and man-made artefacts from archaeology, there has been limited effort to preserve and communicate at large this natural 'geo-history' such as rock formations, sediment and fossils. For decades now, researchers have been warning that this neglect is leading to an erasure of this history from the public mind and a destruction as well as appropriation of this natural wealth. To that end, the draft Geo-heritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022, piloted by the Ministry of Mines, is seen as a step to give the process of such conservation firmer footing.

The Bill's provisions give the Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate body of the Ministry of Mines, the power to declare sites as having 'geo-heritage' value, take possession of relics (fossils, rocks) that rest in private hands, prohibit construction 100 metres around such a site, penalise — with fines of up to 5 lakh and possibly imprisonment — vandalism, defacement, and violations of directives by the Director General of the GSI. This has rankled experts who work outside the GSI-fold in central and State universities, institutes of national importance and private organisations who fear that such absolute vesting of powers in the GSI alone may impede palaeontological research. They demand a more inclusive body, on the lines of a National Geoheritage Authority, that can, more democratically, decide on declaring sites as being of 'geohistorical' importance and how best to preserve artefacts and finds. The government, it is learnt, is still far from introducing the Bill in Parliament and deliberating on several aspects. While there are merits and demerits to either approach on governance, it is important to keep in mind that legislation, while acting as a ring fence, ought not to become a tool for suppressing independent investigation. Given the premium for land and India's economic needs, there will be conflict over questions of preservation and livelihood, but any legislation must endeavour to balance these forces and enable consensus.

The Hindu

Doval creates synergy in India-Russia ties

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

“Russia sees India as a like-minded country — alongside China, Iran and the Central Asian states — that is genuinely interested in the stabilisation of the Afghan situation

The scheduled visit of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to Moscow on February 7-9 was in connection with the multilateral consultations of the secretaries of security councils and national security advisors regarding Afghanistan hosted by the Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolai Patrushev.

However, it was Doval's meeting with President Vladimir Putin that inevitably became the meridian. Indeed, it was an exceptional event. Putin's meeting with Doval signified two things — it was a recognition both of Doval's unique standing as a meaningful interlocutor in the Indian government as well as his standing as an accomplished professional with vast experience in the regional security issues, in particular, Afghanistan.

Doval doesn't have the luxury of being an armchair strategist. He lived and worked in the real world and kept up with Russian counterparts at a working level. As time passed, friendships forged in the fires of adversity — Khalistan, cross-border terrorism, political islam, insurgencies — became strong and weathered the test of time. Unsurprisingly, Doval's equation with Patrushev is one of its kind. Therefore, the enormous symbolism in Putin's face-to-face interaction with Doval must be properly understood.

Putin's remarks at the regional meeting of security advisors underscored the high importance Moscow attaches to the Afghan situation. He said Afghanistan "has always been important for us [Russia] and now it is important more than ever because we do not want more points of tension on our southern borders."

Putin mentioned three reasons for saying so. First, the Afghan security situation remains critical. To quote Putin, "International terrorist organisations are stepping up their activities, including al-Qaeda which is building up its potential." Moscow is greatly concerned about negative fallout in the Central Asian region.

Russia sees India as a like-minded country — alongside China, Iran and the Central Asian states — that is genuinely interested in the stabilisation of the Afghan situation. The MEA read-out mentions that Doval in his remarks at the regional meeting "stressed the need to ensure that the territory of Afghanistan does not become a source of radicalisation and terrorism, regionally or globally, as well as to intensify intelligence and security cooperation to deal with terror outfits."

Evidently, Moscow is conscious of the convergence of interests with Delhi on this front. The Afghan situation would have figured prominently in Doval's talks with Patrushev, who is an old and trusted associate of Putin over decades.

Second, Russia has specific concerns over the problem of drug trafficking, which is on the rise. Putin mentioned that 80% of opiates in the world market originate from Afghanistan. Russia and Iran are two major

transit routes for drug trafficking. During the two decades of US occupation, the Americans virtually acquiesced with drug traffickers. Occasional reports showed that some Pentagon commanders even made fortunes out of the smuggling.

