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'J&K Soon To

Achieve Its Target

Of 24/7 Electricity'

sserting that his

administration has

Kashmir's power sector in the

last three years, Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha said

on Monday that the Union

Territory will soon achieve

the clock electricity to the

its target of providing round-

reformed Jammu and

40% Of Population Won't Have To Pay Property Tax: LG 'Property Tax In Jammu And Kashmir Is Least As Compared To Other States'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In an attempt to silence his critics opposing the imposition of property tax in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday that 40% of the population of the Union Territory won't have to pay the tax, which is otherwise onetenth of the tax amount being paid elsewhere in the country.

"The property tax in Jammu and Kashmir is the least as compared to other states. There are around 5, 20,000 houses in cities of J&K. Out of these, 2,06,000 houses are less than 1000 sq ft which means 40% won't have to pay any property tax. 2,03,680 houses are less than 1500 sq ft and 80% of these households will have to pay less than Rs 600 per annum while the rest will have to pay a nominal amount of Rs 1000 maximum," Sinha said, while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at Kashmir



International Centre (KICC) here on Monday.

Defending the move, the LG said that in order to make urban local bodies self-reliant, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD) has notified the introduction of property tax in Jammu & Kashmir like other parts of the country.

"The amount is one-tenth of the tax amount being paid in

livelihood generation so that people can live & work with dignity and peace."

IF A COMMON MAN HAS ANY PROBLEM, he must reach out to

the administration. It is our collective responsibility to build a J&K

which is economically prosperous, with ample opportunities for

Shimla, Ambala and Dehradun," Convention he said.

"In commercial establishments, out of 1, 01,000 shops in Srinagar, Jammu & other municipalities, and around 46% of shops (46,000 shops) are less

than 100 sqft and they will have to pay upto Rs 700 per annum. Out of these 46,000 shops, 80% will have to pay Rs 500-550 per annum/ More on P10

consumers. "We have made dedicated efforts to increase generation, transmission and distribution capacity and ensured that the

people of J&K have access to hassle-free power supply," Sinha said. He made these remarks while inaugurating power infrastructure projects worth Rs.192 crores at Kashmir International Convention Centre (KICC) here on Monday. The 25 projects inaugurated today included 22 receiving stations costing Rs 50 crore, Smart Metering project costing Rs 62.88 crore & **More on P10**

Govt Strips SKIMS Of Autonomous Status

Dir Asked To Submit **All Matters Before H&ME For Approval**

Agencies

Srinagar: The autonomy of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science has ended as the Director of the Institute has been directed to submit all matters before Health and Medical Education for approval.

The official communiqué of Health and Medical Education reads that the administration of SKIMS has been assigned to the Health and Medical Education Department.

"Accordingly, I am directed to intimate you that henceforth all matters/proposals/ case files may be submitted for consideration/approval of the Competent Authority through Health Education Medical Department." it reads.

The case files/references/ proposals received from the SKIMS and presently lying in General Administration Department are accordingly returned herewith in the 1" phase for further action as per the existing TBRs," it adds further.

Notably, SKIMS is the only medical university of the union territory of J&K, headed by a Director, who is also the Ex-officio Secretary to the

LG Assures Justice As Slain KP Guard Cremated



Scores of people from different walks of life held a candlelight vigil in Pulwama on Monday against the killing of Kashmiri Pandit bank guard Sanjay Sharma by militants.

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A day after he was shot dead by terrorists, Kashmiri Pandit bank guard Sanjay Sharma was cremated in his native village

in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday, with his Muslim neighbours lending a helping hand to his grief-stricken family.

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha More on P10

ADGP Calls For Enhanced Counter-Terror Ops

day after militants shot dead a Kashmiri Pandit evoking sharp condemnation, the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar on Monday visited Pulwama and directed his men to enhance counter-terror operations in the South Kashmir district. Kumar passed these directions while More on P10

THIS IS NOT THE MURDER OF ONE individual, this is the murder of humanity. The people of this area are as bereaved as the family of the victim."

DGP Orders Digitization Of Records Of Anti-Nationals

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh on Monday called for timely digitization of all records pertaining to all terrorists, over-ground workers (OGWs), anti-national elements, besides compilation of data regarding their properties and friends across the Union Territory.

He made these remarks while chairing a meeting of all DySsP police components at Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir, a police spokesperson said.

Addressing the meeting, he said, the DGP asserted that JKP over the years has been doing commendable job on the antiterror front because of which the force has become a brand across the country which is further validated by the awards IKP has received over the years. Singh, he said, maintained

that in view of new and upcoming challenges, police needs to further enhance the effectiveness of these units for which he directed the component heads to submit their suggestions and identify the areas which they

feel could be further improved. "IKP has been firmly tackling every situation and subversive acts with fortitude and emphasized on the need to continue working with similar dedication and commitment for providing a terror free eco-system in J&K," Singh said

The DGP, according to the spokesperson, stressed upon the officers to increase focus on human intelligence besides the technical inputs and enjoined upon all the Units to intensify anti-terror operations to flush out the remaining terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir besides exhorted upon to take stringent action against any More on P10

4 Houses Attached In Srinagar For 'Sheltering Militants'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The State Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday attached four residential houses in Srinagar for providing willfully shelter to militants.

While three houses were attached in Barthana Qamarwari, another was attached in Sangam locality of Eidgah here for providing shelter to militants, a police spokesperson said Monday The action, he said, came after orders were issued in exercise of power conferred U/S 25 read with 2 (g)(ii) UA(P) Act.

The residential houses in Srinagar belong to Shaheena/ Asif Nath, Altaf Ahmed Dar and Mudasir Ahmed Mir. The house attached at Sangam-Edigah belongs to Abdul Rehman Bhat.

"The SIU team directed the concerned that there should be no alteration or otherwise to



the attached properties without the prior permission of the des-

ignated authority," they added. The action has been taken after the investigation into a militancyrelated case revealed that a module of ultras was found involved

in hiding and providing logistical

support to active terrorists of TRF/ LeT outfit, which resulted in the arrest of the involved persons.

"During the investigation, it was also found that the terrorists had been sheltered in the said residential houses," the officials said.

KP Employees Raise Relocation Pitch After Latest Killing

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Scores of protesting Kashmiri Pandit prime minister's package employees on Monday reiterated their demand for relocation outside the valley, saying their worst latest killing of a community member in Pulwama.

The protesters assembled outside the relief commissioner's office in Jammu and staged a protest against the killing of Sanjay Sharma (40), a bank ATM guard who was shot dead by militants in the Achan area of the south

Kashmir district on Sunday. "We were apprehensive about something like this, being fully aware of the ground

realities. The latest killing has dealt a severe blow to our confidence and further increased our concern over our community members' safety in the valley," Yogesh Pandita, one of the protesters, told reporters.

Reiterating their demand for relocation outside the valley he said the government's claim about a secure atmosphere for their return to join their duties stands exposed.

"The administration choked us financially by stopping our salaries to force us to rejoin our duties. We are afraid of working there given the continued targeted killings," Pandita said.

Hundreds of prime minister package employees belonging to the More on P10

Man Booked For Filing False Complaint Of Robbery

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A man was booked here for allegedly misleading police by lodging a false complaint claiming that he was robbed of his money, police said on Monday.

The man was identified as Farooq Ahmad Dar, a resident of Bandipora.

According to police, he was involved in the business of buying and selling liquor.

Dar had purchased 13 bottles of liquor from a wine shop in the Sonawar area. After three men stopped him at Hari Singh High Street, he left his bag carrying bottles and mobile phone on the spot and fled from the spot. All this was captured in the nearby CCTV cameras, a po-

lice spokesperson said. He was hiding in a nearby building and left while covering his face after some time.

By then the three unidentified men had taken away his bag and mobile phone, they said, adding that no cash was taken away from the complainant.

"The complainant was doing the business of purchasing and selling the liquor. The investigation used various technical evidences like CCTV footages, CD-R/ Tower Locations etc," he said.

While the three accused were arrested, the More on P10

Another 'Son-Rise' In J&K, **Azad's Son Enters Politics**



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad's son Saddam Nabi Azad has joined active politics, party

spokesperson said on Sunday. Saddam (41) was seen at the party's youth convention at Nigeen Club Sunday in the presence of his father and senior party leaders.

While he shared the stage with the party leaders, he did not address the convention. It was his first public appearance in the Kashmir valley.

Saddam, a businessman, is the eldest among the two siblings. He has studied in England. Sofiya Nabi Azad, his sister, has studied journalism.

play an active role in politics and focus on Jammu and Kashmir. "He will be in active politics now," DPAP chief spokesper-

Party leaders said Saddam will

son Salman Nizami told PTI. Asked if Saddam would get any responsibility in the party affairs, Nizami said the party will take a decision on the matter in due course of time.

Addressing the rally, Azad said he asked his More on P10

ATTENDED A YOUTH INTERACTION PROGRAMME AT SRINAGAR. Listening to our youth and creating diverse job opportunities for them will be my priority if voted to power. I am glad to see my son Saddam Azad actively joining politics. I hope he lives upto people's expectations!"

MeT Predicts Scattered Rain. Snow In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: The weather department on Monday predicted scattered light rain and snow in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

"From March 1-2nd, light rain is expected in plains and light to moderate snow and rain over higher reaches at many places," a meteorological department official said, adding, "Dry weather is expected during 3rd to 7th March."

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 4.2°C against 7.3°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.7°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 1.5°C against 5.2°C on the previous night while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.9°C against 3.2°C. Kokernag recorded a low

of 2.4°C against 4.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.3°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.5°C against minus 1.6°C on the previous night and it was 3.3°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury More on P10

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER **JAL SHAKTI KASHMIR PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT RAJBAGH SRINAGAR**



PUBLIC NOTICE

Jal Shakti Kashmir Public Health Engineering Department Srinagar is in the service of providing water supply to the consumers spread across length and breadth of the valley. In this context, the general public especially our esteemed consumers are expected to shoulder certain moral, social, religious & legal obligations and are sincerely requested to strictly adhere to the following guidelines.

- Water resources like Rivers, Springs, Canals, Wells and Streams must be saved from all sorts of pollution because they serve as the natural reservoirs of drinking
- 2. The drinking water supply must be used judiciously and not used for construction purposes, washing and cleaning of vehicles and pathways, watering of gardens.
- 3. No water boosters should be installed on water supply service lines as they create vacuum which stops normal flow of water supply in the pipelines. If required potable water supply can be stored in on-ground or underground sumps I tanks and later lifted to overhead storage tanks.
- 4. All dues on account of water usage charges be paid in time.

All the consumers (domestic or commercial, semi-Govt. or Govt., institutions / industries) are requested to clear all the outstanding dues including current years' water usage charges by or before 15th March 2023 to avoid disconnection of their water connections.

CHIEF ENGINEER

DIPK-17936/22 Dated: 27/02/2023

Deep Earthquakes Could Be Employed To Study Earth's Mantle: Study

Press Trust Of India

new study demonstrated a new method, involving deep earthquakes, to measure the fluidity of the Earth's mantle.

The study, by a scientist from University of Chicago, US, suggested there may be a layer of surprisingly fluid rock ringing the Earth, at the very bottom of the upper mantle.

The finding was made by measuring the lingering movement registered by GPS sensors on islands in the wake of a deep earthquake in the Pacific Ocean near Fiji, the study published in the journal Na-

"Even though the mantle makes up the largest part of Earth, there's still a lot we don't know about it," said Sunyoung Park, a geophysicist with the University of Chicago and the lead author on the study.

"We think there's a lot more we can learn by using these deep earthquakes as a way to probe these questions," said Park.

We still know surprisingly little about the Earth beneath our feet.

The furthest anyone has managed to dig down is about seven and a half miles before the increasing

heat literally melts the drill. Thus, scientists have had to use clues like how seismic waves move to infer the different layers that make up the planet, including the crust,

notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Admission Test (CUKAT 2022-23) as detailed below:

Eligibility

ADMISSION PROCEDURE: 1. Application fees:

Unreserved

Online Submission of

Downloading of Admit

No.CUKmr/Acad/CUKAT-914/23

available, to redeem the secured assets

Date of Examination

Application Form

Dated: 24.02.2023

Reserved categories

(SC, ST, OBC, PWD)

Shana Bano D/W/O Gh Ahmad Sheikh

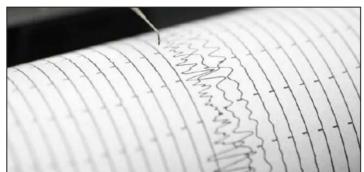
Dob 16-01-1992

Programme

(2-Year)

R/O Goom Ahmad Pora

Tehsil Pattan Distt Baramulla



mantle, and core, the study said. One thing that has stymied scientists is a precise measurement of

how viscous the mantle layer is. The mantle is the layer below the crust. It is made of rock, but at the intense temperature and pressures at that depth, the rock actually becomes viscous - flowing very

"We want to know exactly how fast the mantle flows, because that influences the evolution of the entire Earth - it affects how much heat the planet retains for how long, and how the Earth's materials are

"But our current understanding

Park thought there might be a unique way to get a measurement of the mantle's properties by studying the aftermath of very deep

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate from the office of the Block Development Officer

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

B.Ed. from a recognised University / Institute with at least 50%

marks or its equivalent on Grading Scale of respective Universities

Green Campus, Ganderbal 191201 www.cukashmir.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2-YEAR M.ED. PROGRAMME

Central University of Kashmir invites online Applications from the eligible candidates

for admission to 2-year M.Ed. programme through Central University of Kashmir

/Institutes (45% for OBC/ SC /ST/PWD candidates).

through the link available on the University website.

2. Application Forms, online payment of application fees, Question paper

20th March 2023

24th March 2023

pattern shall be available on the University Website: www.cukashmir.ac.in

26 February to 13th March 2023

Sd/- Registrar

from **26-02-2023**. **3.** Application shall be accepted in online mode only

Sharabad Khore. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection

in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this

earthquakes.

Most of the earthquakes we hear about on the news are relatively shallow, originating in the top crust of the Earth.

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

But occasionally, there are earthquakes that originate deep within the Earth - down to 450 miles, or 725 kilometres (kms), below the surface.

These earthquakes are not as well-studied as shallower ones, because they're not as destructive to human settlements.

But because they reach down into the mantle, Park thought they might offer a way to understand the behavior of the mantle.

Park and her colleagues looked at one particular such earthquake. which occurred off the coast of Fiji in 2018. The quake was magnitude 8.2, but it was so deep - 350 miles, or 564 kms, down - that it did not

cause any major damage or deaths. However, when the scientists carefully analyzed the data from GPS sensors on several nearby islands, they found the Earth kept moving after the earthquake was over, the study said.

The data revealed that in the months following the quake, the Earth was still moving, settling in the wake of the disturbance. Even years later, Tonga is still moving slowly down at a rate of about 1 centimeter per year, the study said.

"You can think of it like a jar of honey that slowly comes back to level after you dip a spoon in it, except this takes years instead of minutes," said Park.

This is the first solid observation of the deformation following deep quakes; the phenomenon had been observed before for shallow earthquakes, but experts thought the effect would be too small to be observable for deep earthquakes.

Park and her colleagues used this observation to infer the viscosity of the mantle, the study said.

By examining how the Earth deformed over time, they found evidence of a layer about 50-miles (about 80 kms) thick that is less viscous, or "runnier", than the rest of the mantle, sitting at the bottom of the upper mantle layer.

They think this layer may extend around the entire globe, the researchers said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS E-NIT No. 247 of R&B /12067-76/2022-23 Dated: - 25/02/2023 SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

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

SN			Cost of T/ Doc. (In	Earnest Money		M.H OF Account	Class Of Contac-	AA NO & DT	TS NO & DT
			Rupees}	(In Rupees)		Account	tor		
1	Construction of Crash barrier, Parapets and extension to Culvert on Various locations of Srinagar Charisharief Road Km 8th to 18th.	15.00	600.00	45000.00		Under Rel- evant Head of account	B/C/D	482 OF 2022-23 DT. 21/02/2023	Sanctioned
2	Construction/Improvement/ Upgradation of Srinagar Charisharief Road Km 19th to Km 30th by way of construc- tion of Retaining Wall ,Crash Barrier at different Spots.	19.97	800.00	39940.00	15	do	B/C	484 OF 2022-23 DT. 21/02/2023	Sanctioned
3	Construction/Improvement/ Upgradation of Charisharief Yousmarg Road by way of construction of Retain- ing Wall, Crate Wall, Crash Barrier Sign boards and retro-reflective Tape on Poles at different Spots.		800.00	49360.00	15	do	B/C	486 OF 2022-23 DT. 21/02/2023	Sanctioned
4			1100.00	59940.00	15	do	A/B	485 OF 2022-23 DT. 21/02/2023	Sanctioned
5	Construction / improvement/ Upgradation of Nagam Haproo Takiya Road by way of Construction of Retaining Wall.	9.77	600.00	19540.00	15	do	C/D	483 OF 2022-23 DT. 21/02/2023	Sanctioned
6			200.00	9860.00	15	4059 S/S	DEE	471 OF 2022-23 DT 16/02/2023	Sanctioned

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

Project Authority: PWD (R&B) DEPARTMENT

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

ı	1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25/02/2023
l	2	Period of downloading of bidding docu-	25/02/2023
I		ments	
ı	3	Bid submission Start Date	25/02/2023
ı	4	Bid Submission End Date	03/03/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
l	5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	03/03/2023 at 4.10 PM in the office of Executive
I			Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora.
	_		

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority). Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of

start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

Note:- The Bidders shall mention the name of the advertised work/reference to NIT & S. No. on the EMD / Bid security (CDR/FDR/BG) while submitting the bidding documents, in order to avoid using the same multiple times for multiple works

The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening

The earnest money/performance Security shall be forfeited lf:-Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the speci-Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of

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

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No 12067-76

DIPK-17949/22 Dated: 27/02/2023

Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

slowly like honey or tar.

cycled over time," explained Park.

is very limited and includes a lot of assumptions," said Park.

