

Two Militants, Soldier Killed In Awantipora

Police Says Slain Militants Were Involved In KP Bank Guard's Killing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Barely two days after a Kashmiri Pandit bank guard was killed in Pulwama district evoking sharp condemnation, police on Tuesday claimed to have shot dead two of his killers in an encounter in South Kashmir's Awantipora, in which a soldier also lost his life.

In a bravely executed operation, a police spokesperson said, a joint team of police, army and paramilitary CRPF launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Padgampora village of Awantipora on Tuesday morning.

During the searches, he said, militants hiding inside a mosque opened indiscriminate fire upon search parties. In the initial exchange of fire, he said, two Army men sustained grievous injuries while neutralizing one militant on the spot.

"One of the jawans later on attained martyrdom. Extreme caution and limited firepower

was used in view of the sacred precincts. Civilians praying inside were also evacuated on time preventing any collateral damage," the spokesperson said.

The joint team, he said, resumed search for the second militant, who had taken shelter inside a bathroom of an adjacent building

"Again caution was exercised and 14 civilians were rescued from the place before he was neutralized," he added.

The police identified the duo as Aqib Mushtaq of Malangpora, Pulwama and Aijaz Ahmad Bhat of Syedabad, Tral. Mushtaq was an A-Category militant and had switched over to TRF from HM from the past few months. He has been active since January 2021.

Bhat, the police said, was C-category militant of Jaish-e-Muhammad and was also working in coordination TRF. He was active since May 2022.

The police spokesperson said that the investigation **More on P10**



Gardeners arrange flowers in rows inside the Tulip Garden, which is scheduled to be thrown open in the first week of April. KO Photo, Abid Bhat.

MHA Team In Kashmir To Review Security, Development

Agencies

JAMMU: A high-level team of top officers of the Home Ministry on Tuesday reached Jammu and Kashmir on a three-day visit to review security situation and developmental works amid clamour for troop-cut from the Union Territory.

Official sources said that the team headed by Prashant Lokhande, Joint Secretary (Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh), Union Ministry of Home Affairs and other senior officers reached here Tuesday afternoon and will return on March 2.

On the first day the team, called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and held a detailed meeting with him over the current security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The team also reviewed the progress on the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) and issues pertaining to Kashmiri Pandit



migrants, Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK), West Pakistani refugees and displaced persons (DPs). However, a detailed security situation will be reviewed in a meeting with stakeholders including army, police and other paramilitary forces on March 1.

Sources said that Union Home Minister, Amit Shah deputised the officers for assessing the situation, as Union Territory is heading for scheduled local

bodies and Panchayat Elections by end of this year.

The team also reviewed the progress on various centrally sponsored schemes. Issues of migrants and other refugees were also part of discussion.

The meeting among others will be attended by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) RK Goyal and Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh among others.

Recently, a high- **More on P10**

Karan Singh Calls For Assembly Polls In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Claiming that there is lack of communication between the public and the bureaucracy in Jammu and Kashmir, veteran Congress leader Karan Singh on Tuesday advocated free and fair assembly elections to address the "missing link" by installing a popular government.

Singh, son of the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh, also demanded restoration of the full statehood to the Union Territory.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, the former Sadr-i-Riyasat of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir said there is no possibility of taking back Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) without a war which only brings death and destruction.

Responding to a question about the policies of BJP-led Central government in J&K, he said "it (the developments of



2019 when the Centre revoked Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union territories), was a very drastic step to remove the whole special structure and it has now been three years that J&K is under central administration.

"A lot of good things have happened and there is no doubt about it, but what I gather is that there is a lack of communication between the public and the bureaucracy. MLAs, whether good or bad, play an important role as they are intermediaries **More on P10**

150 Delegates Expected At Srinagar's G-20 Meet: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that this capital city is all set to host the G-20 summit in which over 150 delegates are expected to participate.

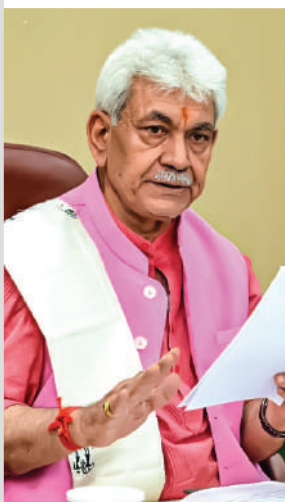
"Srinagar will host the G-20 summit in which over 150 delegates are expected to take part. All delegates will stay in Srinagar so I am hopeful about better mobile connectivity and internet services during the summit," Sinha said, after launching Jio True 5G services in the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar on Tuesday.

This will be the first major international summit to be held in Jammu and Kashmir after the erstwhile state's special status guaranteed under Article 370 of the Constitution was withdrawn **More on P10**

Safeguard Interests Of The Citizens: LG Tells Officers

Directs For Prompt Redressal Of Grievances

Observer News Service



The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed officials in his administration to safeguard the interests of the common citizens and ensure that the grievances are attended promptly. Sinha passed these directions while interacting with citizens during "LG's Mulaqaat-Live Public Grievance Hearing" at **More on P10**

Launches Jio 5G Services In Jammu, Srinagar

Observer News Service

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday launched Jio True 5G services in Jammu & Kashmir, and asserted that

education, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), startups, and remote areas will benefit from the new technology. "The 5G technology for the common man will realize the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India and give a boost to growth opportunities in tourism, e-governance, agriculture, education, **More on P10**

Kashmir To Have Its First Hanging Restaurant Soon

"We Are Working On The Project At The Moment And Hopefully It Will Be Thrown Open For The Public In April This Year."