Drug trafficking is inextricably linked to the security situation. Again, the Taliban government lacks resources to provide alternate livelihood to the poor farmers to induce them to give up poppy cultivation. In this connection, Putin made a cryptic remark that "there are plans to implement large economic projects that could stabilise the situation." Russia has a masterplan to revive the Soviet-aided economic projects in Afghanistan.

India too has a brilliant track record in undertaking developmental projects in Afghanistan. Doval's assertion that India "is and will remain an important stakeholder in Afghanistan" is to be understood in this context.

Third, Putin stated: "We are also worried about attempts to use the situation in Afghanistan to allow extra-regional forces to expand or build their infrastructure. These countries will create this under the pretext of countering international terrorism, but they are not doing anything that is really necessary in the real counterterrorism struggle."

Putin, of course, was alluding to the continuing attempts by the US to return to Afghanistan and establish a security presence with a view to influence the geopolitics in the surrounding regions of Iran, North Caucasus, Central Asia, Xinjiang, etc. Taliban resisted the American pressure. Russia's presidential envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov recently alleged on state television that the US is giving covert support to the Islamic State-Khorasan in Afghanistan.

Russia finds itself between the rock and a hard place. It harboured a notion in the recent years that Pakistan would be a potential ally to stabilise the Afghan situation under Taliban. But that turned out to be a flawed assumption. On the contrary, the overthrow of Imran Khan led to the installation of a US-backed regime in Islamabad that is completely at the bidding of Americans. The US stranglehold is destined to tighten further as the IMF begins to dictate Pakistan's economic policies.

A sharp deterioration in Pakistan's equations with the Taliban followed after Imran Khan's overthrow. An easing of tensions between Islamabad and Kabul is not to be expected, as the military leadership in Rawalpindi has reverted to its historical role as the cats-paw of the Pentagon and the CIA. The Taliban harbours deep suspicions regarding the US-Pakistani intentions.

According to reports, the US is sourcing military supplies from Pakistan for use in its proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. In sum, the Pakistani civilian and military elite are reverting to their historical role as hirelings of the US. Russia and Iran are

vainly hoping to engage Pakistan in a constructive relationship, whereas, in reality, it is dealing with a vassal state of the US.

Suffice it to say that India is sailing in the same boat as Russia when it comes to the Afghan conundrum and Pakistani shenanigans. Conceivably, at some point soon enough, the Pakistani military will resume its interference in Afghanistan by projecting power into that country to keep it weak and subservient — something that dovetails with the US' current regional strategy.

From various accounts, Putin's conversation with Doval largely focused on the Russian-Indian special and privileged strategic partnership. But Afghanistan would have been a key topic of discussion. To be sure, Putin would have spoken to Doval about the Ukraine situation as well. That said, Putin's main focus currently is on the bilateral cooperation with India against the backdrop of its pivot to Asian countries as economic partners.

The US lobbyists in the Indian media are upset that Doval visited Moscow. A Delhi newspaper wrote an editorial today warning the Modi government about its dealings with Russia, which, according to the paper, stands "isolated" in the international community! (Twenty years back, this very same newspaper had written that then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's refusal to join the US's "coalition of the willing" to invade Iraq would cost India dearly, as a vengeful George W. Bush was sure to punish Delhi by evicting it from Kashmir Valley!)

What these lobbyists overlook is that India's relationship with the US is transactional and the Americans are rank opportunists. It is about time they got accustomed to the idea that India cherishes its strategic autonomy. Why do some of our journalists behave like a comprador class?

Moscow appreciates India's neutrality and on its part, the Modi government also knows that in this titanic struggle between the US and Russia over the birth of a new multipolar world order, there is very little India (or any third party) can do to persuade the Biden Administration to call off the proxy war and begin negotiations.

Apparently, the Biden Administration still thinks that the proxy war will lead to the dismemberment and destruction of Russia paving the way for the resuscitation of the US' "unipolar moment". So long as the US neocons who dominate Biden's team remain delusional, this conflict will continue and may even escalate. Delhi is doing the right thing to remain non-aligned and astutely pursue its national interests.