In the Court of Additional Munsiff / Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Srinagar

Present: Shafeeq Ahmad Malik Zahoor Ahmad Kana V/S Javaid Ahmad Najar Notice Through Publication to

1. Javaid Ahmad Najar S/O Lt Ghulam Qadir Najar R/O Dalal Mohalla Pather Masjid Srinagar 2. Prof.Dr.Rajinder Ambardar S/O Lat Sh. Mohan Lal Ambardar

R/O 5-R Ashram Lane, Trilokpur Road Gole Gujral Jammu Current Address; Flat No 1612 Mahagun Morpheas, Plot E4, Blk E See 50 Noida 201303 3. Krishan Kumar Ambardar S/O Lat Dr. Som Nath Ambardar

R/O 5 Vigyar Vihar Delhi A/P H. No 439 Ist Floor Jadojan Road

Whereas, above titled suit has been filed against you in this court and you have been conveyed as defendant no: 01,02 & 3 The next date of hearing is fixed on 27-03-2023 Whereas., Summons were issued for your appearance in this court ,but you avoided to acknowledge the summon, as a result the summon got returned as untraced. This way you did not appear before the Court to answer the suit and it appears that your attendance may not be procured through the issuance of ordinary summons. You are as such summoned through this Publication and directed to appear before this Court personally or through counsel on 27-03-2023 failing to which appropriate orders will be penned against you. In case the date fixed in declared as holiday the matter shall be taken up on next following day. Given under my Hand and Seal of this court.

Ist Additional **Munsiff Srinagar**

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

SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Regular 2017 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars Name: Ishrat Jan

Parentage: Shams-ud-din Shah Roll No; 2642247

Year/Session: 2017- Annual Regular

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

Board Of School Education Sub Office Bandipora

PUBLIC NOTICE

l lost my first year marks card a few weeks ago in Srinagar. Now I intend to apply for a duplicate one, if anyone has any objections regarding the same, he/she may approach Government Medical College, Srinagar (GMC) within a period of 07 days of the publication of this notification after that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:Shafaq Shahid Shahkali Batch 2016 Roll number 16210140037



UCO BANK **Honours Your Trust** Branch Office: Budshah Chowk Srinagar Main J&K-190001

Email:srinag@ucobank.co.in Ph No. 0194-2473070

APPENDIX IV [REFER RULE 8(1)] **POSSESSION NOTICE** (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the UCO Bank (name of the Institution) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with (Rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 Issued demand notice dated 01.09.2022 calling upon the borrowor M/S G.M Brothers(Prop. Shrl. Firdous Ahmad Kath S/o Mohammad Akber Kath), R/O Hajl Mohalla Salda Kadal Srinagar J&k to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 78,61,507.50/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakh Sixty one Thousand Five Hundred Seven And fifty palsa only) (plus interest thereon from 30-06-2011) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 on this the 27th day of February 2023.

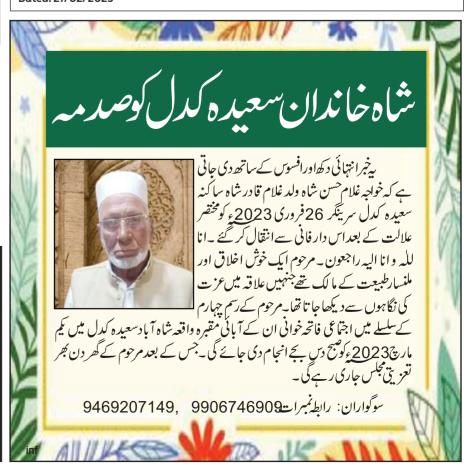
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank (name of the Institution) for an amount of (Rs. 78,61,507.50 /-) and interest there on from 30-06-2011. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time

Description of the Immovable Property All that part and parcel of the property consisting of 1. Land Measuring 2 kanals, 10 marla under khasra no. 339, khewat no. 330, khata no. 1766 at mouza nandpora Srinagar,

Land Measuring 10 kanals and 1 marla falling under khasra no. 229,354/267 and 230 situated at khan Sahib Shalanar, Distt. Budgam,

Plot of Land measuring 10880 sq ft falling under khasra no. 468/302, khewat no. 17 and khata no. 1140 situated at reshipora near Mir Gund Crossing Budgam mortgaged to Bank by registered mortgage duly registered by sub registrar, Srinagar on 16-11-2010 for loan /financial assistance in the name of borrower M/S G.M Brothers (prop. Firdous Ahmad kath S/o Mohammad Akber kath) Dated: 27-02-2023 Place: Srinagar

> **Authorized Officer** (UCO Bank)



Sgr Set To Be At Its Charming Best By Mid-April: CS

Fixes timeline for different developmental works under progress

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta had a whirlwind tour of Srinagar City. He took on-spot assessment of different developmental works taken up under Smart City and by other executing agencies around the city and also fixed the timeline for completion of each.

Dr Mehta observed that the city is going to change for the better by mid-April this year.

"The city is going to change its outlook altogether with the completion of these projects at different stages of execution presently. All these works would give a massive facelift to the city thereby enhancing its appeal for all the residents and tourists" he said.

The Chief Secretary visited different project sites under the Smart City Mission. He took stock

Ward

57

Gilli Kadal

of the progress of work on each of them and passed on several directions for their early completion. He stressed on timely completion of all these works in the wake of the upcoming tourist season.

While taking on-spot assessment of the Jhelum River front development the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to complete the work by 15th of April. He asked them to develop the footpath including its finishing, cycle track, green spaces, land-scaping and undergrounding of electrical cables etc forthwith. The project is to be completed at a cost of Rs 32.50 Cr.

At Polo View, the Chief Secretary emphasized on making the entire area aesthetically appealing by adopting an integrated approach. He asked for facade improvement of adjoining buildings and to carry out other beautifica-

tion works simultaneously. The work also includes laying of PQC along polo view tube, macadamisation of new Polo View Road, Construction of office cum toilet block, fencing by iron grill panels, rationalization of utilities, laying of quality tiles and stones and creating seating arrangement around chinar trees besides landscaping of the area. The work of surfacing etc along with other drainage works are being completed at a cost of Rs 5.13 Cr.

On a visit to Dal Lake, Dr Mehta inspected the work of lake front development along Northern Foreshore Road of the Lake from Nishat to Naseem Bagh including pedestrian walkway. The development also has components of cycle track construction & viewing decks. He urged the authorities to ensure its completion by 15th of April this year. He

Nowshohra

also instructed for completing the lighting of Western ForeShore Road by 15th of March itself.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the need for connecting all the houseboats with the STPs. He directed for utilizing the 36 MLD capacity of Sewage Treatment optimally and connecting all the 900 houseboats in the lake with the Sewage lines. He asked them to divert the residual to oxidation ponds out of the 48 MLD produced daily.

He also urged all the departments to carry out improvement, distempering, painting, focus lighting etc. of their buildings and sprucing up of green areas within their jurisdiction by the scheduled time. He further directed for making functional all the billboards in and around the city with banners relating to 38 new tourist & trekking destinations, heritage sites, Sufi shrines by the end of March.

2204

712

Kashmiri Pilgrim Dies In Karbala

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A Kashmiri pilgrim Syed Muhammad Shafi Rizvi, a resident of Bota Kadal locality of Srinagar died of cardiac arrest in the holy city of Karbala, family sources said here.

Rizvi along with his wife and other relatives had left for Umrah and Ziyarat pilgrimage on January 30 this year. His family informed that he died of cardiac arrest after performing Umrah.

"He died of cardiac arrest as being comorbid, having some medical conditions" Abbas Rizvi, his nephew, told Kashmir Observer.

The religious pilgrimage was scheduled for a period of 45 days across four major Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and Syria.

Abbas said Rizvi after performing Umrah pilgrimage, visited various Shrines in Iraq and eventually left the mortal world that too in the holy land of Karbala.

"It is a moment of grief for all of us but a moment of pride for the deceased who died in Karbala, where the mausoleum of the king of martyrs is also



present. Every Muslims wishes to die in that holy land." Abbas said.

Amid sobs, Shafi was laid to rest in the holy city of Karbala in a graveyard, three kilometers away from the Shrine of Imam Hussain (A.S).

The other members accompanying the deceased left for Iran on Tuesday, two days after Rizvi's body was laid to rest in the Muslim holy city.

Meanwhile, various socio-political organizations have condoled his demise and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Indicative Calculations of Property Tax for Commercial Properties falling in Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Annual Property Tax Area 100 Sqft Shop Shop Shop Shop Harwan 303 910 3033 Nishat 245 736 2452

1	Harwan	303	910	3033
2	Nishat	245	736	2452
3	Brane	270	809	2697
4	Dalgate	452	1356	4520
5	Pantha Chowk	151	452	1507
6	Lai Chowk	642	1925	6415
7	Raj bagh	467	1400	4666
8 9	Ikhrajpora Mehjoor Nagar	467 146	1400 437	4666 1458
9 10	Natipora	187	561	1871
11	Channapora	187	561	1871
12	Budshah Mohalla	187	561	1871
13	Baghat	228	685	2284
14	Rawalpora	238	714	2381
15	Hyderpora	238	714	2381
16	Humhama	228	685	2284
17 18	Hamdaniya Colony Solina	226 389	677 1166	2255 3888
10 19	Allochi Bagh	265	795	2649
20	Sheikh Dawood	287	860	2867
20	Colony		000	2867
21	Ziyarat Batamaloo	213	639	2129
22	Shaheed Gunj	420	1261	4204
23	Karan Nagar	843	2530	8432
24	Chattabal	185	554	1847
25	Qammarwari	226	677	2255
26	Bernina East	238	714	2379
27	Bernina West	238	714	2379
28	Nundreshi Colony	238	714	2379
29	Parimpora	200	601	2005
30	Zainakote	200	601	2005
31	Lawaypora	163	488	1628
32	Mujgund	175	526	1754
33	Tankipora	420	1261	4204
34	Syed AN Akbar	233	700	2333
35		185	554	1847
	Basant Bagh			
36	Fateh Kadal	211	634	2114
37	Munawar Abad	230	690	2299
38	Khankah-e Moula A	148	445	1482
39	Maharaj Gunj A	205	614	2046
40	Jamia Masjid A	205	614	2046
41	Makhdoom Sahib	205	614	2046
42	Khawaja Baza	141	424	1414
43	Aqilmir Khanyar	205	614	2046
44	Rozabal	205	614	2046
45	Daulatabad	179	538	1793
46	Islamyarbal	158	474	1580
4 0	Nawa bazar	287	860	2867
47 48	Nawa Kadal	211	634	2114
49 50	Safa Kadal	80 106	241 317	1057
	Eidgah			
51	Rathpora	134	401	1337
52	Palpora	70	211	705
53	Tarabal	211	634	2114
54	Kawdara	205	614	2046
55	Hawal	141	424	1414
56	Alamgari Bazar	239	718	2394
	CHILLY 1 1			2224

239

718

2394

58	Nowsnenra	239	/18	2394
59	Lai Bazar	239	718	2394
60	Botshah	154	462	1541
61	Umer Colony	154	462	1541
62	Jogi Lanker	179	536	1786
63	Kathi Darwaza	141	424	1414
64	Lakut Dal	85	255	851
65	Boud Dal	131	394	1312
66	Hazratbal	215	644	2148
67	Tailbal	212	636	2121
68	Habbak	215	644	2148
69	Soura	239	718	2394
70	Buchpora	238	714	2381
71	Ahmad Nagar	238	714	2381
72	Zakura	186	558	1859
73	Chatterhama	83	248	826
74	Bagh-e-Mehtab Shankerpora	171	514	1713

230

*The Calculations have been made considering a New Pucca (Not RCC) Property (Age less than 20 Years) and Annual Property Tax will further decrease with Age of Property. In Srinagar, Circle rates vary within the wards as well. In these indicative calculations, the circle rates of the prominent area in the ward has been taken for demonstration purpose. For calculation of property tax for your Shop Visit: https://propertytax.imciammu.org/shop.aspx

Sd/-Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Srinagar

Indicative Calculations of Property Tax for Residential Properties falling in Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Annual Property Tax

Ward No	Area	House with 1000 Sqft Builtup Area	House with 1500SqFt Builtup Area	House with 2500SqFt Builtup Area	House with 3500SqFt Builtup Area
1	Harwan	0	782	1999	3163
2	Nishat	0	694	1773	2806
3	Brane	0	997	2547	4031
4	Dalgate	0	902	2304	3647
5	Pantha Chowk	0	389	995	1574
6	Lai Chowk	0	1101	2814	4453
7	Raj bagh	0	807	2062	3263
8	Ikhrajpora	0	1006	2571	4069
9	Mehjoor Nagar	0	418	1067	1689
10	Natipora	0	570	1455	2303
11	Channapora	0	570	1455	2303
12	Budshah Mohalla	0	570	1455	2303
13	Baghat	0	664	1698	2687
14	Rawalpora	0	774	1977	3129
15	Hyderpora	0	721	1844	2918
16	Humhama	0	664	1698	2687
17	Hamdaniya Colony	0	631	1613	2553
18	Solina	0	1006	2571	4069
19	Allochi Bagh	0	788	2013	3186
20	Sheikh Dawood Colony	0	702	1795	2841
21	Ziyarat Batamaloo	0	484	1237	1958
22	Shaheed Gunj	0	759	1941	3071
23	Karan Nagar	0	1856	4742	7505

24	Chattabal	0	560	1431	2265
25	Qammarwari	0	679	1734	2745
26	Bernina East	0	679	1734	2745
27	Bernina West	0	679	1734	2745
28	Nundreshi Colony	0	584	1492	2361
29	Parimpora	0	631	1613	2553
30	Zainakote	0	631	1613	2553
31	Lawaypora	0	389	995	1574
32	Mujgund	0	437	1116	1766
33	Tankipora	0	759	1941	3071
34	Syed Ali Akbar	0	721	1844	2918
35	Basant Bagh	0	608	1553	2457
36	Fateh Kadal	0	655	1674	2649
37	Munawar Abad	0	596	1523	2411
38	Khankah-e Moula A	0	513	1310	2073
39	Maharaj Gunj A	0	498	1274	2016
40	Jamia Masjid A	0	498	1274	2016
41	Makhdoom Sahib	0	498	1274	2016
42	Khawaja Baza	0	401	1024	1620
43	Aqilmir Khanyar	0	498	1274	2016
44	Rozabal	0	498	1274	2016
45	Daulatabad	0	401	1024	1620
46	Islamyarbal	0	503	1286	2035
47	Nawabazar	0	902	2304	3647
48	Nawa Kadal	0	517	1322	2092
49	Safa Kadal	0	261	667	1056
50	Eidgah	0	313	801	1267
51	Rathpora	0	361	922	1459
52	Palpora	0	214	546	864
53	Tarabal	0	517	1322	2092
54	Kawdara	0	498	1274	2016
55 55	Hawal	0	490	1024	1620
			617		
56	Alamgari Bazar	0		1577	2495
57	Gilli Kadal	0	617	1577	2495
58	Nowshehra	0	617	1577	2495
59	Lai Bazar	0	617	1577	2495
60	Botshah	0	449	1147	1816
61	Umer Colony	0	449	1147	1816
62	Jogi Lanker	0	498	1274	2016
63	Kathi Darwaza	0	401	1024	1620
64	Lakut Dal	0	223	570	902
65	Boud Dal	0	223	570	902
66	Hazratbal	0	508	1298	2054
67	Tailbal	0	702	1795	2841
68	Habbak	0	664	1698	2687
69	Soura	0	617	1577	2495
70	Buchpora	0	664	1698	2687
71	Ahmad Nagar	0	664	1698	2687
72	Zakura	0	560	1431	2265
73	Chatterhama	0	252	643	1017
73 74	Bagh-e-Mehtab	0	589	1504	2380
, ¬	Shankerpora	0	309	1004	2000

*The Calculations have been made considering a New Pucca (Not RCC) Property (Age less than 20 Years) and Annual Property Tax will further decrease with Age of Property. In Srinagar, Circle rates vary within the wards as well. In these indicative calculations, the circle rates of the prominent area in the ward has been taken for demonstration purpose. For calculation of property tax for your Shop Visit: https://propertytax.imciammu.org/shop.aspx

Sd/-Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Srinagar

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Must Reach Out To Most Deprived, Pasmanda Muslims, Says PM Modi



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday emphasised the importance of good governance for reaching the last mile, saying such an approach will have no scope for discrimination and corruption.

PM Modi also underscored backwardness among Pasmanda Muslims as he highlighted his government's efforts to reach out to the most deprived sections of society with its various welfare schemes.

In a post-budget webinar on "reaching the last mile", the prime minister said his government is launching a special mission for the most deprived among the tribals.