Majid Nabi

From famous Kashmiri Wazwan to Chinese and Indian cuisine, food lovers could relish feasts of their choice in a hanging restaurant, which is set to be thrown open in Shalimar area of Srinagar this spring.

Mohammad Sultan Dar, owner of the first aerial eatery in Kashmir, said the restaurant will be suspended in the air with the help of a crane.

"Being unique, this flying restaurant makes customers feel a unique experience at the height of 160-200 meters from ground level," Dar told Kashmir Observer.

"We are working on the project at the moment and hopefully it will be thrown open for the public in April this year."

There is logic, he said, as to why April was chosen for its inauguration. "Pleasing weather



coupled with mesmerizing beauty of Dal Lake with Zabarwan hills in the background will add to its uniqueness."

The idea was mooted, Dar said, when he came across the Fly Dining restaurant in Goa, a couple of years ago.

After enquiring about the unique restaurant for almost a week, Dar went to Bangalore to get its franchise.

The restaurant brand has many franchisees in other parts of the country.

"After fulfilling **More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

CRPF Man Allegedly Ends Life

In an apparent case of suicide, a CRPF jawan was found dead with a bullet injury inside a camp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. The jawan was on sentry duty inside Tain Bridge camp in Nowshera area when he allegedly shot himself with his service rifle at around 2.45 am, they said. The reason behind the apparent suicide is not known yet. Police have started inquest proceedings in the matter, they said. A resident of Kerala, the jawan was recently posted **More on P10**

Unclaimed Bottle Creates Bomb Scare

An unclaimed water bottle caused panic in Panja Chowk of Rajouri with police and paramilitary CRPF rushing to the area, suspecting it to be an Improvised explosive device (IED). Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that at about 7:50 AM, Police's Special Operation Group along with Bomb Disposal Squad and CRPF cordoned off Panja Chowk after information that there was an unclaimed object. Without taking any chances, they said, the object was thoroughly checked. **More on P10**

Train Crushes Man To Death

A man was killed after being hit by a moving train along Pattan-Hamray railway station in North Kashmir's Baramulla district Tuesday morning, officials said. News agency GNS quoting officials reported that the man identified as Mohammad Hafizullah Ganai (40) son of Mohammad Akbar Ganai a resident of Chenderhama Pattan was hit and subsequently run over by the train on way from Banihal to Baramulla, resulting in his instant death. Confirming it, a police official said that a case under **More on P10**

Two Gamblers Held In Baramulla

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested two gamblers in a raid in Sheeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. A team of cops from police station Sheeri found 4 persons busy with gambling activities in an orchard near an under construction hospital building in Heewan area of the district, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. Two gamblers, he said, were caught when they noticed the police party. Two others managed to flee and efforts are on to nab the absconding gamblers. **More on P10**

Ancient Stone Sculptures Found In Doda

Several stone sculptures, believed to be thousands of years old, were found in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, an official spokesperson said on Tuesday. The sculptures were found buried 10 feet in the ground when some villagers of Siwli in Gandoh sub-division were excavating the place to find a water source, the official said. He said the paintings on stone depicting ancient art, tradition and religious figures have been preserved by the locals. The locals have sought the intervention of the **More on P10**

Avalanche Warning Issued In Ganderbal

Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) on Tuesday issued a 'low' danger level avalanche warning over higher reaches of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district for next 24 hours. The DMA said that 'low' danger level avalanche is likely to occur above 2500 metres above sea level in the district. People living in these areas have been in the meantime advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.



.BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT & Session JUDGE AT SRINAGAR.

In the case of: -

Mst. Shameema Amin
W/o Mohammad Amin Bhat R/o Malpora,
Habba Kadal, Srinagar.

(Caveator)

Versus

Public At Large

Non-caveators.

In the matter of: - May it please your Honour,
CAVEAT PETITION

The application is most humbly submitted as under:
1. That the caveator is the permanent resident of UT OF J&K and have every right to invoke the Jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court for redressal of their genuine grievances.
2. That the caveator is intending to execute necessary repairs to her residential house which has developed some cracks as such is in dilapidated condition, and to avoid any adverse incident or accident which may cause injury to person or property, as such the caveator has approached to concerned department necessary permission for executing the necessary repairs. The department was also pleased enough to grant permission vide No.SMC/2022/990 dated 13/12/2022 which is annexed as Annexure-A.
3. That the caveator has every apprehension that the non-caveators may file an Appeal, suit, Review, Revision or any other legal proceedings against the Empugned permission Vide No.SMC/2022/990 dated 13.12.2022 and may try to get order/direction in ex-parte, any the Caveator filing the instant caveat application so that the Caveator could be heard before passing any interim order or direction in ex-parte.
4. That prior of passing any order in favour of the non-caveators in any proceedings filed by the non-caveators, the caveator be summoned and heard.
5. That in case any relief would be granted in favour of the non caveator and against the caveator in ex-parte, in that eventuality, the caveator shall suffer an irreparable loss which cannot be compensated later on by any means.
In the premises, it is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to put the caveator into notice and the caveator may be given an opportunity of being heard before passing any order in ex-parte. Same would be in the interests of justice.
Dated: 28/03/2023
NJ Caveator through Counsel

PUBLIC NOTICE

My parentage has been wrongly mentioned in my passport as Muhammad Ismail dar while as my correct parentage is Mohd Ismail dar which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Tawheed Ahmad dar
S/O Mohd Ismail dar
ABKO

From The Principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present: Mr. Jawad Ahmad