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



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No More Chances

India was the 7th worst-hit country due to extreme air pollution and extreme rainfall in 2021 and it's only been getting worse every year. We're racing towards further and further climate disasters and we need to pull the chain now. Though we hoped it would not reach this point, climate wisdom has constantly advised us about the deadly consequences of

climate change. But we've caught the malefactor red-handed. The grim burning of fossil energies for energy and transportation has turned our metropolises into poisonous gas chambers. In 2022, India was set up to be home to of the world's 10 most business-congested metropolises. According to reports over two lakh Indians died from air pollution last time but this could

have been prevented. Through the Detox City crusade, we're working to impact the transportation systems across India, over the coming many years. However, we can demand better structure- better public transport, further green spaces, If further citizens borrow sustainable transportation. Eventually, these small but significant conduct will restate into metropolises that

are cleaner, healthier, more equal and accessible to all citizens. We're losing precious time in the fight for a safe and healthy future. No more chances left to take action and change the course of our earth.

Vijay Kumar

Mindful Fridays

Love is What Love Does

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOVE AND EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCE



Wasim Kakroo

Receiving emotional support while in a relationship may have its advantages. Your partner may be the first to offer empathy and comfort by paying attention to you and validating your feelings whenever difficulties arise and make your day feel dull and difficult. The majority of romantic partners depend on one another in some way, but emotional dependence results when you rely entirely on your partner to satisfy all of your emotional needs.

When a person feels dependent on another person in order to feel whole or happy, this is referred to as emotional dependency. Because they are unable to give it to themselves, those who depend on others for their emotional needs, especially their romantic partner, require constant attention, approbation, and support. Because of their deeply ingrained childhood traumas and disappointments, dependent people have an intense fear of not being good enough. Emotional dependence may be influenced by particular attachment patterns, such as a lack of a solid bond to primary care givers.

Due to the lack of physical symptoms, emotional dependence, like many other mental health disorders (emotional dependence can be a part of various personality disorders that are a result of adverse childhood experiences such as Borderline Personality Disorder, Histrionic Personality Disorder, Dependent Personality Disorder etc.) can be challenging to diagnose. Most people who suffer from emotional dependence may not be aware of their condition and may even reject it when it is pointed out to them. Start by asking yourself whether you feel empty and alone within until your partner pays you attention and

validates your feelings. Do you require your partner to live up to certain requirements in order for you to feel loved and safe? Do you expect your partner to behave differently than they actually do?

Unfortunately, love is frequently mistaken for emotional dependence because it frequently involves strong feelings for another person. There is a difference, though; emotionally dependent individuals could mistakenly believe they are in love when they are actually 'in need'. It's okay to have some emotional dependence on your partner, but it becomes harmful when your happiness is wholly dependent on them. Your relationship and general wellbeing may be impacted in the long run by this severe dependence.

People who are emotionally dependent typically require a lot of assurance and assistance from their partners. They can frequently ask, "Do you love me?" Are you actually interested in being with me? You wouldn't want to call it quits, right? Because of your uncertainty and self-doubt, you become dependent on their acceptance in order to feel good about yourself. Additionally, those who are emotionally dependent have an obsessional urge to be attached to others, which causes them to have an obsessional fear of losing love.

Truth be told, love that stems from fear of abandonment is not love; it is need. The inner emptiness that consumes the majority of your mental space and makes you depend on your partner to fill it and make you feel loved is what leads to emotional dependency. The fact is that it's actually impossible for others to heal you and make you feel loved if you don't understand the difference between love and emotional dependence. Expecting someone else to always take care of all your needs

just so you feel safe and loved is unreasonable. Love is a balance game of giving and taking; it is not simply about getting.

Let us now try to understand what love in actuality means.

The word "love" is one of the English language's most casually used words, and because of this, it has grown to mean a wide range of extremely diverse feelings. We can all agree that love is what keeps the world turning and that without it, it would be just a barren, lifeless place. On the other hand, it is a phrase that we can very easily manipulate to suit our needs in order to rationalise our emotional dependence on someone. If we can learn to discern between love and emotional dependence and put this understanding into practise, we may improve not only our own quality of life but also the quality of life for everyone with whom we come into contact.