"We have to quickly provide various facilities to our tribes people in over 200 districts and over 22,000 villages of the country. Similarly among our minorities, especially among Muslims we have Pasmanda Muslims. How we have to take benefits to them... as they even today after so many years of Independence remain far behind," he said.

PM Modi said the policy of saturation, a reference to maximum coverage of various schemes, and the approach of reaching the last mile complement each other.

The prime minister said along with money, political will is needed for development and asserted that the development of tribal communities has been a priority for his government.

Emphasising the importance of good governance and constant monitoring for the desired goals, he said, "The more emphasis

we put on good governance, the more easily our goal of reaching the last mile will be accomplished." For the first time, he asserted, the country is tapping the huge potential of its tribals at this scale, adding that the latest Union Budget has paid special attention to taking the mantra of reaching the last mile to tribal and rural areas.

This post-budget brainstorming is important from the point of view of implementation and timebound delivery. This also ensures proper utilisation of every penny of taxpayers money, he said.

"whole-of-the-nation" approach is needed to rapidly provide facilities as a special mission for the most deprived among the tribal community, he said.

In the context, the prime minister said the aspirational district programme has emerged as a successful model in terms of reaching the last mile.

Monday's address was the fourth in a series of 12 post-budget webinars organised by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for the effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union Budget 2023.

PM Modi gave the example of new approaches in the immunisation and vaccine coverage in Mission Indradhanush and the Covid pandemic to illustrate the power of good governance in the last mile delivery. He said as opposed to the earlier practices when the poor ran after the government for basic facilities, now the government is reaching the

doorsteps of the poor.
"The day we decide that every basic facility will be provided to every citizen in every area, then we will see what a big change will come in the work culture at the local level. This is the spirit behind the policy of saturation. When our aim is to reach everyone, then there will be no scope for discrimination, nepotism and corruption," he said.

Supreme Court Rejects Request Over Postponement Of NEET-PG Medical Exam

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain pleas seeking postponement of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test which is scheduled for March 5.

A bench of Justices S R Bhat and Dipankar Datta was informed by Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the National Board of Examinations (NBE), that admit cards for the exam have been issued on Monday as per schedule and the counselling may commence from July 15.

"There is no date available in the near future with our technology partner to conduct the exam," she told the bench, which refused

to entertain the two pleas. The petitioners have sought postponement of the examination, saying the counselling has to be conducted after August 11 since the cut-off date for internship has been extended to that date.

On February 24, the NBE had told the Supreme Court that around 2.09 lakh candidates have registered for the NEET-PG exam 2023 and no alternative date for conducting the exam may be available in the near future if it is postponed.

NEET-PG examination will be conducted as per schedule on March 5 for those aspiring to get admission to postgraduate medical courses, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had told Lok Sabha on February 10.

To ensure that no one is left out, the ministry has extended the cut-off date for all those MBBS students who are yet to complete their internship, he had said while replying to a question by a Congress member.

The ministry had extended the cut-off date from June 30 to August 11 for the NEET-PG aspirants to complete their mandatory one-year internship.

Top Arab parliamentarians in Syria for first visit since 2011



The president of the Iraqi **I** parliament, Muhammad al-Halbousi, led a delegation of the Union of Arab Parliaments to Syria along with a number of other Arab parliamentary leaders to express support for the Syrian people, RT reported on 26 February.

This marks the first visit since 2011, when Syria was suspended from the Arab League in Cairo under allegations of human rights abuses during 'crackdowns on protests.'

The parliamentary leaders, who were participating in the thirty fourth Union of Arab Parliaments conference in Baghdad, began arriving at the Damascus airport on Sunday. Iraqi MP Halbousi announced the formation of the delegation yesterday at the conference.

During his speech at the conference, Halbousi called for all Arab countries to adopt a lasting decision to return Syria to the Arab fold, to play their Arab and regional and international role effectively, to work seriously for Syria's stability and the rehabilitation of its infrastructure, and for the return of the Syrian refugees to their homeland.

Halbousi said in a statement that "Syria has in recent days experienced difficult circum-

stances due to the destructive earthquake that caused massive damage and loss of life and wealth. And this obligates us all to continue to provide support and assistance to mitigate the repercussions of the crisis and its difficult effects."

Muhammad al-Halbousi is a Sunni politician from the town of Garma in Anbar province, where he also served a term as governor in 2017.

Halbousi's efforts to end Syria's international isolation continues Baghad's strong support for Damascus in recent years, including during the Syrian government's effort to defeat the foreign-backed Salafist insurgency, which included various Al-Qaeda affiliated groups, between 2011 and 2018.

This support resulted in strong criticism of the Iraqi government by regional and international powers.

In September 2012, prominent Saudi journalist and general manager of state-owned Al-Arabiya, Abdulrahman al-Rashed, complained of then Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's "umbilical attachment to Syria," explaining that, "There is no mystery behind" the Syrian government's survival, because Iraq, led by Maliki's pro-Iran Dawa party, was supplying the Syrian government with financial support,

fuel, and safe land crossings, as well as an air corridor for Iranian planes to bring in the supplies to support the Syrian army.

The Financial Times later reported that then Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal had acknowledged to US Secretary of State John Kerry after the fall of Mosul in 2014 that Saudi Arabia had been supporting ISIS to counter Washington's support for Maliki's Dawa party.

By 2014, officials in President Barack Obama's White House had also turned against Maliki and Dawa, however, in part due to their support for the Syrian government.

A Rand Corporation study noted that the US-Iraqi relationship had become strained "because of the willingness of the Maliki government to facilitate Iranian support to the Assad regime despite significant American opposition."

With ISIS threatening to take Baghdad after Mosul fell, the Obama administration refused to provide military help to the Iraqi government to stave off the extremist group's advances. Obama's foreign policy advisor Philip Gordon explained that "The president was clear he didn't want to launch that campaign until there was something to defend, and that wasn't Maliki."

Voting In Meghalaya, Nagaland Peaceful, No Demands For Re-Poll: Poll Body

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Voting for the Meghalaya and Nagaland Assembly polls went off peacefully today, the Election Commission (EC) said, adding that there was no demand for a re-poll from the two northeastern states.

While both states have 60 Assembly seats, polling was held on 59 seats each, the EC pointed out.

Polling for the Sohiong seat in Meghalaya was adjourned due to the death of one of the candidates. Since the Akuluto seat in Nagaland remained uncontested with only one candidate, no election was required there.

"Polling across 3,419 polling stations in Meghalaya and

Erode (East) Assembly seat in Tamil Nadu and the Sagardighi seat in West Bengal, where bypolls had to be scheduled to fill up the vacancies due to the death of the incumbent MLAs, as also in the Ramgarh Assembly seat in Jharkhand due to the disqualification of the incumbent legislator.

Voting in the Kasba Peth and Chinchwad Assembly seats in Maharashtra was held on Sunday. No voting was required in the Lumla Assembly seat in Arunachal Pradesh with the seat declared uncontested.

The EC said there was meticulous planning on its part for the hilly regions of Meghalaya, involving travelling through a mountainous terrain, crossing



peacefully today.... Advance planning and extensive monitoring by the commission led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar...ensured smooth conduct of elections in the two states with no re-poll reported in any of the 5,710 polling stations," the EC said.

In 2018, 11 re-polls were held in Nagaland and one was held in Meghalaya. Polling was also held in the

There were 74 non-motorable polling stations with two riverine polling stations -- one at Kamsing in the Amlarem civil sub-division and the other at Kalatek under the Sohra civil sub-division.

rivers and inaccessible areas.

There were a number of polling stations in the Garo Hills region where the polling parties had to travel across makeshift bamboo bridges and doubledecker root bridges.

Pakistanis Among 59 Killed In Italy Boat Tragedy

ROME: Fifty-nine people died, including some children, when a wooden sailing boat carrying migrants crashed against rocks on the southern Italian coast early on Sunday, authorities said.

The vessel had set sail from Turkiye several days ago with migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and several other countries, and crashed in stormy weather near Steccato di Cutro, a seaside resort on the eastern coast of Calabria.

"As of a few minutes ago, the number of confirmed victims was 59," Crotone mayor Vincenzo Voce said, while a provincial government official, Manuela Curra, said 81 people survived, with 22 of them taken to hospital.

Curra said the vessel left Izmir in eastern Turkiye, three or four days ago, adding that survivors had said some 140 to 150 were on board. The survivors were mostly from Afghanistan, as well as a few from Pakistan and a couple from Somalia, she said, adding that identifying the nationalities of the dead was harder. One survivor was arrested on migrant trafficking charges, the Guardia di Finanza customs police said.

His voice cracking up, Ceraso told the Sky TG24 news channel that he had seen "a spectacle that you would never want to see in your life ... a gruesome sight ... that stays with you for all your life"

Wreckage from the wooden gulet, a Turkish sailing boat, as strewn across a stretch of coast. Italian President Sergio Mat-

tarella said: "Many of these migrants came from Afghanistan and Iran, fleeing conditions of great hardship.'

Ignazio Mangione, an Italian Red Cross official, said a very few of the children believed to have been on the boat survived.



Damaged Buildings Collapse As Fresh 5.6 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Turkey

Agencies

ISTANBUL: A 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit eastern Turkey today, causing some buildings already damaged by a powerful tremor earlier this month to collanse, the government's disaster agency said.

The epicentre of the tremor was the Yesilyurt district in the Malatya province, which was hit by the February 6 earthquake that killed over 44,000 people in Turkey and thousands more in neighbouring Syria.

"After the 5.6 magnitude earthquake... it was found as a result of the field scanning studies that there were destroyed buildings," AFAD disaster agency tweeted.

"Our search and rescue teams were quickly dispatched to the region, and started to work," it added.

The local mayor, Mehmet Cinar, said he guided teams



urgently to check whether there was anyone trapped under rubble

'God willing, there's no loss of life," Cinar told Haber Turk television.

Turkish authorities have expanded a criminal probe into individuals responsible for buildings levelled by the deadly earthquake that left millions without homes.

recorded almost AFAD 10,000 aftershocks after the February 6 quake. Some 173,000 buildings are believed to have sustained damage according to local media reports.

Turkish media has vocally criticised developers for using shoddy materials and failing to comply with construction codes. President Recep Tayyip Er-

dogan has announced plans to rebuild 270,000 homes in the devastated provinces within one year.

NEWS MAKERS

Saudi FM pays surprise visit to Ukraine

Agencies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan to Kiev on 26 February, who stressed the kingdom's support to resolve the Ukraine-Russia war via political

"We in Saudi Arabia are convinced that any end of the war should be through discussions, on a negotiation



table in a framework of International law and through the Charter of the United Nations to respect the sovereignty of the countries, this is why we will keep working with different parts to search for a chance of getting to such a settlement," Saudi Arabia's top diplomat said.

Bin Farhan is the highest-ranking kingdom official ever to visit the European country.

During his surprise visit to Kiev, the Saudi foreign minister signed an agreement and a memorandum of understanding to provide Ukraine with \$410 million worth of "humanitarian assistance.

"The Kingdom is sparing no effort to alleviate the sufferings of the Ukrainians," the top Saudi diplomat said. "We are focused on mitigating the consequences of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. That is why the King and the Crown Prince have decided to send humanitarian aid to that country to a sum of \$410 million," he added.

This agreement is implementing a pledge made by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) in October 2022 to Zelensky. It calls for a \$100-million joint cooperation program with Kiev to provide humanitarian aid to the war-torn nation.

Maharashtra MLA Attends Budget Session With Her 4-Month-Old Son

Press Trust of India



MUMBAI: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLA Saroj Ahire caught people's attention on Monday when she arrived on the first day of the Maharashtra's legislature's Budget session in Mumbai carrying her four-monthold son.

Ms Ahire had also carried the baby with her during the winter session of the legislature held in December last year in Nagpur.

There is a Hirkani unit in the Vidhan Bhawan which can be used by women to feed their babies. The provision is for all working women," a Vidhan Bhawan official said. Ms Ahire, however, complained of dust in one of the Hirkani units in the Vidhan Bhawan.

"I expect officials to clean these rooms," she told reporters in the legislature complex.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Jaykumar Gore, who was injured in a car accident in December 2022, arrived to attend the budget session using a walker. In the past, the then state finance minister Jayant Patil had presented the budget while sitting in a wheelchair in the House.

From Maradona, Pele To Kashmir, Thailand: **Unique Names Of Meghalaya Voters**

Press Trust of India

UMIUH, MEGHALAYA: Maradona, Pele, and Romario will be voting on Monday to choose between Balajied of the United Democratic Party Grace Mary Kharpuri of the National People's Party and Arena Hynniewta of the BJP to represent them in the state assembly.

Kashmir, Tibet, Sweden and Thailand will also join hands and participate in this festival of democracy in Meghalaya. Well! If you wonder how former

football stars - Pele, Maradona, Romario besides singer Jim Reeves have voting rights in this hill state in India's North East, you are in for a surprise.

These are the names of voters of Umniuh-Tmar Elaka and whose candidates also include Playness, Arena, Wellborn and Grace contesting from Shella assembly constituency in East Khasi Hills district.

Assembly Rynga, 28, and Megha-

laya Khongtim, 45, will also be voting today as well as first time voters Border, Complan and Repentance. Sisters Promiseland and Holy-

land Dkhar and their neighbour Jerusalem Khiewtam will also actively participate in the adult franchise "Umniuh Tmar elaka has many

beautiful names. People like naming their babies after people or places they fancy," Elaka elected chief (Sirdar) Nanglamlad told PTI. He said about 50 per cent of the

villagers are fond of English words that rhyme well, even if some of them are unclear of exact meaning of the word.

The sleepy Elaka, which is close to the international border, has 749 male voters and 785 female voters and has a record number of peculiar names registered with the Election Commission.

Not long ago, another Sirdar of the Elaka was Premiere, possibly quite aptly.

Days of the week - Thursday, Sunday - also figure in the voter's list. As also names of Indian states like Tripura and Goa.

Dispur and Atlanta, both 26 and

their neighbour 76-year-old Ad-

dress are excited about the participation of 2 women candidates this year – Grace Mary and Arena. "We are happy to have 2 women candidates. I hope they serve better

than the men," one of the women said, requesting anonymity. A scroll on the electoral roll of

Umniuh Tmar elaka revealed more women voters with names such as Pacific and Continent.

City, Village, Agenda and Babyland too figure on the list! In the 2018 electoral roll, one of the names was that of a 30 year-old Class XIIpassed woman whose mother 'Sweater' named her 'I Have Been Delivered'! Three Diengdoh sisters - Request, Loveliness and Happiness were named by their mother 'Shuki', a Khasi word that means chair.

Village In Udhampur Gets Electricity For First Time In 75 Years

J&K Likely To Record Capacity Addition Of 3400 MW In Hydro Power Sector: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After a long gap of 75 years of independence, the residents of Saddal village in Udhampur have been able to get rid of darkness from their lives with electrification of their area under the prestigious Central Government's 'Untied Grants Scheme'.

The natives of this village are now hopeful for a better future for their children as earlier, the only source of light during the evening hours in the village was candles and oil lamps, which gradually became a part of their day-to-day life.

Similarly, Ganouri-Tanta village in the mountainous Doda district saw the light of an electric bulb for the first time, ending the decades of darkness from the lives of the

The administration took up electrification work in the village on the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, after a group of locals put forward the demand before him at the LG Mulaquat programme.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has set its target to harness the hydro power potential of the region in order to make J&K power surplus in next five years.

In order to achieve this target, the administration has taken up several path breaking reforms in the power sector which will change the dynamics of power sector here.

After 75 years of Independence, the Jammu and Kashmir government has launched unprecedented reforms to bolster and rejuvenate this ailing sector.

The UT is likely to see a capacity addition of 3400 MW in the Hydro Power sector within few years from now. Availability of electricity has been enhanced in both

Jammu and Kashmir divisions. Besides, Revised Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) is being implemented at a cost of Rs. 5641 crore to ensure availability of quality power to all citizens, he said.

Although power generation, distribution and transmission sectors

have seen substantial capacity addition, an official added.

In the past 70 years, only 3500 MW out of the potential of 20,000 MW had been harnessed in Jammu and Kashmir. Once the entire potential is exploited, J&K will have surplus power and can be an energy exporter. However in the past two years alone, the projects for about 3000 MW capac-

ity have been revived and subsequently put on track for operationalization.

Likewise, new projects of 3300 MW have been planned to be executed soon which included four projects of Kirthai II (930 MW), Sawlakote (1856 MW) ,Duhasti stage II (258 MW) and Uri-I stage II (240 MW).

Also, back in January 2021, in a historic moment for energy sufficiency in Jammu and Kashmir, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed for implementation of much awaited Mega Hydro Power projects including 850 MW Ratle HEP and 930 MW Kirthai-II HEP.

In the words of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, vision of the government was to harness the hydro energy resources of J&K with a goal to double the energy generation by 2024 and also to prepare a strategy for efficiency through policies, monitoring mechanisms to ensure energy security for economic and social benefits.

AAP Stages Protests Against Sisodia's Arrest

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday foiled an attempt by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers to take out a protest march here against the arrest of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia by the CBI in an excise policy case.

The AAP workers assembled at the party office at Rajbagh and raised slogans like "Shiksha Mantri Tujhe Salaam", "Gundagardi nahi chalegi", "Taana shahi nahi chalega", decrying Sisodia's arrest.

However, a posse of police personnel did not allow the AAP protestors to come out on the road and pushed them back into their office premises.