1. Mst Raja (Mother of Deceased) Wd/o Late. Ghulam Mohi-uddin Siraj R/o Kachgari Masjid Fateh Kadal Srinagar
 2. Firdosa (Sister of deceased)
 3. Tasleema (Sister of deceased)
 4. Sakina (Sister of Deceased)
 5. Shagufa Parveen (Sister of deceased) D/o Late. Ghulam Mohiuddin Siraj R/o Kachgari Masjid Fateh Kadal Sgr.
 6. Basharat Ahmad (Brother of deceased) S/o Late. Ghulam Mohiuddin Siraj R/o Kachgari Masjid Fateh Kadal Sgr.
- In the matter of:
Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s)

Notice To Public At Large

Where the petitioners(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 2,23,777 as debts and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Lt. Zareena D/W/o Lt Ghulam Mohiuddin Siraj R/o Siraj R/o Kachgari Masjid Fateh Kadal Sgr. who died on ---. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 18-02-2023
Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drom of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 18-02-2023. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same in case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 08-02-2023
NJ Jawad Ahmad Principal District Judge, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that I want to apply for fresh "DEE Class" Contractor card from the office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Ganderbal/Bandipora. 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 notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mohammad Rafiq Gojjar Awan
S/O Khakan Gojjar Awan
R/O Sumlar Gojjar Pati Shoakbaba Bandipora
bb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of th general public the name & DOB of my son in my Army Service Records has been wrongly written as Zahoor Ahmad instead of Zahoor Ahmad Mir & DOB has been wrongly written as 10-11-2000 while his correct DOB is 09-9-2000 As per school records. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mir Fayaz Ahmad
Service Book NO: JC 595024P Unit: 13 JAKLI C/O 56 APO
S/o Mir Gh Ahmed R/o Arin Bandipora
bb

Antarctic Glaciers Flow Faster In Summers, Exhibiting Seasonal Behaviour: Study

Press Trust Of India

Glaciers along Antarctica's coastline are flowing faster in the summer because of a combination of melting snow and warmer ocean waters, said researchers in a new study.
On average, the glaciers, or giant blocks of moving ice, travel at around one kilometre a year.

But the study has found a seasonal variation to the speed of the ice flow, which speeded up by up to 22 per cent in summer when temperatures are warmer.

This gives an insight into the way climate change could affect the behaviour of glaciers and the role they could play in raising sea levels, the study said.

The paper is published in the journal Nature Geosciences.

Up to now, study of the rugged Antarctic peninsula has been limited because of the difficulties scientists face getting on to the glaciers to conduct fieldwork.

But from space, advances in satellite technology are revealing new insights into the speed at which the glaciers are moving and draining water into the surrounding ocean.

The Antarctic Peninsula is the largest reservoir of frozen water on Earth.

It is estimated that between 1992 and 2017, melt water from the glaciers increased



global sea levels by around 7.6 mm.

How that may change in the future is one of the big uncertainties in modelling climate change.

According to the study, a team of researchers, led by scientists at the University of Leeds, has used more than 10,000 satellite images, taken above the Antarctic Peninsula between 2014 and 2021, to understand how the flow of glaciers into the waters

around the Antarctic alters during colder and warmer periods.

"One of the important findings of this study is that it reveals how sensitive glaciers in Antarctica are to the environment.

"We have known for a long time that glaciers in Greenland have a seasonal behaviour, but it is only now that satellite data has shown similar behaviour in Antarctica," said first author of the study, Ben Wallis.

The Antarctic Peninsula is the most northern and warmest region of Antarctica. It has a 1,000 km long mountainous spine, similar to the length of the east coast of Great Britain, and home to a rich marine ecosystem of seals, penguins and whales.

Along the west coast of the peninsula, the glaciers drain ice from the ice sheet directly into the Southern Ocean.

Analysis of the satellite data showed that the glacier speed-up occurs in summer as snow melts and the temperature of the waters in the Southern Ocean rise.

It is thought that water from the melting snow acts as a lubricant between the ice sheet and the underlying rock. As a result, friction is reduced and the speed at which the glaciers slide increases, the study said.

In addition, the warmer waters of the Southern Ocean erode the front of the moving ice, which reduces the buttressing forces it exerts to resist the ice flow, the study said.

"The Antarctic Peninsula has seen some of the most rapid warming of any region on Earth.

"Continuing work like this will help glaciologists monitor how quickly change is occurring, enabling accurate assessments of how Earth's ice will respond to climate change," said Anna Hogg, Associate Professor in the Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science at Leeds and an author of the paper.

**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K**

Phone No: 0191-2586218 (Jammu), 0194-2468116 (Srinagar)

(Email id: Jkrelieforganisation@gmail.com, relief-comm@jk.gov.in)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, a writ petition titled Vessu Welfare Committee & Ors. v/s Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner and others bearing no. WP(C) no.95/2021 along with connected matters came to be filed before the Hon'ble High court of J&K at Srinagar.

Whereas, the Hon'ble High court was pleased to dispose of the petition passed vide order dated 05-07-2022. The operative portion of which reads as under:-

"In view of the aforesaid WP(c) 95/2021, 140/2021, 867/2021 are found devoid of any merit and the same are accordingly dismissed. The respondents shall take requisite steps to evict all the unauthorized occupants of the new residential quarters in the newly constructed complex at Transit camp Vessu. This is so directed as the petitioners do not dispute that they have entered the public premises without any authority. The petitioners shall be provided with a week's time to vacate the premises, failing which the respondents shall evict them by using as much force as may be required to accomplish violence free eviction of the petitioners. In compliance to the communication of the Tehsildar Relief and Rehabilitation (M) Srinagar, the SHO concerned shall register an FIR, if not already registered and shall initiate investigation in the matter. The employers of the petitioners are also free to initiate disciplinary proceedings in terms of the rules of 1956 against the petitioners for committing misconduct."