1. First, learn to love yourself: When we are emotionally dependent on someone, we frequently use them as a "filler" to mask and divert us from unresolved emotional problems we are experiencing within. Starting with the person you spend the most time with, i.e., "yourself", can help you learn and understand what love is before you can truly love someone else. We are far quicker to point out our flaws than our strengths, and we have a tendency to berate ourselves when we don't do tasks to our satisfaction. This all needs to change. Each day, make an effort to recognise your strengths, emphasise them, and develop them. When you do make a mistake, try to view it as a "work-in-progress" rather than a complete failure. You

will be much more able to establish relationships with others with composure once you experience an increase in your own self-love and self-respect.

2. Reduce your expectations: Social anthropologists frequently compare many human relationships to contracts; while we show someone we love them, we also subtly impose on them a variety of demands that we want them to meet. And then, when the other person falls short of meeting our expectations (which will undoubtedly happen occasionally because we are all fallible), we feel let down and angry with the other person, our insecurity and fear of not being loved come to the fore, and we frequently turn to emotional blackmail to try and persuade them to meet our needs. On the other hand, true love is like the sun. The sun provides warmth and light to all without expecting anything in return. To the calculating mind, this could seem foolish, but when we live in the heart, we feel precisely like the sun does: we want to spread our love and goodwill wherever we can. This kind of love allows us to remain detached because we don't have preconceived notions about how others should respond to it; rather, the act of showing love to others completely fills our hearts with joy.

3. Learn when to let go: We frequently impose psychological restrictions on the people we care about, whether it be parents who are "fulfilling their dreams" via their children or some-

one who is "stuck" in a relationship. The definition of true love is accepting someone as they are without trying to change them into something you want them to be. The best thing you can do for someone you care about is to let them reach their full potential as a human being. Sometimes this will require your active assistance, but other times it will only require you to recognise when you are getting in the way and move out of the way.

4. Cultivate and use the inner strength of patience and forgiveness: We must learn to develop forgiveness and patience in order to grow in love. It is easier to forgive someone when you see past their outward flaws and recognise their innate beauty. Love always involves seeing someone's inner beauty and appreciating it. By doing so, we help bring that beauty to light and hopefully stop whatever horrible act that person may have done from happening again.

Our world can at times seem plain unjust, but if you can cultivate these traits of love for everyone you meet, you will be able to rise above "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" that people may throw at you and you may still keep your faith in the goodness of people.

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



TRUTH BE TOLD, LOVE THAT STEMS FROM FEAR OF ABANDONMENT IS NOT LOVE; it is need. The inner emptiness that consumes the majority of your mental space and makes you depend on your partner to fill it and make you feel loved is what leads to emotional dependency

Police Book 3 'Self-Styled Leaders' Under UAPA

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday booked three 'self-styled' leaders of a lesser known political party, under stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), for allegedly 'intimidating' journalists and making anti-national statements during a press conference here.

The trio has also been booked for waging war against India by making provocative statements, thereby causing threat to public order, a senior police official told Kashmir Observer.

Earlier in the day, police in a tweet said that three self-styled leaders were arrested for threatening and intimidating journalists and making anti-national statements during a news conference here, a day earlier.

"They were self-styled leaders and had threatened & intimidated media persons, gave anti-national byte yesterday in

a press conference," police said in a tweet.

A formal case under FIR No. 50/2023 under sections 13 UAPA, 121-A, 153, 153-A and 505 IPC has been registered against the trio at police station Kothibagh. The trio has been identified as Suhail of Mustafabad HMT, Nadeem Shafi Rather of Maloora HMT and Umar Majeed Wani of Soura.

While Suhail Khan is the president of the hardly known J&K Awami Awaz Party, Nadeem Shafi and Umar Wani are said to be its members.

Khan, besides running the affairs of his party, is also an education consultant. He is accused of having made provocative statements during a news conference at his office in the Maisuma area of the city, before being arrested by the police.

A police official told Kashmir Observer that the trio is presently lodged at Maisuma police station.

Tariff Hike Justified, Electricity A Commercial Commodity: PDD Chief Engineer

Says Smart Meters, LT Cables Will Display Consumers' Actual Electricity Consumption

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Notwithstanding the public resentment against the hike in monthly electricity bills, the authorities at the Power Development Department (PDD) on Thursday said the charges will increase further as the installation of LT cables and smart meters will display consumer's actual electricity consumption.