"We are observing this day as a black day. A revered member of the Aam Aadmi Party has been sent to jail. It's a black day for democracy throughout India," Rizwan Ahmad, AAP's youth wing leader, said. He said the BJP was attacking the AAP in order to break the "aam aadmi sentiment".

"It is a political vendetta against Aam Aadmi Party's growing popularity throughout India. The BJP is doing a witch hunt on AAP leaders," he added. A similar protest was also by AAP workers outside the BJP office in Jammu to protest against

Sisodia's arrest.

Several AAP leaders and workers from different parts of Jammu province gathered outside the BJP office at Trikuta Nagar and held a demonstration against the Central government, a party spokesman said.

"The BJP government at the Centre is arresting opposition leaders through various agencies by implicating them in various scams so that pressure can be put on them to suppress their voices," AAP leader Amit Kapoor told reporters.

Demanding immediate release of Sisodia, he said his arrest is a "black chapter" in the democracy as he is innocent and making constant efforts to provide better education to children of poor families.

"AAP workers will not tolerate such kind of actions and will start a big movement against the BJPled government," he said, calling upon the party workers to unite to oppose such "anti-people and anti-democratic" steps.

Senior Army Officer Reviews Situation In Rajouri, Reasi

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A senior army officer on Monday reviewed the security situation and operational aspects in the hinterland of Rajouri and Reasi districts of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of White Knight Corps Lt Gen Sandeep Jain visited Mahore and Maniyarwala areas in Reasi and Samote in Rajouri's Budhal, the official said.

Lt Gen Jain was briefed about the current security situation and operational aspects in the hinterland by field officers, the official said, adding that the GOC appreciated the professional competence of all personnel in successfully overcoming various challenges.

In Rajouri, the Lt Gen reviewed the operational preparedness of the troops and complimented them for their professionalism and devotion to duty.





THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS APPEARED IN CLASS 8TH BOARD EXAMS that commenced in soft zones of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHA

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Project Nearing Completion

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project is heading towards completion with 90 per cent of its sanctioned cost of Rs 37,012.26 crore utilised, a senior railway official said on Monday.

With the completion of the project, Kashmir will be linked with rest of the country.

The official said the prestigious national project, being personally monitored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, is progressing "very well" and the works are taking place in "top gear" at all fronts.

"The latest sanctioned cost of the USBRL project is Rs 37,012.26 crore. Cumulative booking of expenditure till February 23 is Rs 3, 34, 21 crore which is 90.29 percent of the total sanctioned cost," Chief Administrative Officer, USBRL, S P Mahi told PTI.

The Railway ministry sanctioned the construction of the railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla via Srinagar in phases 25-km Udhampur to Katra in 1994, 118 km Qazigund to Baramulla and 129 km Katra to Qazigund in 1999.

In view of the importance of the USBRL in providing seamless and hassle-free connectivity to Kashmir, the 272 km-long USBRL project was declared as a "National Project" in 2002.

Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 161 km was commissioned in phases with first phase 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18-km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013 and 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014, while the work on 111-km Katra-Banihal stretch is going on.

"Indian Railways is moving closer to connecting Kashmir to the rest of the railway network day-by-day. The USBRL project is progressing very well. The world's highest railway bridge across Chenabriver has been completed and track-linking work on it has started, while work on Indian Railways first cable-stayed



bridge' is nearing completion," Mahi said.

He said the works are progressing in top gear at all fronts. "The morale of officers and staff working on the project is very high and they are highly motivated to complete this prestigious work expeditiously."

"The alignment of USBRL Project is a culmination of a large number of tunnels and bridges, which are to be implemented in highly rugged and mountainous terrain with the most difficult Himalayan geology," he said.

He said the project involves

He said the project involves 38 tunnels (combined length of 119 km), the longest tunnel (T-49) is having a length of 12.77 km and has been made through on February 15 last year.

The official said the Katra-Banihal section predominantly involves tunnelling 163.82 km (97.42 km main tunnel and 66.40 km of escape tunnel). At present 163.08 km of tunnel mining -97.02 km (24 numbers) out of 97.42 km (27 numbers) of main tunnel and 66.06 km (7 Nos.) out of 66.4 km (8 Nos.) have been completed. Tunnel lining of 149.23 km - 93.17 km (20 Nos.) out of 97.42 km (27 nos) of the main tunnel and 56.06 km (2 Nos) out of 66.4 Km (8 Nos) have

been completed.

More than 43.5 km Ballastless Track (BLT) has also been laid out of the total scope of 118 km, the official said.

The CAO USBRL said there are 37 bridges (combined length of 7 km) and includes 26 major bridges and 11 minor bridges.

"At present 22 major bridges and 11 minor bridges have

been completed and work on all fronts are in full swing."

He said these bridges include the iconic Chenab bridge (overall length 1315 m, arch span of 467 m and height of 359 m above river bed) which is the highest railway bridge in the world.

Mahi said the Chenab bridge

has been completed, track linking and some ancillary works such as grating fixing for arch deck protection and inspection platforms are in progress.

The official said Indian rail-

The official said Indian rail-way's first cable-stayed bridge is also being constructed on Anji Khad. The launch of the super structure of Anji bridge is in an advanced stage of progress and 39 segments out of 47 launched.

He said electromechanical for Katra-Banihal is sanctioned and all tenders which include integrated sub-stations, power supply arrangement, tunnel ventilation, tunnel lighting, fire fighting and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) have been awarded and work is in progress.

The electrification works of Katra-Banihal section are sanctioned and work is in progress, he said, adding electrification works in Banihal-Baramulla section were completed in September last year.

In addition, more than 205 km access road has also been completed.

"Construction of a wide network of access roads has provided connectivity to far flung and inaccessible remote areas, leading to socio-economic development." he added.

LG Inaugurates Civil Services Officers Institute At Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha inaugurated Civil Services Officers Institute (CSOI), at Maulana Azad Road here on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said the institute

will promote welfare of officers, integration of services and organize seminars, symposiums to meet the needs and challenges of civil administration.

The Lt Governor also interacted with the Officers present on the occasion and suggested to establish and maintain libraries and information services to facilitate the officers.
Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief
Secretary; RK Goyal, Additional
Chief Secretary, Home Department; Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Saurabh
Bhagat, Commissioner, Science
& Technology and other Senior
officers of Police and Civil Administration were present.

JKBOSE Chairman Prof Manhas Takes Stock Of Grade-8 Exam

"Provisions Of Cleanliness, Conducive Atmosphere Should Be Met At All Costs."

Farooq Shah

SRINAGAR: The recently appointed Director of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, Prof (Dr) Parikshat Manhas, Monday, visited various Class-8 examination centres and took stock of the arrangements put in place by the authorities.

Prof. Manhas, who was appointed last month as the Chairman of the Jammu and

"The provisions of cleanliness and a conducive atmosphere to the students should be met at all costs," he said. "Care should be taken to make the students as comfortable as you can while they are busy writing their answer scripts."

Prof. Manhas while visiting an examination centre where students with Children With Special Needs (CWSN) were taking the examination, emphasized the importance of providing everything the kids would need.



Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE), has also been given the additional responsibility of Director of the SCERT.

Upon his arrival to the valley this morning, he hurried to the examination centres to assess the preparations made by the authorities.

Around 1.79 lakh eighth-grade students—government and private—from both the Jammu and Kashmir Divisions are taking the second term of the academic year 2022–23 after the government gave its approval for the implementation of the unified academic calendar and the holding of exams in the March-April session.

While taking stock of the arrangements, Prof Manhas stressed on the need to provide all the necessary facilities to the students without fail.

Pertinently, some 1741 children with exceptional needs from both the divisions are taking the exam as well.

The SCERT and the associated District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) are supervising the entire process of conducting the examinations.

After being appointed as the Chairman BOSE and the Director SCERT, this was his first trip to the Kashmir Division. An academician of international acclaim, Prof Manhas, has an impeccable expertise in the areas of marketing, e-commerce, consumer behaviour, communication, tourism management and entrepreneurship.

His selection for the coveted positions has received wide-spread praise from academic communities both inside and outside of JKUT.

BJP Holds Protest Against Killing Of Minorities In Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The BJP on Monday held protests at several places in Kashmir against the killing of Kashmiri Pandit bank guard Sanjay Sharma.

Militants on Sunday shot dead

wama district while he was on his way to a local market. The main protest was held in Jawahar Nagar area of the city

the 40-year-old Sharma in Pul-

where dozens of BJP workers demonstrated against the killing. "Our Kashmiri Pandit brother was brutally killed in Pulwama. Terrorists have tried to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere established in the past three

years under a well thought-out

conspiracy. We won't allow it to happen," Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Head, Media and IT cell of BJP, told reporters. The protestors also burnt an

effigy of Pakistan, holding the neighbouring country responsible for the killings. "BJP is protesting against Pakistan across the valley to-

Pakistan across the valley today. We appeal to the LG administration to ensure security of minorities and take steps so that such incidents do not recur," Bhat added.

Protests were also held at Kulgam on Monday while a candle light vigil was organised against the killing in Pulwama and Baramulla on Sunday night.

Info Dept Employees Condole Demise Of Journalist Zahoor Shaheen

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The employees of Information Department Kashmir Division have expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of senior journalist Zahoor Ahmad Zargar, Editor in Chief of daily Shaheen Kashmir, published from Srinagar.

departed soul.

While extending sympathies with the bereaved family, they prayed for eternal peace to the

with them, especially with the PR wing of the department, they described him as a bold journalist, who always projected public issues in his publications.

Late Zahoor will be remem-

Recalling his long association

bered for a long time to come in the field of journalism in Jammu and Kashmir, they added. Some senior officers also visit-

Some senior officers also visited the residence of the deceased journalist and offered condolences to the bereaved family.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday | 28-02-2023

De Javu

he painful killing of one more Kashmiri Pandit Sanjay Kumar Sharma has come as a setback to an otherwise improving security situation. And it is a killing that can't be condemned enough. Sharma was on his way to the local market in the Pulwama district when he was shot dead by militants. It is the first such killing since October and took place just when we were beginning to believe that the minority killings were over in the Valley. Even going by the nature of such killings, Sharma was a soft target. He was a bank guard, making ends meet with difficulty. Besides, he was among the Pandits who hadn't migrated from the valley even during the worst of times.

The killing thus confronts security agencies with a formidable challenge. It is going to make the miniscule Pandit community further insecure, including the hundreds of Pandit employees who have returned to Kashmir to work. And it is now the responsibility of the security forces to take firm steps to protect them and ensure no more minority killing takes place.

Kashmiri Pandit employees have already been demanding their relocation to Jammu till the time Kashmir Valley is safe for their return. However, the administration wants them to rejoin their duties in the Valley. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had earlier said that the employees who do not work, would not be paid, a statement that drew flak from some major politicians and political parties, including the BJP. It is not only killings but also threats to minorities from the militants that have created a widespread scare.

Last year, an outfit even issued a list of Kashmiri Pandits employees they planned to target. This has been a source of deep concern for security agencies and also among the people. However, the government needs to take the killings and threats very seriously. Last year, twenty four people were killed in Kashmir, the victims including Kashmiri Pandits, migrant labourers and security personnel returning for holidays to their homes. This has created a fraught situation. Hence the serious concern expressed by the various political parties including also by Kashmiri Pandit groups is understandable.

Pandit employees have been demanding that the administration waive off the bond requiring them to remain permanently posted in Kashmir. This has created a tricky situation for the administration, which wants all Kashmiri Pandits to return to Kashmir. But may be, we need to wait for it for sometime more. Kashmir has to be made safer before this happens.

OTHER OPINON

Poor ratio

he ills plaguing school education in India are manifold. No sooner have enrolment numbers reached pre-pandemic levels than problems — old and new - have arisen. Responses to questions in Parliament have bared abysmal teacher-student ratios in India's classrooms, with densely populated states faring poorly. Bihar has 60 students per teacher in the primary section, while the national capital has 40. Jharkhand and Haryana, with 33 and 32 students per teacher, respectively, are two other states with pupil-teacher ratios worse than the number recommended — 30 students per teacher in the primary section – by the Right to Education Act. The statistics are slightly better in the upper primary section. Delhi tops this group with 39 teachers per pupil, while Jharkhand has 38. West Bengal just about meets the threshold of the recommended ratio of 35:1. Some of the most populous states also have the highest number of schools with only one teacher. Madhya Pradesh has 16,630 single-teacher schools and Andhra Pradesh has more than 12,000 such schools. There has been a meagre 8.26% increase in the budgetary allocation on education to Rs 1.13 lakh crore this year. Such miserly increments are unlikely to resolve the hydra-headed problems that confront school education.

The paucity of investment in education for a nation that seeks to be a knowledge society is appalling. Numbers tell the story. India spends only 2.9% of its GDP on average on education while Scandinavian countries — not quite the biggest of economies but with sizeable investments in education — have far healthier teacher-student ratios. What is evident is that India has got its priorities muddled up. Investments in education or, say, in health and nutrition on the part of the State remain dismal statistics. This is certainly unfortunate. Research has repeatedly shown that robust investments in these spheres are fundamental to national growth and development. Policy transitions have also contributed to the crisis. The State's gradual withdrawal from public welfare has corresponded with an increasing privatisation of education. Coupled with this is the present dispensation's thrust towards a markedly utilitarian — cosmetic approach towards education in general. The possibility of the persistence of these glaring deficiencies in school education — the poor teacher-student ratio is just one manifestation — cannot be ruled out on joining the above mentioned

dispiriting — developments.

Telegraph India

Are Leopards in Kashmir Getting Domesticated?

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

hey come down almost every evening to human habitations, kill a few dogs and take them away. This has become a common practice for the leopards living around the Karewas of Budgam near Srinagar airport. This entire area has become a safe haven for them for almost 15 years now and my assumption has been that these cats are no longer wild. This was authenticated by senior wildlife officer Raashid Nagash the Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir recently during my detailed interaction with him. He is of the opinion that due to changed habitat and close proximity with human population, the leopards who have made Kare was of Budgam near Srinagar airport their abode for the last 10 to 15 years are less wild now as majority of them have not seen their traditional habitat which used to be the alpine forests. It is now a known fact that leopards living around Srinagar outskirts especially in Budgam Karewas feed on dogs who are found in abundance in the area.

Change in Eating Habits & Habitat

A few decades back, the leopards in Kashmir would hardly hunt for dogs. This was because leopards would not visit human habitations quite frequently. Due to deforestation and the construction of roads around forest areas, leopards were forced to visit human habitations. Initially, they used to kill humans, especially children.

As per my own assessment and field research, this graph has come down now. The reason is that leopards have become habitual to kill and eat dogs.

The leopards who live around Srinagar airport and other Karewas of Budgam probably used to live in Pir Panjaal mountains of Budgam and after coming down in search of food they found a new habitat as well and got settled in the vast Karewas which are small hilly tracts spread around Budgam district.

As the lifespan of leopards is between 15 to 17 years, I believe a majority of them who come down in search of prey to Rangreth, Pirbagh, Gogoland, Humhama, Ompora, Ichgam, Kralpora, Wathoora and other areas surrounding Srinagar airport have been born and brought up in the Karewas only. These cats are not familiar with the habitat of their ancestors who used to live in the upper reaches surrounded by alpine forests. This is the reason that this new breed of leopards is not as wild and is getting domesticated.

Few years back a leopard killed a little girl Adha in Humhama, but from last 3 years there has been no fresh case wherein children or any other human being has been attacked by the leopards even as they are found in good numbers around Srinagar airport and

Budgam Karewas.

Karewas, The new habitat

The Karewas are the plateau-like landforms that remain tucked away in the folds of the surrounding mountains, particularly the Pir Panjal mountain range in Kashmir.

Karewas are 13,000-18,000 metre-thick deposits of alluvial soil and sediments like sandstone and mudstone. This makes them ideal for cultivation of saffron, almonds, apples and several other cash crops. In Budgam district a large number of almond orchards are located in the Karewas. During the spring season when the almond trees are in bloom, the Karewas

look gorgeous. Kashmir saffron, which received a Geographical Indicaa new habitat where they rest during the day without any human interference and soon after sunset they come down to villages and colonies like Kralpora, Wathoora, Rangreth, Gogoland, Pir Pagh, Humhama in search of food. They kill dogs and take them away in their jaws. Only a few days back, a leopard was spotted in Malik Bagh Kralpora area who was seen carrying a



66

At a time when we see so many leopards around Srinagar airport, why hasn't any attack been reported? I personally believe that a time will come when they will roam freely in streets and residential areas because of their changing food habits and **habitats**

tion (GI) tag in 2020 for its longer and thicker stigmas, deep-red colour, high aroma and bitter flavour, is also grown on these karewas especially in Pampore and some areas of adjoining Pulwama district.

The fertility of these patches is believed to be the result of their long history of formation. Karewas were formed during the Pleistocene period (2.6 million years to 11,700 years ago), the Pir Panjal range blocked the natural drainage in the region and formed a lake spanning 5,000 sq km and that is the reason Kashmir valley was known as Satisar. The water receded after a major earthquake from the Baramulla area, making way for the valley and the formation of the karewas between the mountains. In Hindu mythology it is said that Kashab Rishi drained out the water to get hold of a Demon who lived in the Satisar. The Srinagar airport is located in Karewa Damodar which is an elevated plateau like land formation.