WP(C) No. 1527/2021 is however dismissed. The petitioner in this petition, who is similarly situated with the writ petitioners of WP(C) no. 95/2021 shall be governed by the judgment rendered in WP(C) no. 95/2021, 140/2021& 867/2021

"WP(C) 1016/2021 is disposed of by directing the Commissioner concerned to give fresh look to the order of allotment impugned in the writ petition to find out any infirmities or irregularities in the allotments as pointed out by the petitioners. He shall do well to hear the petitioners, if they so desire, in person and consider their grievance, if presented before him in writing within a period of two weeks from today. It would be appreciated if the commissioner considers the grievance, if any projected by the petitioners with regard to the infirmities and irregularities in the matter of allotments and passes a speaking order in this regard within a period of four weeks from the date of grievance in writing is projected or orally made before the commissioner. All the future allotments to the new accommodation shall be made strictly in terms of Government order dated 09.05.2018.

Whereas, this office apprehends that as they have complied the directions of the Hon'ble court by giving a fresh look to the infirmities and irregularities pointed out in the writ petition any person in general public irrespective of petitioners may file appeal/ review /revision before the Hon'ble Court against the fresh allotment orders of quarters with mala fide intention .

That there is an apprehension that they will file false and frivolous litigation before the Hon'ble Court to get ex-parte order.

That in case anybody or a person or persons file a suit/writ petition against the Relief Organisation (M) J&K, the Relief Organisation (M) J&K may kindly be heard before passing any interim relief or order in favour of the person or persons filing the suit/writ petition.

That Relief Organisation (M) J&K is not aware about the address of the person or persons who may file suit, so this office is not in a position to intimate thf Notice.

No: RRCM/Sgr/23/151-52
DIPK-18039/22

Sd/- Relief & Rehabilitation
Commissioner (M) J&K

**Jammu and Kashmir
Legal Services Authority**

NOTICE

Subject: Extension of last date for online registration of the candidates who have already applied for the post of Legal Assistant and Junior Legal Assistant in the year 2021 and availability of option for editing the basic details in the application form for all the candidates who have registered before the last date for filling online application forms.

Whereas, the J&K Legal Services Authority vide advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2023 dated 16.01.2023 invited online applications from eligible candidates for participating in the selection process for the post of Legal Assistant and Junior Legal Assistant for divisional cadre Kashmir & Jammu. The online portal was activated on 18.01.2023 and the last date for filling of online application form was 10.02.2023.

Whereas, the J&K Legal Services Authority received a number of requests from the candidates who have already submitted their application forms in the year 2021, to extend the date for registration, as they failed to register themselves within the stipulated time due to certain reasons. Furthermore, requests have also been received from the registered candidates to provide editing option to rectify the mistakes in their basic details in the application form.

Now, therefore, in light of the above, the last date for online registration of candidates who have already applied for the posts advertised vide advertisement notice No.01 of 2023 dated 16.01.2023 is extended upto March 03, 2023 till 10:00 AM. Furthermore, an option for editing the basic details in the application form shall be available to all the applicants/candidates who have already registered before the last date for filling online application forms.

The link for the same shall be active from March 01, 2023 (10-00 AM) to March 03, 2023 (10:00 AM).
Note: No further request shall be entertained for extension in date, whatsoever.

No: SLSA/Estt/2021/04/IV/322-23

Amit Kumar Gupta
Member Secretary

DIPK-18041/22 dated: 28-02-2023



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
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 Admission Test (CUKAT 2022-23) as detailed below:

| Programme | Eligibility |
|----------------|--|
| M.Ed. (2-Year) | B.Ed. from a recognised University / Institute with at least 50% marks or its equivalent on Grading Scale of respective Universities /Institutes (45% for OBC/ SC /ST/PWD candidates). |

ADMISSION PROCEDURE: 1. Application fees:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Unreserved | 500/- |
| Reserved categories (SC, ST, OBC, PWD) | 250/- |

2. Application Forms, online payment of application fees, Question paper pattern shall be available on the University Website: www.cukashmir.ac.in from **26-02-2023**. 3. Application shall be accepted in online mode only through the link available on the University website.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Online Submission of Application Form | 26 February to 13th March 2023 |
| Downloading of Admit | 20th March 2023 |
| Date of Examination | 24th March 2023 |

No.CUKMnr/Acad/CUKAT-914/23
Dated: 24.02.2023

Sd/- Registrar

R&B Construction Division 2nd Srinagar.

از عدالت سبج پیچر ٹیکس کشمیر ویش سرینگر

سائل اسانلہ: مسانہ سارہ بنام رجسٹرار ٹیکس اینڈ ڈیٹس درخواست بغرن اندراج تاریخ وفات نام: علی محمد ریشی تاریخ وفات 18-02-1996 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسانلہ نے عدالت ہدائیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ علی محمد ریشی ولد محمد سلطان ریشی سائل کے کرا دیار رعنا داری سرینگر موخر 11-02-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا اقوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی مذریعہ اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اسے عذرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی مذریعہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئیدہ عدالت ہدائیں 07-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر nj ر پیچر ٹیکس سرینگر



Fountain Channel Of Tulip Garden Extended To 3rd Terrace

Agencies

Srinagar: The fountain channel has been extended this year as for the first time, the authorities have decided to involve the third terrace of Asia's largest tulip garden in Srinagar where more than 50 lakh tulips are set to attract the visitors from different parts of the globe.