Alleging that many consumers use four to five times more electricity beyond their sanctioned load, the PDD Chief Engineer (Distribution), Javid Ahmad said that there will be a revision of tariffs.

"With the installation of LT cables and smart meters, the people will come to know about their actual electricity consumption as many people are sanctioned with 0.5 KV load but are using 5 KV. So, it is still way below what they are paying against the consumption," he explained.

Stating that the billing tariff will not remain the same indefinitely, he said power is a commodity that needs to be purchased by the government.

Rejecting the people's demands of switching back to their previous monthly electricity bills, the chief engineer termed those "out of question". "People at many places protested against the installation of smart meters and LT cables, but ultimately these were installed. We have to move ahead and treat electricity as a commercial commodity," he stressed.

Terming the hike as "arbitrary", the people from various localities of the Safakadal area in Srinagar on Wednesday staged a protest against the PDD.

The protestors said they are witnessing a regular increase in their monthly power bills, and urged the authorities to restore their monthly electricity billing to their earlier tariff—(KNO)

Chairman DDC Budgam Lays Foundation Stone Of Two Bridges

Observer News Service

BEERWAH: Chairman District Development Council Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan on Thursday laid the foundation stone of two bridges at Nowpora and Rathsun villages of Budgam district.

Nazir Ahmad Khan while speaking on the occasion said that the District Development Council Budgam alongwith District Administration Budgam is committed to provide all round connectivity to the people of Budgam. These bridges are being constructed over Nalla Sukhnag and

are important to provide hassle free connectivity to the people living across Nalla Sukhnag.

Chairman DDC Budgam while addressing gatherings at Rathsun and Nowpora villages said that Budgam district is witnessing unprecedented development in terms of better road connectivity and development of health and power infrastructure.

ADDC Budgam, Executive Engineer R&B Budgam, ACR Budgam, PRI members and other senior officers of the R&B (PWD) Department were also present on the occasion.

Mercury Rises In J&K, Above Sub-Zero Level In Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature saw a rise in Jammu and Kashmir with Srinagar and Qazigund recording above sub-zero level on Thursday.

A meteorological department official, as per news agency GNS, said that Srinagar recorded a low of 1.3°C against the previous night's minus 0.2°C. Today's minimum temperature, he said, was above normal by 1.2°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 0.05°C against minus 1.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of minus 1.9°C against minus 3.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.5°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.8°C against minus 1.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.0°C against minus 4.2°C on the previous night



and it was 4.8°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at minus 0.8°C against minus 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 11.2°C against 9.8°C on the previous night. It was 0.7°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 4.0°C (above normal by 2.7°C), Batote 5.3°C (above normal by 5.3°C), Katra 12.0°C (3.9°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 4.6°C (4.3°C above normal).

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 7.0°C and minus 10.8°C respectively, the official said.

The MeT department has predicted occasional cloudy but mainly dry weather till February 18 and possibility of light rain and snow in plains and light to moderate snow in middle and higher reaches during late night of 19th to 20th afternoon.

Patwari Attached, Slapped With Fine Over Fresh Encroachment

Explanation Also Sought From Tehsildar For Failing To Protect Govt Land

Observer News Service

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan on Thursday attached and imposed fine on a Patwari and sought Explanation from Tehsildar & NT following reports of fresh attempts being made to encroach.

Following the report about a fresh attempt made to encroach upon state land in Teh-

sil Bhagwah, the Deputy Commissioner imposed a fine and also attached the Patwari of Patwar Halqa Bijarni for failing to protect the Government property, an official of district administration said. The Tehsildar Bhagwah and Naib Tehsildar concerned have also been asked to explain their position for the dereliction of their legitimate duties.

On the direction of the DC, the ACR has sealed the under construction structure and an FIR was lodged against the encroacher.

Saying that the field staff would be held responsible for any kind of fresh encroachments on Kacharie and State land in the district, the DC has asked ADC, ACR and SDMs to closely monitor all the issues related to public/government land.

Info Dept Starts Public Competition For Redesigning Of Its Logo

Aims At Bringing Logo In Sync With Current Communication, Technology Landscape Through Jan-Bagidari

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A contest for redesigning the logo of the Department of Information and Public Relations was thrown open on Thursday by the Commissioner Secretary, Information Department, Prerna Puri in presence of Director Information Akshay Labroo at Civil Secretariat here.