Until the early 1990s, the Karewa land around the airport was mostly barren. Except for almond trees, there was no other vegetation around this vast area of around 50 square kilometers. In 1990-1991, the government, through Social Forestry Department started massive plantations in the Karewas Damodar just outside the airport area some villages located near the airport, particularly in Humhama, Ompora, Kralpora Wathoora, Rangreth, Gogo and other areas. The plantation has become so thick that the boundaries of the Karewa Damodar (airport area) looks like a dense forest. As there is less movement of people here due to the security cover around the area, leopards who migrated from Pir Panjal forests found set up dog in the jaws.

Conclusion

Not only are leopards roaming freely in human habitations around Srinagar airport, we have seen a female bear and her cubs roaming around Rajbagh and Jawahar Nagar last year in September. The bears from the Zabarwan mountain range. especially the Shankaracharva hill in Srinagar, come down in search of food. Their main aim is to search for garbage bins where they find a lot of non-veg waste food dumped in it. Just as the plantations in Karewas around Srinagar airport paved a way for leopards to make the area their abode, similarly, bears from Zabarwan mountains came down and made Shankarachayara hill their abode as the deodar and kail plantation was done around early 1990s by Forest Department which has turned the area into a thick forest now. In both neither the bears found in Shankaracharya hill nor leopards in Budgam Karewas are very dangerous because they don't kill human-beings.

At a time when we see so many leopards around Srinagar airport, why hasn't any attack been reported? I personally believe that a time will come when they will roam freely in streets and residential areas because of their changing food habits and habitats.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Srinagar based social activist and writer. He is an Acumen Fellow



OBSERVER **M A II**

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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Simple Pleasures

ESPITE living in the digital age, there are some habits which many of us simply cannot give up. Preferring to read a printed book over the online version is one such. There are multiple reasons why a large swathe of Indian readers always prefer hard copy of books to online reading. Psy-

chologically, the 'ownership' factor could be a key reason, besides the nice feeling you get while touching a new book, its fragrance, pleasure of turning the pages, easy portability, leisure reading – all make a physical book comfortably win over an e-book. However splendid the cover image of an e-book may look on screen, it is

still an image rather than a physical thing. Another major disadvantage with an e-book is that you cannot look at more than one page at once. In fact, a study from West Chester University of Pennsylvania reveals that students who read on iPads had lower reading comprehension than when they read traditional printed books. A good

physical book is like a full course of a sumptuous meal, whereas an e-book is just fast food. Said the noted American novelist Harper Lee: "The book to read is not the one that thinks for you, but the one which makes you think."

> Ranganathan Sivakumar siva19kumar@gmail.com

What Is Delirium?

Jo Adetunji

elirium is a sudden decline in a person's usual mental function. It occurs when signals in the brain aren't sending and receiving properly, causing confusion in thinking and altered behaviour or levels of consciousness.

Delirium isn't a disease – it's a clinical syndrome or condition that is usually temporary and treatable. It's often mistaken for dementia because both conditions have similar symptoms, such as confusion, agitation and delusions. If a health-care professional doesn't know the patient, it can be difficult to tell the difference.

Up to one-third of older people admitted to hospital are diagnosed with delirium. This increases the risk of unnecessary functional decline, a longer hospital stay, falls, needing to be admitted to a residential aged care facility, and death.

However, identifying the condition early reduces these risks. Delirium can also be prevented by identifying who is vulnerable to the condition and finding ways of reducing the person's risk.

What causes delirium?

Delirium is usually caused by a number of underlying acute (short-term) illnesses and medical complications. Elderly people are vulnerable to delirium because their bodies have fewer reserves than younger people to respond to these stressors. People with dementia are particularly at risk. Factors that cause or increase the risk of

Factors that cause or increase delirium include:

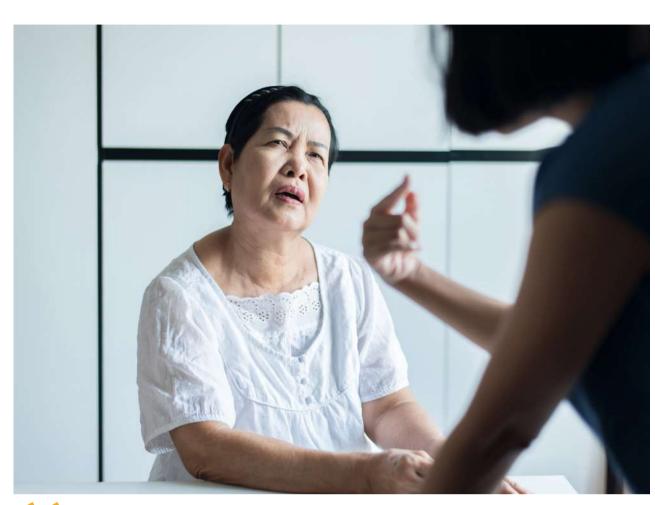
- malnutritiondehydration
- new medications
- a fall
- surgeryinfection
- admission to the intensive care unit
- multiple bed movespain.

A diagnosis of delirium is made on the basis of clinical history, behavioural observation and a cognitive assessment by a clinician trained to assess delirium.

The patient and their family or carer should also be asked about any recent changes in the patient's behaviour or thinking.

So how can it be prevented or treated?

Clinical care focuses on preventing de-



DELIRIUM IS ALSO UNDER-RECOGNISED BECAUSE IT CAN PRESENT VERY DIFFERENTLY. In some people it can result in hyperactivity (hallucinations, delusions or uncooperative behaviour), and in other people, hypoactivity (decreased arousal which can be mistaken for fatigue or depression), or mixture of both.

lirium, managing risk factors and symptoms, and reducing the chance of complications, which prolong or worsen the condition.

To help prevent delirium we can: frequently reorient the person (reminding them of their location, the date and

ing them of their location, the date and time)
encourage the person to get out of bed and, where appropriate, to walk around,

while ensuring they're safe from falling

manage their pain ensure adequate nutrition and hydration

reduce their sensory impairments

(helping them put on glasses and hearing aids and ensuring they're working) ensure proper sleep patterns.

Why is delirium under-diagnosed?

While delirium is potentially preventable, it's poorly recognised, and cases are often missed. This is due to inadequate knowledge among the attending health-care staff, a lack of routine formal screening and assessment, and health-care staff not knowing the patient.

Diagnosing delirium can be difficult when symptoms fluctuate during the day.

Changes in alertness come and go, with people usually more alert in the morning and less so at night.

Read more: Preventing delirium protects seniors in hospital, but could also ease overcrowding and emergency room backlogs

Delirium is also under-recognised because it can present very differently. In some people it can result in hyperactivity (hallucinations, delusions or uncooperative behaviour), and in other people, hypoactivity (decreased arousal which can be mistaken for fatigue or depression), or mixture of both. Around 50% of people who are discharged from hospital with unresolved delirium symptoms can experience symptoms lasting for months. Alarmingly, some people transition into permanent states of cognitive impairment.

Delirium takes a toll on carers

Delirium costs the Australian government around A\$8.8 billion a year.

The greater cost, however, is that experienced by the patient and their family. The sudden change in a person's behaviour and/or emotions as a result of delirium causes high levels of stress and anxiety for family carers.

Carers of older adults diagnosed with delirium report high levels of psychological distress, poor wellbeing and less satisfaction with life because of their caregiving role

The identification and management of risk for delirium is therefore imperative for safe and quality care for both patients and their family.

Partnering with family carers

Partnering with family carers can improve the care outcomes for older people who are hospitalised.

Family carers and friends are well placed to detect changes in patients' cognition and behaviour. Close family members, in particular, have intimate knowledge about the person's previous mental state and can identify subtle changes in their behaviour.

However, many carers of patients discharged from hospital with delirium receive little advice or ongoing support. Despite recent clinical standards recommending family carers be active participants in care, they're often left out. This has been compounded by the COVID pandemic.

To address this shortfall, we have developed a model of care to support the integration of carers as partners in the prevention and management of delirium to improve health outcomes.

Using a web-based toolkit, we're hoping to increase awareness and knowledge of delirium among carers of older adults in hospital who are at risk of delirium. It also aims to support the carer's wellbeing.

The toolkit is currently being trialled and evaluated at Tweed Hospital and, if successful, could be rolled out to all hospitals.

By arrangements with The Conversation

WHO Thwarts Our Perception Of **e-cigarettes**

Smoking is injurious to health. Recall the number of times you have read it on a packet of cigarettes and yet spotted someone or the other smoking their way to happiness. With e-cigarettes, you can see many vaping to happiness. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines e-cigarettes as electronic devices that heat a liquid that contains nicotine and produce an aerosol, or mix of small particles in the air.

While they come in many shapes and sizes, they have a battery, a heating element and a place to hold liquid. A vaper usually inhales the e-cigarette aerosol into his lungs. Others who are breathing in this aerosol exhaled by the smoker also end up passive smoking in the process. While these come in various shapes and sizes, they are mostly battery-operated. Due to the presence of substances as harmful as nicotine, it is not considered safe for kids, teens and young adults.

Despite these basic facts about e-cigarettes, their sales have only gone up higher over the years. Sample this: in the period between November 2016 and August 2019, the sales of e-cigarette units in the US went up by 300 per cent. The pandemic proved to be a turning point as the market witnessed an increase in sales of combustible cigarettes, as many began avoiding e-cigarettes due to an increase in taxes, bans on flavoured products and questions on if they really were safer than the combustible options. Now, a brand-new report by the World Health Organisation has rung alarm bells on the use of e-cigarettes. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said that while nicotine itself is harmful, the



electronic nicotine delivery systems present in ecigarettes could be potentially more harmful and must be regulated carefully.

These observations come in the wake of the WHO report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2021 which takes stock of new products. It observes that these need to be very closely regulated and their uptake by children and young adults

need to be monitored precisely for the aforementioned reasons. If the use of e-cigarettes among the younger population is a cause of concern, it is only because many ENDS manufacturers target them with different flavours, offering it as a substitute to the combustible versions. For the longest time, the confused messaging around e-cigarettes had many believe that it is a 'safer' option.

Vaping became the new-age smoking. But as technologies evolve and present a plethora of choices to us, it is not only the governments' but also individual responsibility to use these products with caution. This is the idea at the heart of the report.

Khaleej Times

India Likely To Miss 2030 Deadline For Over Half Of Health SDGs: Lancet study

Press Trust Of India

ndia is not on target for over 50 per cent of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to health and social determinants of health seven years before the 2030 deadline, according to a study published in The Lancet journal.

An international team of researchers found that over 75 per cent Indian districts are off target for crucial SDG indicators like access to basic services, poverty, stunting and wasting of children, anaemia, child marriage, partner violence, tobacco use, and modern contraceptive use.

For these indicators, more than 75 per cent of the districts were off-target. These districts are concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha.

"India is not on target for 19 of the 33 SDGs indicators ... Because of a worsening trend observed between 2016 and 2021, and assuming no course correction occurs, many districts will never meet the targets on the SDGs even well after 2030," the authors of the study noted.

"Developing a strategic roadmap at this time will help India ensure success with re-

Among the 19 off-target indicators, the conditions have worsened for three related to anaemia because of an increase in the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and non-pregnant women between 2016 and 2021.

gards to meeting the SDGs," they said. India's emergence and sustenance as a leading economic power depends on meeting some of the more basic health and social determinants of health-related SDGs in an immediate and equitable manner, the authors said.

The study provides the first systematic midline assessment of the progress that 707 Indian districts out of 763 have made to achieve the SDGs related to health and social determinants of health.

The assessment suggests an urgent need to increase the pace and momentum on four SDG goals: No poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), good health and well-being (SDG 3) and gender equality (SDG 5).

The researchers, from Harvard University, US, Laxmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute in New Delhi, Graduate School of Korea University, and Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, pointed out some positives aswell. India is on-target to meet 13 out of the 33 indicators.

These are internet use, bank account for women, full vaccination, improved sanitation, reduction in multi-dimensional poverty, birth registration, skilled birth attendants, electricity access, tobacco use reduction among women, lowering of child marriage among less than 15-year-old girls, under-five mortality, teenage sexual violence and neonatal mortality.

Among the 19 off-target indicators, the conditions have worsened for three related to anaemia because of an increase in the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant and non-pregnant women between 2016 and 2021.

The authors believe that India would never be able to meet the SDGS targets related to anaemia if this trend continues.

are off-target, the observed rate of change between 2016 and 2021, though in desirable direction, is insufficient to meet SDG targets by 2030, they said. Assuming observed rate of change, India will meet its targets improved on by 2031, water hand washfacility ing by 2033, clean SUSTAINABLE fuel for cook-**DEVELOPMENT** ing by 2035, teenage pregnancy in 2039, partner violence (sexu-

For the remaining 16 indicators that

Another 11 offtarget indicators will be met between 2041 and 2162, including access to basic services in 2047 and partner violence (physical or

al) by 2040, ac-

researchers.

cording to the

sexual) in 2090, they added

Cheaper Gene Screening Makes For DNA Data Dilemma

360info

heaper DNA sequencing promises a world of health benefits. But to realise these, careful and sensitive storage of DNA data is vital.

Seventy years ago this week, scientists Francis Crick and James Watson burst into a pub in Cambridge, UK, announcing to friends and colleagues they had discovered the secret of life.

They formally published their discovery, the shape of the DNA molecule and the way it codes information, just a few months later. The study of DNA has continued in giant strides since that day. Just last week, the life of a UK toddler, Teddi Shaw, was saved using understanding and manipulation of her genetic code.

The ability to read the DNA code, known as sequencing, has become cheaper and more widely available, leading to challenging questions for scientists and ethicists

On the one hand, che ing will allow newborns to be screened for genetic conditions, such as MLD, the one that would have killed Teddi. MLD is considered a rare disease, affecting perhaps one in 160,000 children.

But as Gareth Baynam, from the Rare Care Centre at Perth Children's Hospital, Australia, says rare diseases are anything but.

With around 7,000 different rare diseases, they are collectively very common, affecting more people than have diabetes, he says.

The significant decrease in the cost of DNA screening and profiling has the potential to revolutionise the way we diagnose and treat rare and undiagnosed genetic conditions and diseases.

Danya Vears from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and University of Melbourne says: Incorporating genomic sequencing into newborn screening would mean more babies who are going to develop severe conditions could be detected earlier, leading to earlier interventions and healthier babies.

But she adds a note of caution. Storing and re-analysing genomic newborn screening data also poses ethical issues and questions.

Such questions include discrimination. Jackie Leach Scully from UNSW Sydney says that an abnormality on a genetic test may too easily be understood as something that must be selected against.

Differences in bodies and behaviour, no matter how minor, may be automatically assumed to be unwanted,

she warns. According to Yann Joly, research director of the Centre of Genomics and Policy at McGill University, Canada, genetic discrimination has occurred in

the past and must be guarded against. In the late 1970s mandatory genetic screening programmes for sickle cell disease (a group of inherited blood disorders) in the US adversely impacted members of the Black population who were not able to gain employment or medical insurance following a positive test result.

How iPhone Passcode Is Helping Thieves Steal Your Money And Data

he passcode in iPhones that helps people unlock their devices is now giving thieves easy access to steal their money and data at public places. According to Wall Street Journal, using a remarkably low-tech trick, thieves watch iPhone owners tap their passcodes, then steal their targets' phones and their digital lives. A 31-year-old senior economist at a

workforce intelligence startup lost all photos, contacts and notes in her iPhone 13 Pro Max which was snatched at a bar in Midtown Manhattan and about \$10,000 vanished from her bank account in just 24 hours.

With only the iPhone and its passcode, an interloper can within seconds change the password associated with the iPhone owner's Apple ID," said the report.

This would lock the victim out of their account, which includes anything stored in iCloud.

"The thief can also often loot the phone's financial apps since the passcode can unlock access to all the device's stored passwords," it added.

When the password change is complete, the software offers an option to force other Apple devices, such as Macs or iPads, to sign out of the Apple account, so a victim couldn't turn to those devices to regain access.



The Apple software never requires the user to enter an older password before setting a new one.

With the new password, the thief can disable Find My iPhone. Disabling Find My iPhone feature also allows the thief to resell

(ashmer

the iPhone.

As Apple spokesperson said that iPhone is the most secure consumer mobile device, and "we work tirelessly every day to protect all our users from new and emerging threats".

"We sympathise with users who have had this experience and we take all attacks on our users very seriously, no matter how rare," the spokesperson was quoted as saying.

'We will continue to advance the protections to help keep user accounts secure." Nearly all of the victims had their iPhones stolen while they were out at night socialising at public places, pubs and bars.

In all cases, the iPhone owners were locked out of their Apple accounts.

'They then discovered thousands of dollars in financial thefts, including some combination of Apple Pay charges, drained bank accounts linked to phone apps and money taken from PayPal's Venmo and other money-sending apps," the report elaborated.

The same vulnerability is there in Google's Android mobile operating system but the "higher resale value of iPhones makes them a far more common target", according to law enforcement officials.

"Our sign-in and account-recovery policies try to strike a balance between allowing legitimate users to retain access to their accounts in real-world scenarios and keeping the bad actors out," a Google spokesperson was quoted as saying.

Apple recently introduced the ability to use hardware security keys, little USB dongles, to protect the Apple ID.