About 60 gardeners are presently making their efforts to beautify the garden, which is being thrown open for the public in April every year, depending upon the weather conditions.

Incharge Tulip garden, said they are expecting a massive tulip season this year. "The preparations that are to be started before the show, are going on from both ends including gardening as well as the engineering side," he said, adding that the dates for opening the garden cannot be said as of now as it solely depends on the weather conditions.

"We had a good tulip fes-

tival last year and we are expecting a massive season this year too. For the first time, the third terrace has been involved. The fountain channel has been extended this year upto the last terrace, which will increase the charm of the garden further," he said.

He added that this year the garden will have more than 50 lakh tulip flowers with 68-70 varieties. "About 60 gardeners including casual labourers as well as the permanent employees are doing their job. Some among them have been pooled from different sections for speedy and timely completion of the work. The tulip festival is a signature festival and we are expecting a massive season this year," he said.

He further said that like previous year, the floriculture Department have floated tenders for allotting the ticket selling contract to enter Tulip Garden, adding that many requests have been received so far and the process will be completed soon—(KNO)

Srinagar To Get Japanese Cherry Blossom Theme Garden

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The summer capital 'Srinagar' would soon have a splendid Cherry Theme Garden on the pattern of Japanese Sakura with all the modalities being finalised in this regard.

This was revealed during a virtual meeting of officers of the Floriculture Department with the Japanese authorities and Union Ministry of External Affairs.

Professor A K Chawla Advisor (Japan) East Asia Division MEA mediated the meeting.

The meeting had elaborate deliberation on various issues regarding the project like procurement of planting material from Japan and technical guidance.

"Cherry Theme Garden' is a Rs 10 crore project, an extension plan for Tulip Garden, Srinagar to make it more attractive and magnificent for the visitors. The project is being facilitated by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

While highlighting broad contours of the project, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, said that there will be a requirement of about 2500

cherry trees in the first instance and certain varieties have been identified that will suit our place. He said that the department will be preferably exporting plants in a phased manner to ascertain the behaviour of the plants and later go for expansion.

He also informed that a 3-member team of officers will visit Japan to get a first hand experience of the plants and will make sure the best plant material is exported for the Cherry Theme Garden in Srinagar.

Commissioner Secretary added that Jammu and Kashmir has huge potential for floriculture activities with modern farming technologies as a game changer for J&K's economy.

President Sakai International Interchange Association, Tadashi Nishiyama (Japanese Sakura Expert) while answering various queries, suggested that the government of Jammu and Kashmir should send them a variety wise total number of plant material required for the proposed garden. He also assured to provide all possible technical help in this regard.



Street Vendors Keep Pace With Technology, Go Cashless

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In recent years, there has been an increase in the integration of technology with the daily life of people. Kashmir like any other place has not lagged behind and kept pace with technology.

In urban pockets of Kashmir, transactions are shifting from cash payments to digital payments catering to the needs of people.

Street Vendors, who mostly cater to the demands of low income families, have equipped themselves to accept digital payments using UPI QR codes.

Musaib Ahmed, in his early 20's sells homemade pickles outside Hazratbal Shrine in the outskirts of the city.

He has been in this business for around a year. In order to keep pace with time, Musaib started to take payments online.

"It has been around five months that I have started to accept digital payments using UPI QR codes. It has proven useful and mostly young people transfer money online" he says.

Abdul Majeed, another vendor, says that online payments are better and prove beneficial at times.

"Sometimes people need to make a payment of Rs 10 and they don't have loose change, so they go for an online payment. It helps us retain a customer" Majeed said.

However, amid the sweeping change, there is a concern of mischief. It has been alleged that some in the garb of using technology plot resort to loot and plunder.

Adil Baba, who sells fruits on his cart has been a victim of online fraud.

"There are times when a fraudster comes and says he will

make a payment online,he ends up paying nothing" Adil said.

However, these aren't the only issues creating hurdles in the way for a cashless economy. Experts say, Kashmir has a long way to go for a cashless future.

Even though there are many street vendors in the summer capital who use the digital payment system, there are many who are hesitant to use online payments because of illiteracy and fear of losing money.

It is pertinent to mention, vendors in India constitute around 11% urban workforce.

It is estimated that around 10 million vendors are adapting to the changes in consumer payment methods.

In the financial year 2016, 5% vendors used online payment platforms, which increased to 15% of vendors in the FY2021 and it increased to 20% in FY2022.

National Science Day Celebrated At A.S College

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Day of Science was celebrated by the Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) in collaboration with Amar Singh College and Cluster University Srinagar, here.

Artists from Feroz Culture cum Theatre group in an artistic way enthralled the students and faculty of the varsity and successfully spread the message of the importance of Science & Technology.

ence & Technology.

They presented all the activities, efforts and achievements in the field of Science for human welfare. Artists tried to encourage the people to develop scientific temper besides popularizing benefits of science and technology.

The program was attended by the head of the institution Bashir Ahmad Rather, Arshad Masoodi Professor in Physics, Parvaiz Majeed Professor at Media Cell Amar Singh College and other faculty members.

The principal on the occasion highlighted the significance of this day among the students and other participants.

Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain speaking at the event acquainted the students with the blessings of science on mankind.

Some prominent theatre artists left the audience spellbound by their performances. They also performed & spread the message on the role played by our Nation in promoting "Science and Technology".

• TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
• PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
• PDD: 0194-2450213
• FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488,245222,2452155
• CAPD: 18001807011
• SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
• Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR | 5:38 |
| ZUHR | 12:43 |
| ASR | 4:45 |
| Magrib | 6:29 |
| ISHA | 7:49 |

This Day In History

- 1952 - Egyptian government-Ali Maher Pasha resigns
- 1953 - Joseph Stalin suffers a stroke and collapses. He dies four days later.
- 1954 - Rebellion in Egypt during visit of president Naguib to Khartoum, Sudan, 30 die
- 1954 - US explodes Castle Bravo, 15 megaton hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll - most powerful nuclear device ever detonated by the US
- 1955 - Israeli assault on Gaza, kills 48
- 1966 - Venera 3 becomes 1st man-made object to impact on a planet (Venus).
- 1982 - NY Times raises its price from 25 cents to 30 cents
- 1982 Russian spacecraft Venera 14 lands on Venus, sends back data
- 1983 Tornado tears through Los Angeles, injuring 33 people
- 1984 - Landsat 5 & ham satellite Oscar 11 launched into polar orbit
- 1985 - Pentagon accepts theory that atomic war would cause a nuclear winter.

From KO Archives

Distress Power Cut As GT Supply Stops

Observer News Service

Srinagar Barely a few hours after the power development department PDD finalised revised curtailment schedule for the valley assuring around 12 hour power supply, authorities gave it an quit burial this evening. Even after the power minister, S S Slathia, directed continued 4-hour daily (7 pm to 11 pm) operation of gas turbines to improve power availability, the 5-unit Pampore turbines screeched to an abrupt halt following orders from above.

According to reports authorities were forced to resort to 'distress load shedding of rural areas to enable maintaining minimum supply to the city and some major towns besides the essential services. The 'revised' programme is to be further revised in keeping with the reduced availability ordered by the power managers in Jammu. Reports said the revised schedule, drawn up for 10 days. February 26 to March 7 had been worked out on the premise that about 100 megawatts of power would be available in addition to that imported from northern grid and local generation. The valley was divided into two groups. A and B. Calculating a net availability of 430 mw to 460 mw, the revised schedule on even odd basis envisaged a fairly improved supply position.

Meanwhile, according to sources, the power generation from Uri project had improved over the past few days following a marginal rise in the water level of the river. From a meagre 50 mw, it shot up to 140 mw on Saturday and Sunday. Even today, it hovered around 120 mw. The generation from the Lower Jhelum hydel project and other stations had also gone up appreciably.

Contrary to government's claims of heavy dependence on imports from the northern grid, and even the common belief, sources said, the valley exported 40 mw of power to northern grid for a brief while on Saturday and Sunday However, the PDD preferred to keep a tight lid over the report to avoid any embarrassment

On Saturday, the power minister had himself told Kashmir Observer that uniform supply would be ensured between rural and urban areas of the valley with the availability of 200 mw to 230 mw from northern grid. He had assured supply for nine hours on an average However, he okayed a further improvement to make it about 12 hours in 24 hours for which he ordered continued operation of (he gas turbine.

Interestingly, the official handout issued after Slathia's Pampore visit yesterday boastfully screamed, "gas turbine in operation despite whop-ping daily expenditure". Reminiscent of Mirza Galib's famous couplet ke merey qail ke baad us my jafa se tauba / hai us zood pashaiman ka pashaiman hona," he (Slathia) expressed regrets on the inconvenience faced by the people in the valley due to blasting of the transmission towers."

Now that the 'generosity' has been unceremoniously withdrawn the minister's (read government's) regret has proved to be shockingly short-lived.

Even as, in the absence of permanent restoration, the 220-K V and 132-KV transmission lines may prove to be too fragile, like a slender thread, to ensure sustained import of power, a question mark will continue to hang over the state government's role in ensuring an equitable distribution of electricity between Kashmir and Jammu.

(Kashmir Observer, 01 March, 2001)

'Amid Ongoing Developmental Works, Traffic Regulation A Major Challenge'

Agencies

Srinagar: Stating that the opening of schools this year is not a regular course, Srinagar traffic authorities on Tuesday said the current carriage road width at major corridors in Srinagar has narrowed down due to the ongoing works under the 'Srinagar Smart City Project'.

Senior Superintendent of Police for City traffic, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah said that the ongoing works have narrowed the space of carriage roads at major corridors in Srinagar and that is going to throw a big challenge for ensuring smooth vehicular movement.

"On major corridors

of Srinagar works are going on under Srinagar Smart City Project due to which the carriage road meant for the vehicular movement has lessened down which is leading to the traffic congestion", he said.

In response to a question about the plan for regulating the traffic at the city's 'narrow corridors' in view of the opening of schools, he said that recommended directions issued by the School Education Department will serve to a great level as that will minimize the traffic flow during peak hours.

He said they have also advised the schools to avoid plying school buses on M.A road and Residency road and

that they should use alternate routes from the convent school side.

"For a few days there may be some traffic disruptions, but we are hopeful that in the coming days the issue will get eased out", he remarked.

Meanwhile, many locals said that as many roads in Srinagar have been cut down or blocked due to the works taken under Srinagar Smart City Project, they are facing immense inconvenience in reaching their workplaces.

A local Srinagar resident said that the timing of schools should be changed as it will take hours for students to reach schools due to the condition of the roads. —(KNO)

DC Conducts Tour Of Interior Hamlets In Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday undertook an extensive tour of various interior areas in Dal Lake to take onsite assessment of the measures taken up to further improve the socio-economic conditions of the farmers of different hamlets in Dal Lake through promotion of FPOs.

During the visit, the

Deputy Commissioner visited Akhoo Mohalla, Kachri Mohalla and other adjacent hamlets in the area and took on spot assessment of cultivation of Lotus Stem (Nadru).