Addressing the officers on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary observed that the need for redesigning of the logo of the Department was

felt in order to get it in sync with the changing times, as the media landscape has seen phenomenal changes over the years. She highlighted that the redesigned logo is aimed to represent the current communications & technology landscape.

Speaking during the event, Director Information Akshay Labroo remarked that it is a participative process aimed at 'Jan Bhagidhari'. "It is an open public competition and the department wishes to adopt a new, contemporary logo that has been decided by our own citizens".

The Department has invited public to redesign its logo and the submissions for same are purely online.

An award money of Rs 25000 for the first position

Grand Snow Festival Held At Aharbal

Fest Witnesses' Celebration Of Tribal Culture; Multiple Snow Sports Events, Scintillating Cultural Performances

Observer News Service

KULGAM: In order to give fillip to the Winter tourism potential of Aharbal, promote tribal culture and to increase tourist footfall especially in winters, the District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with Aharbal Development Authority, RDD, YS&S, Tourism and Forest Division Kulgam Thursday organised a daylong Winter Carnival, here.

The Winter Carnival was jointly inaugurated by Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parrey; Deputy Inspector General (DIG), South, Rayees Mohammad Bhat; Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-din Bhat at Aharbal Tourist destination by flagging-off two groups of 60 trekkers to Chirambal and Sangam.

During the festival, multifarious activities and events were carried out which included Snow cricket, Snow run, Snow Rugby, Tug of war, Snow Volleyball, Skiing and other Snow games.

Multiple stalls were installed by various departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Tourism, Handicrafts, Fisheries, Employment, NRLM and other departments for showcasing government schemes and programmes.

A stall housing articles and artifacts depicting local tradition and culture were also displayed which attracted immense public response.

Scintillating cultural performances especially performances on tribal culture were also presented by local artists and school children which mesmerized the audience and guests present.

Addressing the mammoth gathering, DDC Chairperson Mohd Afzal Parrey appreciated efforts of District Administration for organising the festivals to promote virgin lands in the district for larger public benefit.

Mrs World Calls On LG



JAMMU: Sargam Koushal, Mrs World 2022-23 called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today.

The Lt Governor congratulated Sargam Koushal for her achievement.

Sargam Koushal, accompanied by her parents, also shared her upcoming initiatives of women empowerment & awareness on substance abuse with the Lt Governor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to get my fertilizer license bearing no CAOB/FL/2010-11/485 renewed. In this regard if anybody have any objection he/she may file the same with Agriculture Department Baramulla within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

Bashir Ahmad Baba (Ph. No # 9541576818)
S/o Haji Ghulam Baba
R/o Goshugh Pattan

Govt Orders Premature Retirement Of Two Officers

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory administration Thursday ordered premature retirement of two officers over unbecoming behaviour and violation of the service conduct rules.

The officers, one from the Prison Department and another from Transport were ordered premature retirement as they conducted their duties in ways which were unbecoming of public servants and in violation of the established code of conduct, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

The exercise, he said, was conducted as part of a regular process of scrutiny of records of employees, who cross age/service period in terms of Article 226(2) of J&K CSRs.

"Out of these retirees, the officer belonging to Prison Department was found involved in wrongdoings while performing his duties during his service career and had remained ineffective in discharging the assigned duties besides, had doubtful integrity. The other officer belonging to the Transport Department was found involved in a serious criminal case for acquiring disproportionate assets and had doubtful integrity with inefficient performance during his service career," he added.

The spokesperson said that on the recommendations of the Review Committee, the performance of these employees was

found unsatisfactory and their continuation in the government service was found against the public interest.

He said during the recent past, as part of its zero tolerance policy towards corruption, various employees have been dismissed from service on account of official misconduct, after rigorously following departmental proceedings against them.

"Many cases are under scrutiny with the Empowered Committees constituted for consideration of cases under Article 226(2) of J&K CSRs. Further, many employees have also been terminated from service on account of anti-national activities," he said.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson said that the government has also initiated several measures for human resource development of its employees in Jammu and Kashmir which includes timely promotion of eligible employees leading to smooth career progression, fast tracking the recruitment process through recruiting agencies and abolishing of interviews for most of the non-gazetted vacancies referred to the Services Selection Board.