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E-Auction Notice

(For sale of Immovable Mortgaged Property under the SARFAESI Act, 2002) [Refer Proviso to rule 8(6)]

mentioned immovable properties mortgaged to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd., Business Unit Lajpat Nager Delhi as security for the Credit facility/ies extended in favour of M/S Trans Asian Industries Exposition Pvt Ltd, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of the bank under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act, will be sold through E-auction on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATSOEVER THERE IS BASIS" and "WHATSOEVER THERE IS BASIS and NO COMPLAINT BASIS" on 15-03-2023, for recovery of Rs.32,58,83,505.18 (Rupees Thirty Two Crore Fifty Eight Lac Eighty Three Thousand Five Hundred Five & Paisa Eighteen Only) as on 31.01.2023 with further interest, costs & charges etc., thereon due to the bank from the borrowers(s), mortgagor(s) and guarantors Viz:-

1. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrowers and guarantors in particular that the below

M/S Trans Asian Industries Exposition Pvt. Ltd, Head Office Address- Nishat, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir -190001. also at M-1. Hauz Khas Main Mehroli Road. New Delhi-110016. (Borrower)

Mr. Mohd. Yaseen Mir (Director/Guarantor) S/O Late Mr. Abdul Qayoom Mir R/O Ishbar, Gupta Ganga, Nishat, Grinagar, Jammu and Kashmir - 190001

Mr. Mohd. Hanief Mir, (Director/Guarantor) S/O Late Mr. Abdul Qayoom Mir R/O Ishbar, Gupta Ganga , Nishat Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir - 190001

Mr. Imran Malik S/O Mr. Riyaz Malik R/O Wanabal Srinagar/also at Ishbar, Gupta Ganga Nishat, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir - 190001 (Guarantor)

Description of the immovable property

Description of Mortgaged Property	Reserve Price	EMD
Villa No. 8, Block-D, Ansal Villas, Village Satbari, Tehsil- Mehrauli, New Delhi along with land underneath & appurtenant thereto located in Khasra no. 812 min (4-3) and Khasra no. 813 min (3-10) admeasuring 7 bhigas and 13 biswas (1.607 acres) in the name of M/S Trans Asian Industries Exposition Pvt. Ltd.	(Rupees Twenty Four	

2. The bid document/format containing full details of the properties and all the terms and conditions is/shall be available on, the websites- "http://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net" (contact persons Mr. Ram Prasad (M) 9978591888, 9265562821 (O) 079 - 6813 6844) & www.jkbank.com of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. he bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before 04:00 PM on 14.03.2023. The time of E-Auction will be from 3:00 PM to 04:00 PM on 15.03.2023. The contact details of the bank officials are Mr. Khuram Jah Rasool (Authorized Officer) Mob: 7006309750 & Branch Head Lajpat Nagar Mr. Naresh Kumar, Mob: 9419199749.

> (Mr. Khuram Jah Rasool) Authorized Officer

This publication is also 15 days' notice in terms of Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors of the above said loan accounts to pay the total outstanding of all the loans along with the interests and expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance if any along with interests and expenses will be recovered from them.

Date: 27.02.2023

Authorized Officer

The J&K Bank Ltd

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.co

> DIPK-NB-6639/22 dated: 27-02-2023

Bears Continue To Wreak Havoc; Sensex, Nifty Close In Red For **Seventh Straight Session**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty slid for a seventh straight session on Monday, logging their longest losing run in the past five months, following a bearish trend in global markets amid concerns over aggressive rate hikes by developed economies.

Fresh foreign fund outflows and losses in IT, auto and oil stocks also dented investor sen-

The BSE Sensex declined by 175.58 points or 0.30 per cent to close at 59,288.35 with 17 of its shares posting losses. During the day, it tanked 526.29 points or 0.88 per cent to 58,937.64.

The NSE Nifty fell 73.10 points or 0.42 per cent to end at 17,392.70 as 33 of its stocks ended in the red.

Sensex and Nifty fell for a seventh straight session, matching the seven-session losing run in the last week of September last year. In the seven sessions, Sensex tanked 2,031 points or 3.4 per cent while Nifty shed 643 points or 4.1 per cent to close below the 17,400 level.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel,



Wipro and Bajaj Finance were the biggest laggards.

Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India were among the gainers.

'Bears continued to wreak havoc in the domestic market as the latest data releases from the US heightened the existing worries of aggressive rate hikes. The personal consumption expenditure in the US, which is Fed's key monitorable of inflation, increased in January, pressuring investors to stay away from equities markets," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In Asian markets, South Korea, Japan, China and Hong Kong ended lower.

Equity markets in Europe were trading in the green. The US markets had ended sharply down on Friday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.35 per cent to \$83.41 per barrel.

Olaf Scholz Asks More Indian Techies To Consider Working In Germany

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, wrapping up a two-day visit to India, urged the country's IT specialists and other skilled workers to consider working in Germany.

Looking for ways to tackle labor shortages in Europe's largest economy, Scholz said his coalition government was planning to reduce immigration hurdles and introduce a pointbased system that would grant visas even to specialists who don't yet have a firm job offer

He offered no specifics on how many workers Germany hopes to attract from India.

"I am quite sure that many will want to take advantage of the opportunities to work as skilled workers in Germany," Scholz told reporters during a visit at software company SAP Labs India in Bangalore, where he held a roundtable discussion with workers.

"We need this in all areas of employment, but of course especially when it comes to skills such as those we have seen today in the area of software and IT development," Scholz said.

The German leader's trip to India was aimed at deepening economic ties as well as discussing Russia's war in Ukraine with PM Modi, who'll host the next leaders summit of the Group of 20 nations in September.

Scholz, who traveled with a large business delegation, said Saturday he would person-



ally make an effort to advance talks between the EU and India for a trade and investment agreement.

PM Modi and the German chancellor also discussed closer defense cooperation, including a possible joint venture to build six submarines in India to help the Asian nation modernize its maritime forces.

#Indien ist eine Hightech-Nation, mit enormer Kompetenz in der Digitalisierung, Das hat mich beeindruckt, etwa bei SAP in Bengaluru, der zweiten Station meiner Indien-Reise. Als starkes und offenes Land kann DEU vom Austausch - insbesondere auch von Fachkraften sehr profitieren pic.twitter.com/ BRlhu580xF

- Bundeskanzler Olaf Scholz (@Bundeskanzler) February 26,

During his meeting with workers at the SAP Labs, Scholz said he was "determined" to reduce bureaucratic hurdles to immigration for skilled workers, and "make it easier to come to Germany as a specialist, including with your own family.'

J&K Govt Approves Rs 15 Cr Project To Prop Up Nutri Cereals

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has approved an ambitious Rs 15 crore project to prop up nutri cereals besides promoting and enhancing millet production and consumption in the Union Territory.

The project, planned to be implemented over a period of three years, aims to promote cultivation of millets, increase their value addition and generate entrepreneurship opportunities for farmers. The initiative also seeks to generate awareness regarding the nutritional value of millets, which are rich in proteins, micronutrients, and phytochemicals.

Millets are known as the "miracle grains" or "crops of the future" due to their resilience to climate change. They can grow in drought prone areas and do not require large amounts of water or external inputs, making them an ideal crop for small scale farmers in Jammu and Kashmir. It is also a dual purpose crop, providing both food and fodder besides contributing to the economic efficiency of farming.

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in millets due to their numerous health benefits and the need to find sustainable solutions to food security challenges. Governments and organizations worldwide have started promoting millets as a nutritious, sustainable and affordable food option. The government of India is actively promoting the cultivation, processing and marketing of millets and in the past declared 2018 as the National Year of Millets. The United Nations General Assem-

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant

Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Monday remarked that Jammu

and Kashmir has vast potential

for entrepreneurship, innova-

tion, incubation and startup's

and a lot of growth and devel-

opment is happening across the

region from the last three years.

opment for Aspiring and Exist-

by Indian Institute of Man-

agement (IIM), Jammu in col-

laboration with Skill India and

Union Ministry of Skill Devel-

opment and Entrepreneurship

Addressing the large gather-

ing of aspiring entrepreneurs,

Advisor Bhatnagar said that

the present period is 'Sunrise

Period 'for entire Jammu and

at KC, City Centre here.

The program was organised

ing Entrepreneurs.

The Advisor made these re-



bly too, at the behest of the Government of India, has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets to raise awareness about the health benefits and sustainable production and consumption of millets.

"Despite growing awareness and popularity of millets, their production and consumption is still limited and there are several challenges that need to be addressed. One of the significant challenges is the lack of awareness and knowledge about millets among farmers and consumers", said Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department.

"Many farmers are still unaware of the benefits of millet cultivation and continue to struggle to cultivate high-input crops, resulting in depletion of soil fertility and water resources. these are the issues that this ambitious initiative seeks to ad-

dress", he added. "Promotion of Nutri-Cereals Millets) in Jammu and Kashmir" is one among the 29 projects, which were approved by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after being recommended by the UT Level Apex Commit-

Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Incubation

three, four years owing to con-

structive and reformative poli-

marks while addressing the cy making. He added that our to start, grow and sustain a

five day Capacity Building Pro- country is emerging as 'Land of small business. He added that

Opportunities ' and the growth

story of India has no parallel

lighted that the J&K has of-

fered best industrial investment

package to the industrial sector

and the region witnessed re-

markable investments in last

couple of years. He added that

the present LG led Administra-

tion is providing all possible as-

sistance and support to aspiring

Highlighting on the signifi-

The Advisor further high-

across the world.

entrepreneurs.

J&K Possesses Vast Potential For

And Startups: Advisor Bhatnagar

tee for holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors in UT of J&K. The prestigious committee is being headed by Dr Mangala Rai, Former DG ICAR and has other luminaries in the field of Agriculture, Planning, Statistics and Administration like Ashok Dalwai, CEO NRAA, Dr. P. K Joshi, Secretary, NAAS, Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner MOA and FW, Dr. H. S Gupta, Former Director, IARI, Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, APD besides Vice Chancellors of twin Agriculture Universities of the UT.

Millets were once cultivated throughout Jammu and Kashmir in plains as well as in hilly areas. The major millets grown were buckwheat species, amaranth and minor millets. However, these crops were abandoned five or six decades ago throughout J&K except in a few far-flung hilly areas of the UT. The initiative aims to revive millet cultivation in the region, which has been in decline for decades. The initiative hopes to expand the area under millet cultivation from 8310 ha to 14310 ha and distribute 550 quintal of High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds.

provide participants with the

necessary tools and knowledge

the program will offer a range of

training sessions on topics such

as business planning, market-

ing, financial management, and

legal considerations to establish

The Advisor also said that the

participants will have the op-

portunity to learn from experi-

enced entrepreneurs, industry

experts, and business profes-

sionals, who will share their

knowledge and expertise. He

added that the participants will

also be able to network with

successful enterprises.



PM Modi Releases 13th **Installment Under Kisan** Samman Nidhi Scheme

Observer News Service

JAMM: Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu, organized a live streaming programme regarding release of 13th install-ment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, presided over the function organized at Baba Jitto, Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo, here.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council graced the occasion as guest of

Special Secretary Agriculture Production Department, T.K.Bhat, Director Agriculture, Jammu, K K Sharma; Director Animal Husbandry, Shubra Sharma, Director Sheep Husbandry, Krishan Lal, Joint Directors of Extension, Marketing, Apiculture and Mushroom and senior officers besides more than 200 farmers of Jammu division participated in the pro-

In line with the government's

continued commitment and resolve to empower grassrootlevel farmers, an amount of Rs 16,800 crore to about 8 crore beneficiary farmer families was transferred digitally by the PM.

Under PM-KISAN scheme, a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year is being provided to the eligible beneficiary farmer families, payable in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each. The fund is transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. Under this scheme, Samman Rashi of over Rs 2.25 lakh crore has been transferred to farmer families, so far.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary said that the purpose of PM KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme is to give respect to Annadata of the nation in the shape of financial assistance. He appealed educated youth to adopt farming sector as full time profession.

It was informed that about 6.5 lakh farmers of JK UT have been benefitted today under the 13th installment.

Similar programmes were organized at all district and sub division headquarters.

EPFO Sets May 3 As Deadline For Subscribers To Opt For Higher Pension

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Monday set May 3 as the deadline for subscribers to opt for a higher pension.

The Supreme Court on November 4 allowed another change for employees who were existing EPS members as on September 1, 2024, to contribute up to 8.33 per cent of their actual salaries - as against 8.33 per cent of pensionable salary capped at Rs 15,000 a month - towards pension.

The apex court gave a fourmonth window to enable opt-sions that March 3, 2023, is the ing for higher pensions. The last date for opting for a higher deadline accordingly should have been around March 3, 2023, but EPFO only last week came out with the procedure for opting for higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

"The joint option for employees who were in service prior to September 1, 2014, and continued to be in service on or after September 1, 2014, but could not exercise joint option under the Employees' Pension Scheme can do so now on or before May 3, 2023," the EPFO said on its website.

At present, both employees and employers contribute 12 per cent of the employee's ba-

sic salary, dearness allowance and retaining allowance, if any, to the employee provident fund

The employee's entire contribution goes to EPF, while the 12 per cent contribution by the employer is split as 3.67 per cent to EPF and 8.33 per cent

The Government of India contributes 1.16 per cent to an employee's pension, while employees do not contribute to the pension scheme.

EPFO said, "online facility for filing joint option is coming

Earlier, there were apprehenpension

Last week, EPFO came out with a procedure to enable subscribers and their employers to jointly apply for a higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

In November 2022, the Supreme Court upheld the Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme 2014. The EPS amendment of August 22, 2014, had raised the pensionable salary cap to Rs 15,000 a month from Rs 6,500 a month and allowed members along with their employers to contribute 8.33 per cent of their actual salaries (if it exceeded the cap) towards EPS.

Kashmir as the UT is witnessother entrepreneurs and build cance of this capacity building program, Advisor Bhatnagar ing tremendous growth and relationships that can help development from the last said that this program aims to them in their business journey.

Apart from safety issues, the legal and ethical ramifications are complex

The Tourists Who Visit Ukraine's Warzones

360info.org

'ar attracts a certain type of tourist as Ukraine has discovered. Apart from safety issues, the legal and ethical ramifications are complex.

The posts are from many different people but usually begin the same way: I am looking to volunteer in Ukraine. The queries are from medical professionals, former soldiers, truck drivers, college students and countless others. Some have weapons; many don't. All have the same goal: to get to Ukraine and join the war.

One video on the volunteers for Ukraine subreddit forum is of a school janitor from Montana now helping evacuate women and children from battle zones. Another is a mother-oftwo and nurse from Los Angeles helping the wounded on the frontlines. One older woman dropped everything in the US and now helps save animals caught up in the chaos.

The idea of visiting a warzone may seem crazy but since Russia invaded Ukraine 12 months ago, there has emerged a group determined to get firsthand experience of the battlefields.

Tourism to Ukraine was just starting to recover from the devastation of CO-VID-19 when Russian president Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion. The bulk of the fighting has taken place in the country's east. Farther west, despite regular missile attacks on the capital Kyiv and other cities, tourism is still encouraged, despite the risks.

Tourists who have recently visited Ukraine speak of Kyiv as being surprisingly similar to peacetime (albeit with more poverty on the streets and less-crowded public transport). Favourable exchange rates make services cheap and most banks, hospitals, pharmacies, shops and restaurants operate as normal. There is a downside, though the risk of being shot, blown up, wounded, poisoned, infected or trapped.

Despite the risks, the flow of foreigners to Ukraine has not let up, although reliable statistics are scarce. The Ukrainian government established a foreign legion just days after the invasion. Thousands responded. One military commentator labelled these foreigners fighting in Ukraine as a legion of the



damned, an army of misfits, veterans and war tourists.

Some of these war tourists pay the ultimate price. Australian man Sage O'Donnell was killed just before Christmas. The ex-soldier was helping train Ukrainian volunteers when he died. He's the fourth Australian to be killed. Overall, more than 112 foreigners have perished while many others have been captured by the Russians.

War tourism is not a new phenomenon, as historical sources cite the presence of onlookers at historical battles such as the battle of Waterloo and the American Civil War's Battle of Bull Run.

Shortly after the start of the Russian invasion, the subreddit volunteers for Ukraine was created and had 50,000 members within a month. Text processing of more than 10,000 posts showed the main topics for discussion within the forum.

Combat volunteers asked information on issues such as equipment and resources, language skills, basic training, military background and need for prior service. Non-combat volunteers shared information on medical experience, medical training, medical supplies and combat zone experience.

Other forum members said they would not travel to the combat zone directly, but try to support Ukraine through financial donations, online information sharing and dismantling

Usually war sites are only visited once conflict has subsided, but recent studies suggest the practice of travelling to active areas of conflict is growing, a phenomenon which is referred to as hot war tourism. Although mostly not explicitly stated, from their posts it can be inferred they were interested in watching, a voyeuristic view on a spectacle as real as it gets. These potential war tourists were

concerned with logistics and barriers, how to cross the border and how to acquire a plane ticket. Cold weather gear, sleeping bags and language skills were other issues of interest among them.

Travel to conflict zones as a volunteer or paid foreign fighter is illegal in many countries, but this seldom applies to visit active war zones as an onlooker. Governments around the world are mostly unequivocal: do not travel to Ukraine.

In the case of Ukraine, studies have suggested war tourists often end up as active participants in the conflict. Westerners have also entered Ukraine to fight for the Russian side.

Whether it is ethical to visit an active warzone for whatever reason is up for debate. And whether tourists arrive with the intention to be actively involved in the conflict is not clear and reliable data is not available.

What is clear is the lack of understanding, control and legal frameworks to regulate war tourism and its related dangers.