The DC inspected the measures adopted by Lotus Stem (Nadru) farmers for harvesting Nadru produce from Dal Lake and was informed that Lotus Stem is cultivated in an area of 99.50 Hectares in the Dal Lake with a total yearly production

of 450-500 metric tonnes.

The Deputy Commissioner also held an interaction with the members of recently formed Farmer Producer Organization(FPO), "Dal Lake Lotus Stem Producer Company Limited" promoted under the Central Sector Scheme of NABARD in Srinagar District which is involved in growing Agriculture crops, Market gardening, Horticulture produce etc.

No. ITBP/33rd Bn/Estt-2/COI (CT/GD Sadaqat Rashid Khan/2023-1372

Office of the Commandant, 33rd Bn Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force,

MHA /Govt, of India.

Block-A/14, 6th Floor, Game Village (Assam)

Date: 24-02-23

// NOTICE //

Regtl. No. 070230029 CT/GD Sadaqat Rashid Khan, C Coy, 33rd Bn, ITBP S/O Shri Abdul Rashid Khan, Permanent Resident of Vill- Cheepora Lolab, Post Office- Maidanpora Lolab, Police Station- Khurhama Lolab, District-Kupwara (J&K) 193223 is hereby informed that you were sent for temporary duty on 29.10.2022 at HQ Eastern Command, ITBP and you were sent for 09 Days Casual Leave + 04 days J.P w.e.f. 17.11.2022 to 01.12.2022 with permission to avail Sunday on 20.11.2022 & 27.11.2022. You were supposed to report back for duty at HQ, Eastern Command, ITBP, Guwahati (Assam) on 01.12.2022 (AN) but you failed to report for duty on due date and continuously overstaying from leave w.e.f. 02.12.2022 (FN) without any prior permission of competent authority. Vide Eastern Command, HQ, ITBP registered/ speed post letter No. 1693-95 dtd 08.12.2022, you were directed to report back for duty immediately at Eastern Command, HQ, ITBP, but you have failed to do so till date. As per the provision contained under section 72 & 73 of ITBPF Act-1992, apprehension roll was issued to the Superintendent of Police, Distt.- Kupwara (J&K) vide Eastern Command, HQ, ITBP office letter No. 16-19 dated 06.01.2023 to apprehend you and hand over to Eastern Command, HQ, ITB Police, but you were not apprehended by the Police authority.

2. Due to your continuous absence w.e.f. 02.12.2022 (FN), a Court of inquiry (COI) was constituted to inquire into the circumstances of your prolonged absence vide this office order No. 682 dtd 27.01.2023 in terms of Section 74 (1) of ITBPF Act-1992. On the basis of the findings and recommendations of COI, you have been declared Deserter w.e.f. 02.12.2022 vide this office order No. 1225-36 dated 15.02.2023 in terms of section 74 (2) of ITBPF Act-1992. A copy of the Deserter Order was also sent through registered letter to your home address. Apart from above, you were also issued a "Show Cause Notice" vide this office letter No. 1371 dtd . 24-2-23

3. Regtl. No. 070230029 CT/GD Sadaqat Rashid Khan, C Coy, 33rd Bn, ITBP S/O Shri Abdul Rashid Khan is hereby again directed that you should report for duty at 33rd Bn ITBP, Guwahati (Assam) within 30 days of publication of this notice in News paper or you may submit documents in your defense, failing which, it will be presumed that you have nothing to say on the matter and thereafter; necessary orders will be issued.

Commandant

33rd Bn. I.T.B. Police

CBC- 19112/11/0172/2223

Martin Cooper, Father Of Cellphone, Sees Dark Side But Also Hope In New Tech

Associated Press

Holding the bulky brick cell-phone he's credited with inventing 50 years ago, Martin Cooper thinks about the future.

Little did he know when he made the first call on a New York City street from a thick gray prototype that our world — and our information — would come to be encapsulated on a sleek glass sheath where we search, connect, like and buy.