"The Government is also contemplating institutionalization of referral of vacancies to recruiting agencies so that recruitments start in the month of April every year in accordance with the defined calendar," he added.

DAK Seeks Restoration Of Old Pension Scheme In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday sought restoration of old pension scheme for the government employees of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

"Revival of old pension system would ensure social and financial security of employees," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said under the old pension scheme an employee gets 50% of his/her last drawn salary as monthly pension with the addition of dearness allowance as and when declared by the government.

"After the demise of the retired employee, the nominee gets 50% of the total amount drawn by the retired employee as a family pension," he said.

Government employees in J&K recruited on or after January 1, 2010 are not eligible for old pension scheme and come under the new pension scheme.

The DAK President said the new pension scheme does not provide the guarantee of pension and there is no provision of family pension in the new system.

"Under the new scheme, employees are required to contribute 10% of their monthly

salary, which the government matches and invests in equity shares," he said adding "the new scheme is market linked and hence uncertain."

Dr Nisar said employees spend their productive years of life in government service with the hope that post retirement they get guaranteed pension which will give them financial independence in old age when they can't earn.

"The employees put in their blood and sweat during service to cause good governance and government is duty bound to provide them with a sense of security post retirement," he said.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said under the new pension system, the hard-earned retirement fund of employees is subjected to the vagaries of share market which fluctuates at the drop of a hat putting the social security of employees at risk.

"An employee cannot work with his full potential and contribute to good governance if his socio-economic security is threatened," he said.

"Four of the States including Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Haryana have gone back to old pension scheme and the chorus for restoration is also mounting in other states," he added.

JAMMU & KASHMIR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (SICOP)



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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (MARKETING)
SANAT GHAR BEMINA, SRINAGAR

E-NIT NO: SICOP-16- SICOP PME OF 2022-23

dated: 15.02.2023

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Managing Director J&K SICOP, e-tenders in two cover system are invited from registered/ reputed and experienced firms/ companies/ agencies having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the below mentioned job:

| Name of work | Adv. cost (Rs. in lac) | EMD (Rs. in lac) | Cost of tender document (Rs.) | Time of completion | Position of AA |
|---|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Supplying, installation, testing, and commissioning of semi-integrated solar street LED light in the Industrial Estate of SICOP at Zakura | 29.70 | 0.59 | 2000.00 | 06 weeks from the date of placement of order | Accorded |

- The tender document for the above job can be downloaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 15-02-2023(12.00 Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the same website from 15-02-2023 (12.00 Hrs) to 07-03-2023 (16.00 Hrs) only.
- The uploaded Pre-qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 08-03-2023 (12.30 Hrs) in the office of Project Manager (Elect.), SICOP, Srinagar. In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in technical bid.
- The cost of tender document is Rs.2000/- (Rupees two thousand only). The same shall submitted in the form of demand draft in favour of Project Manager (E), SICOP payable at Srinagar, scanned copy of the same be uploaded online and hard copy to be submitted before opening of technical bid otherwise the tender will be rejected.
- Scanned copy of actual Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/ FDR amounting to Rs.59,000/- (Rupees fifty nine thousand only) duly pledged to Project Manager (E) must be uploaded online and the original copy of the same be submitted in the concerned office otherwise the tender will be rejected.
- The conditional tenders shall be rejected out rightly.
- All documents required as per tender document should be uploaded with the technical bid.
- Complete bidding process will be online (Price Bid not to be submitted in physical form).

DIPK-NB-6484-22
DT: 16-02-2023

Sd/-
Project Manager
SICOP

Australia Seek Boost To Level Series With India

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Australia captain Pat Cummins expects another trial by spin in the second test against India but finds himself grappling with selection dilemmas as he tries to lock in the playing XI for the match in New Delhi beginning on Friday.

World number one Australia succumbed to an innings defeat inside three days of the opening test in Nagpur where Indian spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin wreaked havoc on a turning track. Left-arm quick Mitchell Starc and all-rounder Cameron Green missed the opener with finger injuries but are on the mend.