Court Remands Delhi Deputy CM Sisodia in 5-day CBI custody

that the interrogation of ac-

cused during this period shall be

conducted at some place having

CCTV coverage in accordance

with guidelines laid down by

the Supreme Court and the said

footage shall be preserved by

the CBI. It is also subject to the

condition that he shall be medi-

cally examined once in every 48

The judge also permitted

Sisodia to meet his advocates

for half an hour every day be-

tween 6 pm to 7 pm during his

CBI custody in a manner that the

agency officials are not able to

shall be permitted to meet his

wife every day for a duration

of 15 minutes during the above

said hour," the judge said, while

also allowing Sisodia to take

certain medicines prescribed to

The CBI on Sunday evening

arrested Sisodia in connection

with alleged corruption in the

formulation and implementa-

tion of the now-scrapped liquor

During the hearing, which

went on for over an hour,

Sisodia's counsel said that it

policy for 2021-22.

"Besides this, the accused

hear their conversations.

hours," the judge said.

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A court here on Monday sent Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to fiveday CBI remand in the excise policy case to allow the agency to get "genuine and legitimate" answers to questions being put to him for "a proper and fair investigation".

Special judge M K Nagpal passed the order on a CBI plea, which produced the AAP leader before the court amid heavy security in and outside the Rouse Avenue Courts premises a day after arresting him. The agency had sought his five-day custodial interrogation.

The judge said that though the accused had joined the investigation of this case on two earlier occasions, it has also been observed that he has failed to provide satisfactory answers to most of the questions put to him during his examination and interrogation. Thus, he has failed to legitimately explain the incriminating evidence which has allegedly surfaced against him during the investigation conducted so far.

It is true that he cannot be expected to make self-incriminating statements, but the interests of justice and of a fair investigation require him to come up with some legitimate answers to the questions which are being put to him by the investigating officer (IO).

"Some of his subordinates are found to have disclosed certain facts which can be taken as incriminating against him and some documentary evidence against him has also already

... a proper and fair investigation requires that some genuine and legitimate answers to the questions being put to him about the same are to be found and

the accused," the judge said. "Keeping in view the facts and circumstances, the accused is being remanded to CBI custody for a period of 05 days i.e. till March 4, 2023 for his further and extensive interrogation,' the judge said.

hence, in considered opinion of

this court, this can only be done

during custodial interrogation of

He added that as far as the apprehensions being expressed by senior counsels regarding the use of any force or third-degree methods for extracting information from the accused are concerned, "this court does not expect the same from the officers of CBI who have been given the task of interrogating the accused holding the high post of Dy. Chief Minister of the GNCTD and also some other important portfolios".

In any case, such apprehensions can always be taken care of by imposing certain condi-

tions, the judge said. "Hence, it also being directed was the lieutenant governor who had approved the changes in the excise policy and that the central probe agency was going after the elected government.

"I can't do anything. It has to be approved by the appropriate authority," he said.

Sisodia claimed that there was no evidence against him and opposed the CBI's plea for

"I (Sisodia) am the finance minister. I have to present the budget.... what changed yesterday that the finance minister was to be placed under custody? Was he not available for next days? Or was this arrest done for ulterior motive? This case is an assault on an individual as well as the institution. Remand will send a message, this is a fit case for declining remand," Sisodia's counsel told the court.

He submitted that Sisodia acted as a member of the Delhi government and hence the decision can neither be attributed to him nor questioned.

The CBI counsel submitted that Sisodia's custody was required for effective interrogation in the case.

Sisodia claimed that he had no role in the case but the probe showed he personally took decisions, the agency submitted.

Sisodia's counsel, while opposing the probe agency's plea for custody, submitted that the CBI says he changed his cell phones, but that is not a crime.

The counsel said the policy was implemented after taking suggestions even from the Delhi lieutenant governor and that since it required consultations, there was no chance of conspiracy.

Spicejet Plane Makes Emergency Landing In Kolkata After Pilot Spots Broken Engine Blade

A SpiceJet flight on the way to Bangkok made an emergency landing at the Kolkata airport in the early hours of Monday after the pilot noticed that an engine blade was broken, officials said.

The Boeing 737, operating as flight SG83, took off with 178 passengers and six crew members from the Kolkata airport for Bangkok around 1.09 am. Minutes later, the pilot noticed that a blade of the left engine was broken, they said.

Soon, he contacted the air traffic control and a full emergency was declared at the Kolkata airport with fire engines, ambulances, and emergency teams of the CISF in



waiting, they added.

The plane made an emergency landing at 1.27 am and all the passengers and crew members were brought out safely, airport officials said. The full emergency

was terminated at 2 am, they said. The passengers left for Bangkok on another flight at 7.10 am, officials said. The aircraft with the faulty engine blade was undergoing checking, they said.

Burnt Bodies In SUV In Haryana, Blood Stains Of Kidnapped Muslim Men: Cops

New Delhi: The report of forensic science laboratory has confirmed that the charred bodies and the blood stains found in the SUV recovered from a cow shelter in Haryana's Jind were of Junaid and Nasir, a Rajasthan police officer said.

The bodies of Rajasthan's Bharatpur-based men, who were abducted, were found inside a vehicle in Haryana's Bhiwani district on February 16. The families of the deceased alleged that they were beaten and murdered by members of the Bajrang Dal.

"The FSL (forensic science



laboratory) report confirms that the charred bodies and the blood stains in the SUV recovered from a Gau-shala in Jind (Haryana) were of Nasir and lunaid," Bharatpur range IG Gaurav Srivastav said.

He said the burnt vehicle matched the chassis number, but the bodies left inside could

The officer said that FSL samples were collected from the spot. Blood samples of the family members of Nasir and Junaid were also collected so that the blood stains found in the SUV and the bones found in the burnt vehicle can be matched.

He said the report has now confirmed the identity of both

During the probe, the SUV was found in Jind in which the victims were abducted and beaten. "Our teams are camping in Haryana and working closely with the Haryana police to nab the accused," he added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

40% Of Population

Rs 50 per month. 30,000 shops will have to pay taxes below Rs 2000 per annum which is also one-tenth of the amount being paid in Shimla, Ambala and Dehradun. 76% of shops will be paying a nominal amount in the shape of Property Tax. No better arrangements can be made than this," he added.

The LG said that the revenue generated won't go to the UT government and will be deposited in the accounts of the corporations and municipalities.

"It will be utilized for improving public amenities," he said, adding "If a common man has any problem, he must reach out to the administration. It is our collective responsibility to build a J&K which is economically prosperous, with ample opportunities for livelihood generation so that people can live & work with dignity and

The LG also sought participation from the citizens in the government's efforts toward the socio-economic progress of rural and urban areas. The administration, he said, will ensure common people don't face any inconvenience.

"Every decision will be made in the interest of the people. Administration and responsible citizens must make others aware of the Property Tax and how we can contribute in transforming the cities as engines of growth," he added.

'J&K Soon To

Smart Metering App - Smart Bill Sahuliyat, and Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition system at a cost of Rs 79.27 crore.

Sinha said the projects inaugurated today will add to the existing distribution capacity and provide quality power supply to the households and existing & upcoming industrial units in the respective areas.

"The completion of projects under the MoUs signed today will go a long way to achieve the goal of providing 24x7 quality power to the people of Jammu Kashmir," he said

"Projects undertaken for creation of new receiving stations and augmentation of existing stations will ensure quality and reliable power supply to people. We have achieved huge capacity addition under Centrally Sponsored Schemes/PMDP projects. Out of 195 projects, 135 have been completed and the remaining 60 projects will be completed in coming months," he added.

Taking a dig at successive governments, the LG said that the power scenario in Jammu Kashmir, which was in shambles for decades, has witnessed a major turnaround with more electricity being supplied, especially in farflung areas as compared to previous years.

"In Kashmir valley, additional capacities were created during the winter to enable peak demand and 10 percent more power was supplied as compared to last year. For the first time, in a single year out of 30 grid stations, 11 stations have been augmented." he said.

"Power supply position in Jammu region has improved after addition of new system capacities. These initiatives exemplify our commitment for inclusive development and to fulfil the needs of the common man," he added.

The LG highlighted the reforms introduced in the last three years to improve the power infrastructure; enhance power sustainability & efficiency in the UT.

Under PMDP and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Sinha said, a well-planned, systematic and comprehensive program is being

implemented for improvement and upgradation of transmission & distribution infrastructure to streamline and strengthen the power supply across J&K.

'The target of 1727 MVA capacity addition has been achieved at 220 and 132 KV levels and 236 circuit km transmission line has been laid. We have added 2345 MVA capacity in the distribution sector and 8550 new distribution transformers have been installed in residential areas. Four mega hydro projects will be completed in coming years," he said.

"In the first phase of the smart metering project, 57,000 meters have been installed and 1.25 lakh smart meters will be installed during Phase II," he added.

The LG also directed the officials to avail the benefit of RDSS scheme. He said that the officers must evaluate the implementation of the Power Amnesty scheme, and make dedicated efforts to reduce AT&C losses.

"Remove apprehensions of people. Spread awareness regarding smart meters," he added. The LG also spoke on the transformation

taking place in agriculture & allied sectors and how the implementation of 29 projects recommended by Apex committee will bring a favorable change in the lives of farming families.

He further shared the achievements registered during Back to Village & employment opportunities extended to the youth; recruitment in Government jobs and streamlining the departmental promotions process

Earlier, KPDCL and JPDCL signed MoUs worth Rs 1814 Cr & Rs 2174 Cr, respectively, with PESL (PGCIL), RECPDCL & NTPC for implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in presence of the LG.

Govt Strips SKIMS Of

Lieutenant Governor J&K is the Chairperson of the SKIMS governing body that performs the role of the cabinet for the semi-autonomous super-speciality hospital and the deemed university.

In addition to the deemed university and the main hospital, the institute comprises the State Cancer Institute, Maternity Hospital, Nursing college, Paramedical college, and an affiliated medical college & hospital which is on the city outskirts at Bemina—(KNO)

LG Assures

condemned the killing and said those behind the "extremely unfortunate incident" will be taken care of by the security forces.

While the BJP held protests at several places in Kashmir against Sharma's killing, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti visited his family and questioned the Centre's claim that militancy has ended in the union territory.

Sharma was shot dead by terrorists on Sunday morning barely 100 metres from his home in Achan in Pulwama when he was on his way to the local market. He was rushed to a hospital by passersby but he succumbed to the injuries.

The mortal remains of Sharma, 40, were consigned to the flames as per Hindu rituals amidst the presence of his family members and neighbours, including Muslims, officials said. The Muslim neighbours helped his family

members in performing the last rites, they said. "We condemn the murder. We stand by the bereaved family. As soon as the news of the incident broke yesterday, people were ready to provide all help -- blood, money or anything else -- to save him. Unfortunately, he suc-

cumbed on the way (to hospital)," said a local

resident, Bashir Ahmad Malik.

He said the killing was a setback for the Hindu-Muslim harmony in the village which has existed since centuries.

"This is not the murder of one individual, this is the murder of humanity. The people of this area are as bereaved as the family of the victim," Malik said.

Sharma became the first victim of targeted killings by terrorists this year. Last year, they shot dead 18 people, including three Kashmiri Pandits, a bank manager from Rajasthan and eight non-local workers, in 29 attacks in the

Speaking to reporters here, LG Sinha said, "It is an extremely unfortunate incident. No words are enough to condemn the killing. Whoever has carried out the act, our security forces will take care of them."

He said such incidents can create doubts in the minds of people about the security scenario, but the administration and security forces are working "with a 360-degree approach".

"The situation today is much better but we are working towards making it a model situation." he added.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, who visited the bereaved family, said Kashmiri Muslims are ashamed over Sharma's killing and hit out at the government for claiming that normalcy has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The government claims to have ended militancy. If that is the case, who killed him (Sharma)? What is the government doing, Mufti asked while talking to reporters.

"We are the same people who put everything at stake in 1947 to protect the Kashmiri Pandits, Hindus and Sikhs living in the Valley when the subcontinent was reeling under communal riots," she said.

Meanwhile, the BJP held protests at several places in Kashmir against the killing.

The main protest was held in the Jawahar Nagar area of the city where dozens of BJP workers demonstrated against the killing.

"Our Kashmiri Pandit brother was brutally killed in Pulwama. Terrorists have tried to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere established in the past three years under a well-thought-out conspiracy. We won't allow it to happen," said Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, head of the BJP's Media

'The BJP is protesting against Pakistan across the Valley today. We appeal to the LG administration to ensure security of minorities and take steps so that such incidents do not recur," Bhat added.

Protests were also held in Kulgam on Monday and a candlelight vigil was organised against Sharma's killing in Pulwama and Baramulla on Sundav night.

ADGP Calls

chairing a security review meeting in which officers of police, army and CRPF participated, a police spokesperson said Monday.

During the meeting, he said, the ADGP Kashmir imparted upon them to implement additional security measures in order to prevent such terror incidents.

While instructing the officers present in the meeting, Kumar, he said, stressed to enhance counter-terror operations in Pulwama District.

"He also directed police officers present in the meeting to generate more humint & techint and further launch counter-terrorist operations along with security forces. Besides, the process for identifying hybrid terrorists and taking appropriate actions were also discussed in the

meeting," the spokesperson said.

Among others, the review meeting was attended by Army's Sector Commander, DIG Police, DIG CRPF, SSP Pulwama, Army's CO and CRPF's Commandants and other officers.

ADGP Kashmir was briefed about the overall security measures put in place by the participating officers.

DGP Orders

person or organization supporting such

Singh, he said, directed the officer to take full advantage of the latest technology and gadgets which have been recently added to the armoury of Police.

"DGP also stressed for timely digitization of all records pertaining to all terrorists, OGWs, Anti-national elements besides compilation of data regarding their properties, friends and others," he added

The DGP, the spokesperson said, advised officers to also ensure professional investigation in UAPA cases in order to ensure conviction of accused and to effectively deal with the terror ecosystem.

"He directed that those Police personnel who are not following professional code of conduct or are involved in any activity that is detrimental to Police-Public relations should be identified and action against them should be initiated," he added.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said, the DGP also reviewed the security scenario in the area of operation of all SOG units across the valley and also took stock of their performance.

Singh, he said, stressed upon all officers to be friendly with the public in their endeavors and during the line of duty besides directing them to visit villages, interact with local people and ensure that any problems being faced by them are either resolved or brought to the notice of the concerned.

KP Employees Raise

Kashmiri Pandit community shifted to Jammu in May last year following the killing of their colleagues, Rahul Bhat and Rajini Bala, by militants.

While Bhat was shot dead inside his office in central Kashmir's Budgam district on May 12, Bala, a school teacher, was gunned down in south Kashmir's Kulgam on May 31 last year.

Another protester, Ruban Saproo, said the lieutenant governor-led Union Territory administration needs to hold talks with them rather than compelling them to rejoin their duties in the valley.

"One more Kashmiri Pandit sacrificed his life for the nation, despite repeated assurances by the government that it has worked out a plan for the security of the community. We acknowledge the efforts of the administration in providing security to them but there is a need to restore our shaken confidence and trust," he said. Saproo appealed to LG Manoj Sinha not to

force them to resume their jobs in the valley after Sharma's killing and to accept their demand for relocation elsewhere. "We can perform our duties only when we

are alive. The government can utilise our services in Jammu as well," a woman protester said, adding that they do not feel safe in the

Meanwhile, activists of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena Dogra Front and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal separately staged protests against targeted killings and demanded adequate security arrangements for the safety of the minority community members in Kashmir.

Chanting anti-Pakistan and anti-terrorism slogans, BJP workers staged a protest at Kachi Chawni, the Shiv Sena Dogra Front at Rani Park and the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal near the city bus stand. The protesters burnt effigies of Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Dogra Sadar Sabha president and former

Jammu and Kashmir minister Gulchain Singh Charak raised questions over the frequent targeted killings in Kashmir despite claims of normalcy. He demanded special security arrangements for the safety of people and adequate compensation to the bereaved family. The migrants' wing of the People's

Democratic Party (PDP) also condemned Sharma's killing and demanded an end to targeted killings.

against the targeted killings of minority community members," it said in a statement.

Man Booked For

complainant will now face action under Section 203 IPC for misleading the police with his fake and baseless statement about money.

The three accused have been identified as Junaid Ahmad Sheikh, Ubaid Khan and Ishfaq Ahmad Dar, all residents of Srinagar.

Another 'Son-Rise'

son to travel to the length and breadth of the valley as a commoner, without any security.

"I told him that way you can get to know what the people think and want in reality. Otherwise, people show us the unrealistic picture," he said. The former union minister said Saddam

went around to even those places where he has not been in recent times.

'This is the way to learn," he added.

Later, in a tweet, Azad expressed happiness over his son's entry into politics and expressed hope that he would live up to the expectations of the people.

"Attended a youth interaction programme at Srinagar. Listening to our youth and creating diverse job opportunities for them will be my priority if voted to power. I am glad to see my son Saddam Azad actively joining politics. I hope he lives upto people's expectations!" Azad wrote on Twitter.

He floated the party in September last year after parting his ways with the Congress.

Saddam joins a long list of political heirs in the erstwhile state. Omar Abdullah, son of former Union minister and NC president Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, daughter of former Union Home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Sajad Lone, son of mainstream-turned separatist leader Abdul Gani Lone, and Salman Anees Soz. son of former union minister Saifuddin Soz are among the notable scions

who have joined politics in J-K. **MeT Predicts**

settled at 3.1°C against 3.0°C on the previous night and it was 3.1°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 15.1°C against 12.5°C on the previous night. It was 3.5°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 2.8°C (above normal by 0.6°C), Batote 6.5°C (above normal by 3.0°C), Katra 12.6°C (3.3°C above normal) and Bhadarwah 4.1°C (3.3°C above normal).

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 6.2°C and 4.8°C respectively, the official



34th J&K Senior Volleyball C'ship Concludes At Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, on Monday witnessed the final match of 34th J&K Senior Volleyball Championship and distributed trophies among the winners and finalists at M A Stadium here.

Advisor Bhatnagar, who was the chief guest on the occasion, in his address said that Jammu and Kashmir is fast emerging as a powerhouse of sports across the country and in recent years the UT has produced notable sportspersons of national and international standard. He highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is rising as the preferred location for hosting sports events owing to the upgradation and establishment of sports infrastructure in the last couple of years.

While giving away prizes among the winners and finalists, Advisor Bhatnagar maintained that every player in the field is the winner. He said that after watching today's game he is quite optimistic that the quality of sports played in J&K has upgraded and players are depicting

great skill and talent than the past. Advisor praised the participants for their hard work and dedication. He emphasized the importance of sports in building a healthy society and congratulated the winners for their outstanding performance.

Advisor Bhatnagar congratulated the winning teams and presented them with trophies and cash prizes. He also applauded the efforts of organizers for hosting such a successful championship saying that these will continue to be organized in the future in other sports also to provide opportunities for young talents to showcase their sports skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, said that the sports events being organized across Jammu and Kashmir are part of Jan Bhagidhari initiative of J&K government. She highlighted that the positive ecosystem of sports has been established in J&K and UT is witnessing maximum number of player selections in national and international events.

Pertinently, in the Men's final played between district Anantnag and district Jammu, team Jammu emerged victorious while in women's final played between district Jammu and district Srinagar, team Jammu emerged victorious.

Among others, the final match was witnessed by office bearers of J&K Volleyball Association, large number of sports enthusiasts and

Ghosh Only Indian In ICC's 'Most Valuable Team'



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India's wicket-keeper batter Richa Ghosh's exploits during the side's run to the semi-finals of the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa have earned her a of the tournament announced on

The 19-year-old wicket-keeper and middle-order batter had a couple of below-par scores against Ireland in the group stages and Australia in the semi-finals, but three unbeaten knocks -- 31 not out vs Pakistan, 44 not out vs West Indies and 47 not out vs England -saw her end the tournament with

Four players from Australia, who lifted the trophy for a record-extending sixth time, figure in the XI.

They are wicketkeeper-opener Alyssa Healy, who scored 189 runs at 47.25 and effected four dismissals, all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner, who scored 110 runs at 36.66 and grabbed 10 wickets at 12.50, Darcie Brown (seven wickets at 15.00) and

Megan Schutt (10 wickets at 12.50). The team was chosen by a panel of experts, including commentator and former West Indies player Ian Bishop and ex-Australian woman cricketer Melanie Jones, among others.

Women's T20 World Cup (in batting order):

Tazmin Brits (South Africa) 186 runs at 37.20; Alyssa Healy (wk) (Australia) 189 runs at 47.25 and four dismissals; Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa) 230 runs at 46.00; Nat Sciver-Brunt (c) (England) 216 runs at 72.00; Ashleigh Gardner (Australia) 110 runs at 36.66 and 10 wickets at 12.50; Richa Ghosh (India) 136 runs at 68.00; Sophie Ecclestone (England) 11 wickets at 7.54; Karishma Ramharack (West Indies) 5 wickets at 10.00; Shabnim Ismail (South Africa) 8 wickets at 16.12; Darcie Brown (Australia) 7 wickets at 15.00; Megan Schutt (Australia) 10 wickets at 12.50; 12th player: Orla Prendergast (Ireland) 109 runs at 27.25 and 3 wick-

Santosh Trophy: Punjab, Services, Karnataka, Meghalaya **Land In Riyadh For Semifinals**

ll roads converge in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as four teams Punjab, Services, Karnataka, and Meghalaya - alighted from their flights at the King Khalid International Airport to fight it out at the business end of the Santosh Trophy. The buzz is in the air for all four sides, as they prepare to etch their names in the history books of this legacy competition.

The Santosh Trophy's Arabian tale will get underway at the King Fahd International Sta-

dium in Riyadh and Punjab and Meghalaya will be the first to grace the hallowed turf, when they cross swords on Wednesday, March 1 at 5.30 pm IST. followed by the second semi-final, where Services will take on Karnataka at 9 pm IST at the same venue. The two losing semifinalists will face each other in the third-place Match at the King Fahd International Stadium. which will kick-off on March 4 at 6 pm IST, with the final being played the following day at the same venue at 9 pm IST. (ANI)



IND vs AUS: Rahul, Gill Grind It Out In **Nets 'Audition'**



Press Trust of India

INDORE: There were no definite cues but it seemed like an audition when the struggling K L Rahul and the much younger Shubam Gill batted simultaneously during a training session on Monday ahead of the third Test against Australia.

Stripped of India vice-captaincy following his prolonged lean patch in the five-day format, Rahul put in the hard yards in what could possibly be the final training session before the game, beginning Wednesday. The selection of Rahul, who averages an ordinary 33.44 after 47 Tests, at better time to draft him into the playing eleven. While Gill

the expense of Gill, who is a superstar in the making, has divided opinions in the cricketing fraternity.

Both batted in adjacent nets for around 30 minutes under the supervision of head coach Rahul Dravid. Rahul has got an extended run as the team management has immense faith in his abilities but with every failure, the pressure is mounting on the stylish opener. Gill, on the other hand, has had a coming-of-age season across formats and his supporters, which include former cricketers, believe there is no was more attacking in his approach, Rahul bided his time and focused on his defence.

Rahul left and blocked the first 18 balls he faced before practicing the aerial hits down the ground off spinners. He then traded places with Gill to face R Ashwin and there also, he looked to play everything with a straight bat. Before batting alongside Rahul, Gill was the first member of the team to hit the nets as other underwent warm-up and fielding

After their stint in the main nets, both Gill and Rahul moved to the other side of the ground

If You Don't Score In India, You Will Get Flak: Ganguly On KL Rahul

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: It will be difficult for KL Rahul to avoid scathing criticism for his protracted poor run because of the enormous expectations attached with the job, especially when past cricketers have set high standards, says former India skipper Sourav Ganguly.

Stripped of vice captaincy, Rahul hasn't crossed 25-run mark in his last 10 Test knocks. An average of less than 35 in 47 Tests isn't an actual realisa tion of his real potential.

"When you don't score runs in India, obviously you will get flak. KL Rahul hasn't been the only one. There have been players in the past also," Ganguly told PTI in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of Delhi Capitals' IPL pre-season camp.

Ganguly tried to put things in perspective as to why the Bengaluru man is being persisted

with despite repeated failures. "There's so much focus and attention with lot of pressure on players. The team management thinks he is an important player for the team. At the end of the day, what coach and captain thinks is important," the veteran of 113 Tests and

While Rahul has played nical or mental?



some quality knocks in England and Australia, Ganguly said it's obvious that people will expect way more from a talented player like Rahul, who has managed just five Test hundreds in nine years.

"He has performed but obviously you expect a lot more from a top order batter playing for India because the standards set by others are so high.

"When you fail for a while, obviously there will be criticism. I am sure Rahul has ability and I am sure as and when he gets more opportunities, he will have to find ways to score," he explained.

So is Rahul's problem tech-

"Both," pat comes the reply. But the former BCCI President also gave an interesting insight into Rahul's lack of runs as he is getting out to pacers as well as spinners in all conditions in recent times.

"It also makes it hard if you are playing on these sort of pitches as the balls are turning and bouncing. There's uneven bounce and when you are not in form, it makes it even more harder." Shubman has to wait

There has been a clamour to include Shubman Gill in the playing XI but Ganguly feels that the Punjab man will get his share of chances and there's no harm if he has to wait a little bit.

Isle Of Man Bowled Out For 10 Runs In Lowest T20 Score Ever



Agencies

Isle of Man were bowled out by Spain for 10 runs in an international match on Sunday, limping to the lowest total in men's Twenty20 cricket. Six players in the Isle of Man's line-up were dismissed for a duck, while Joseph Burrows was their highest scorer with four runs. The team were routed in 8.4 overs.

Spain chased the total in two balls, wrapping up a 10-wicket victory in a bizarre contest. "Crazy, just crazy," Spain head coach Corey Rutgers told the Cricbuzz website.

"It (the score) just went 4-4, 6-6. I've never seen anything like it in my life."

The match was the last of the six-match series, which Spain won 5-0 after the second

game was abandoned due to rain. The Isle of Man replaced Sydney Thunder at the top of the list of the lowest innings totals in men's T20s. The Thunder were bowled out by Adelaide Strikers for 15 in the Big Bash League in December.

The previous lowest total was registered by the Turkish national team against Czech Republic in 2019, when they bundled out for 21 inside 8.3 overs.

Journalists, Police Clash At Gaddafi Stadium In Pakistan

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Chaos descended upon the Gaddafi Stadium, which was hosting a PSL cricket match, after a group of journalists were denied entry to the venue by police officials for wearing masks in solidarity with the slain journalist Arshad Sharif.

Sharif, 49, a former reporter and TV anchor with ARY TV, was shot dead in Nairobi on October 23 last year under mysterious circumstances, sending shockwaves across Pakistan.

On Sunday, television anchor Imran Riaz and his friends donning masks with the picture of Sharif were stopped by police from entering the Gaddafi Stadium, the venue of a PSL-8 match, despite having tickets.

The situation quickly escalated after Riaz and his friends began to chant slogans to show their solidarity with Sharif.

Video clips showed police officials and the journalists engaged in heated arguments after the police surrounded them and asked them to surrender their masks before entering the stadium.

In the video, a police inspector was seen shouting to the journalists that wearing the mask showing the 'face' of Sharif on the premises of the stadium was a clear violation of the regulations of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Soon, a scuffle broke out between the police officials and the journalists.

'By wearing Arshad Sharif's masks, we wanted to show soli-



and seek justice for him," Riaz was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

In August last year, Sharif was booked on charges of sedition for interviewing former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's close aide Shehbaz Gill.

In the interview, Gill criticised the Shehbaz Sharif government for trying to pitch Khan against the country's powerful Army. Sharif subsequently fled the country.

A month after he left Pakistan, ARY TV fired Sharif, saying he had repeatedly criticised the military on social media in violation of the company's policy.

In October last year, he was shot dead in Nairobi, in what the Kenyan authorities claim was a case of "mistaken identity." But in December last year, Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered the federal government to constitute a special Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe the case after the initial investigation revealed the murder was

'premeditated." Sharif was awarded the 'Pride of Performance' in 2019 by Pakistan President Arif Alvi.



Messi, Mbappe & Benzema **Up For FIFA Best Award**

Agencies

PARIS: Just like in the World Cup final, Paris Saint-Germain teammates Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe go up against one another for The Best FIFA Men's Player prize for 2022 on Monday, with Ballon d'Or Karim Benzema the other contender.

The ceremony takes place in Paris, and Messi appears as the another indifavourite to add vidual gong to his collection after leading Argentina to glory over Mbappe's France in that epic encounter in Qatar.

Messi has won the Ballon d'Or seven times and claimed the FIFA award -- inaugurated in 2016 following FIFA's split with Ballon d'Or organisers France Football -- once in 2019.

In the last two years Messi has made the podium as Robert Lewandowski has won the title, but the 35-year-old's careercrowning World Cup triumph was the defining moment of

The winner is decided by a iury comprised of the coach and captain of every men's national team and one journalist from each country, but fans can

Mbappe became the first player to score a World Cup final hat-trick since Geoff Hurst in 1966 as he dragged France to a 3-3 draw after extra time -- despite two goals by Messi before they eventually succumbed in a shoot-out.

Mbappe, who turned 24 just after the final, was the tournament's top scorer with eight goals, one more than Messi, who claimed the Golden Ball for best player.

He was also comfortably PSG's most important player in the year leading up to the World Cup, despite being joined there by Messi -- he was Ligue 1's leading scorer and France's player of the year.

However, their World Cup achievements overshadow everything else.

Lewandowski To Miss **Madrid Clash Due To Strain**

Agencies

BARCELONA: Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski has a hamstring strain and is likely to miss the "clasico" against Real Madrid in the semifinals of the Copa del Rey on Thursday.

Lewandowski picked up the left-leg injury in Barcelona's 1-0 loss at Almeria in the Spanish league on Sunday, a result that allowed Madrid to cut the Catalan club's lead to seven points.

Barcelona did not give a timetable for Lewandowski's recovery, but he is not expected to be fit for the first leg of the Copa semifinals at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

Barcelona will face Madrid two more times in the next few weeks, in the second leg of the Copa semifinals and in the Spanish league. Madrid won their last league meeting 3-1 in October, while Barcelona beat its rival by the same score in the Spanish Super Cup final in Ianuary.

Madrid is coming off a 1-1 home draw against city rival Atletico Madrid in the Spanish

Lewandowski is the league's leading scorer with 15 goals. He had scored two goals in the last three games in all competitions.



SC Dismisses PIL Seeking Renaming Of Places Named After 'Foreign Invaders'

SRINAGAR | TUESDAY | 28.02.2023

Centre to constitute a 're-

naming commission' to re-

store the "original" names

of ancient historical, cul-

tural and religious places

which were "renamed" by

was recently renamed Am-

rit Udyan, the government

did nothing to rename the

roads named after invaders,

the PIL said and contended

that the continuation of

these names is against the

sovereignty and other civil

rights guaranteed under

While Mughal Garden

foreign invaders.

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a PIL seeking constituting of a 'renaming commission' to restore "original" names of ancient, cultural and religious places "renamed" by invaders, saying India can't be a prisoner of the past.

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna questioned the motive of the PIL filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, saying it will bring alive those issues, "which would keep the country on boil".

The bench said, "This



is a fact that our country was invaded and ruled by a foreign power. We cannot wish out selected part of our history".

The top court told Upadhyay, "our country is secular and Hinduism is a way of life, which has assimilated everyone and there is no bigotry in it".

It also said the history of the country should not haunt its present and fuUpadhyay had earlier this month filed the PIL, seeking a direction to the

The PIL said alternatively, the court may direct the Archaeological Survey of India to research and publish the initial names of ancient historical and cultural religious places, which were renamed by "barbaric foreign invaders" to secure the Right to Information

the Constitution.

under the Constitution. The PIL said, "We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of independence but there are many ancient historical cultural religious places in the name of brutal foreign invaders, their servants and family members". PTI

UIDAI Rolls Out New Security Mechanism For Robust Fingerprint-Based Aadhaar Authentication

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has rolled out a new security mechanism for Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication and faster detection of spoofing attempts, an official release said

The artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) based security mechanism which has been developed in-house is now using a "combination of both finger minutia and finger image" to check the liveness of the fingerprint captured.

UIDAI in a statement announced the new security mechanism for robust fingerprintbased Aadhaar authentication, and said "this is making Aadhaar authentication transactions even more robust and secure".

"The new two-factor/layer authentication is adding add-on checks to validate the genuineness (liveness) of the fingerprint so as to further cut down the

chances of spoofing attempts," the release added.

The development is expected to be of immense use in segments such as banking and financials, telecom and government sectors. It will strengthen the Aadhaar-enabled payment system and curb malicious attempts by unscrupulous elements, thus benefiting the 'bottom of the pyramid'.

"The new security mechanism for Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication has now become fully functional. The rollout and migration happened after months of discussion and handholding by UIDAI of its partners and user agencies," the release

A constant engagement and due diligence of UIDAI with authentication user agencies (AUAs) were carried out to inform them (AUAs/ Sub AUAs) about the benefit of the new

AUA is an entity engaged in providing Aadhaar-enabled ser-

vices to 12-digit ID holders using authentication as facilitated by the authentication service agency. Sub-AUAs are agencies that use Aadhaar authentication to enable their services through

an existing requesting entity. The UIDAI head office and its regional offices are in touch with all entities for facilitating any user agency (that may not have migrated yet) to switch over to the new secured authentication mode, at the earliest.

The adoption of Aadhaarbased authentication transactions has been on an upward trend as it has proved to be a facilitator in availing several welfare benefits and services.

"By the end of December 2022, a cumulative number of Aadhaar authentication transactions had crossed 88.29 billion and clocking an average per day transactions of 70 million. A majority of them are fingerprintbased authentications, indicative of its usage and utility in daily lives," the release added

CBSE Cautions Students Against Rumours About Ouestion Paper Leaks

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday cautioned students and parents against rumours about question papers for board exams being leaked.

The board has also warned students against indulging in rumour-mongering and has stated that action will be taken against them as per "unfair means" rules, if any involvement is found.

"It has come to the notice of the board that certain unscrupulous elements are regularly spreading rumours on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms about paper leak or claiming to have access to question papers of 2023 exams," a senior board official said.

"These persons, groups and agencies intend to fleece the gullible students and parents as they demand money in return. Such irresponsible activities create confusion and panic among the students and public. The board is vigilant and active in identifying and taking action against those spreading fake news and rumours," he

Classes 10 and 12 CBSE board exams are currently underway and will conclude on April 5.



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