Green's return would allow Australia to harness uncapped Matt Kuhnemann with Nathan Lyon and Todd Murphy in a three-



pronged spin attack at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium. "Having a right-hander helps and him providing our fifth bowling option also helps," Cummins told reporters of Green's possible return.

"He's a big player, it certainly

helps the team function well from batting and bowling." You have got to be able to perform as well, he's still coming back from that injury, and he's only had a couple of sessions where he's catching with a hard ball.

"He had a really good session yesterday but we'll see how he pulls up." Scott Boland may retain the second quick's place, alongside Cummins, even if Starc regains full fitness.

"I think there's a conversation," Cummins said.

Home batsman Cheteshwar Pujara, who will be playing his 100th test on Friday, said India would go all out to maintain their winning streak and seal their place in the final of the World Test Championship (WTC) in June.

"I'm really excited to play my 100th test but we are playing an important series," Pujara told reporters.

"Hopefully, we win this test match and move on and win another test match which will ensure we qualify for the WTC finals." "My dream is to win that WTC final for the team."

'AICF Chess For Every One' Tournament From Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: FIDE-rated chess tournament "AICF Chess For Every One" is set to begin today, Friday, February 17, at Polo View Indoor Stadium in Srinagar.

The tournament is being organised by The Kashmir Chess Club in collaboration with All J&K Chess Association and J&K Sports Council.

The inaugural ceremony will be held at the Indoor Hall Polo Ground at 2:30 PM, with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir as the Chief Guest.

The tournament will run till February 21, and has been categorised under All India Chess Federation (AICF) Event Code: 313848/J&K/2023.

UAE May Host Some Asia Cup Games: PCB Source

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: In a possible solution to the Asia Cup logjam, Pakistan may remain the host and India could be offered to play its matches in the UAE where some games will be held, according to sources in the Board (PCB) here.

In such a scenario, the UAE will also host the final if India qualifies for it, according to a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) source.

An emergent meeting of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) was held in Bahrain on February 4 at the behest of PCB chief Najam Sethi after the continental body released its itinerary and Pakistan wasn't named the hosts of the tournament.

Addressing the media here on Thursday, Sethi said more discussions on the hosting of Asia Cup ODI tournament will be held next month on the sidelines of an ICC meeting as the matter "remained unresolved".

"What can I say about what hap-



pened in the Asian Cricket Council board meeting. There was no resolution," Sethi told reporters when asked if Pakistan will host the tournament in September.

However, reliable sources aware of the developments, said the most likely solution to the problem appears to be that Pakistan will remain host of the Asia Cup but some matches will also be held in the UAE where India may play all its games, including the final if necessary (if India qualifies for the final). "Sethi made it clear at the ACC

meeting that PCB wants to host the event and some of the matches at home," the source said.

The Asia Cup was initially allotted to Pakistan and was scheduled in September this year but BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, who is also the ACC chairman, had announced last October that India will not travel to Pakistan.

PTI had reported earlier this month that UAE with three venues -- Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah -- are the favourites to host the tournament but a decision has been withheld for the time being.

ICC Apologises For Ranking Glitch Which Showed India As No.1 Test Side

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has apologised for the technical glitch, which saw India displace Australia to attain the No.1 spot in the men's Test team rankings on Wednesday.

Hours after India had 'topped' the Test ranking, the ICC issued another updated list that showed Rohit Sharma's side back at No.2.

It gave the impression that Rohit's team had briefly claimed the top spot following its innings and 132-run win over the Pat Cummins-led



International Cricket Council

Australia in Nagpur.

On Thursday, the game's global body admitted the error and said in a statement that the "ICC acknowledges, for a short period of time on February 15, 2023 that, due to a technical error, India were erroneously displayed as the No.1 Test team on the ICC website."

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused." "Australia remain on top of the ICC Test

Team Rankings after the latest update following the conclusion of Zimbabwe's two-match series against West Indies."

"Australia will head into the second Test against India in Delhi, starting on Friday, January 17, as the No.1-ranked team with 126 rating points, 11 above India's 115," the ICC statement added.

"India are vying for a place in the final of the ICC World Test Championship 2021-23. Australia are also in contention for a place in the final of the marquee event, which will be played at The Oval in London from 7 to 11 June."

KASHMIR CLINICS SOUTH Announcing Free Medical Camp On SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023

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