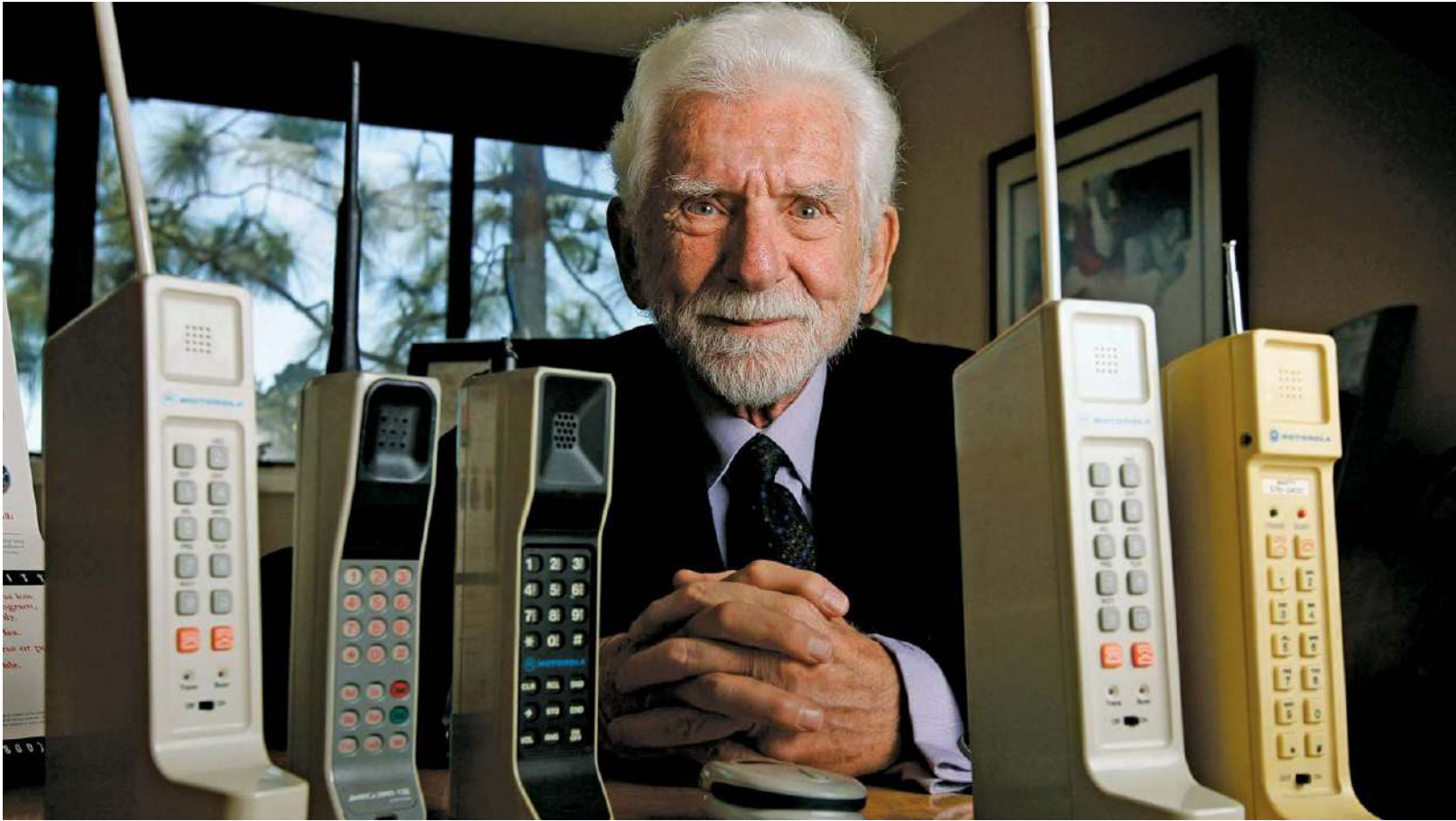
He's optimistic that future advances in mobile technology can transform human lives but is also worried about risks smartphones pose to privacy and young people.

"My most negative opinion is we don't have any privacy anymore because everything about us is now recorded someplace and accessible to somebody who has enough intense desire to get it," the 94-year-old told The Associated Press at MWC, or Mobile World Congress, the world's biggest wireless trade show where he was getting a lifetime award this week in Barcelona.

Besides worrying about the erosion of privacy, Cooper also acknowledged the negative side effects that come with smartphones and social media, such as internet addiction and making it easy for children to access harmful content.

But Cooper, describing himself as a dreamer and an optimist, said he's hopeful that advances in cellphone technology have the potential to revolutionise areas like education and health care.

"Between the cellphone and medical technology and the Internet, we are going to conquer disease," he said.



It's a long way from where he started.

Cooper made the first public call from a handheld portable telephone on a Manhattan street on April 3, 1973, using a prototype device that his team at Motorola had started designing only five months earlier.

Cooper used the Dyna-TAC phone to famously call his rival at Bell Labs, owned by AT and T.

It was, literally, the world's first brick phone, weighing 2.5 pounds and measuring 11 inches. Cooper spent the best part of the next decade working to bring a commercial version of the device to market.

The call help kick-start the cell-

phone revolution, but looking back on that moment 50 years later, "we had no way of knowing this was the historic moment," Cooper said.

"The only thing that I was worried about: Is this thing going to work?" And it did," he said Monday.

While blazing a trail for the wireless communications industry, he hoped that cellphone technology was just getting started.

Cooper said he's "not crazy" about the shape of modern smartphones, blocks of plastic, metal and glass. He thinks phones will evolve so that they will be "distributed on your body," perhaps as sensors "measuring your health at all times."

Batteries could even be replaced by human energy.

"The human body is the charging station, right? You ingest food, you create energy. Why not have this receiver for your ear embedded under your skin, powered by your body?" he imagined.

Cooper also acknowledged there's a dark side to advances — the risk to privacy and to children.

Regulators in Europe, where there are strict data privacy rules, and elsewhere are concerned about apps and digital ads that track user activity, allowing tech and digital ad companies to build up rich profiles of users.

"It's going to get resolved, but not easily," Cooper said. "There are people now that can justify measuring where you are, where you're making your phone calls, who you're calling, what you access on the Internet."

Smartphone use by children is another area that needs limits, Cooper said. One idea is to have "various internets curated for different audiences."

Five-year-olds should be able to use the internet to help them learn, but "we don't want them to have access to pornography and to things that they don't understand," he said.

The inspiration for Cooper's cellphone idea was not the personal communicators on Star Trek, but comic strip detective Dick Tracy's radio wristwatch.

As for his own phone use, Cooper says he checks email and does online searches for information to settle dinner table arguments.

However, "there are many things that I have not yet learned," he said. "I still don't know what TikTok is."

Users Can Now Convert Images Into Stickers On WhatsApp For iOS



IAN S

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is reportedly rolling out a sticker maker tool on iOS, which will allow users to convert images into stickers.

The new feature eliminates the need for third-party applications to create stickers, reports WABetaInfo.

After extracting a subject out of an image, users just need to paste it within a chat to create a custom sticker from an image.

If the feature is available, the platform will instantly turn the image into a sticker that can be added to the user's collection of stickers.

This tool was available to some users in the past few days, however, now it is rolling out to everyone on iOS 16.

Users now don't have to switch between different applications or tools to create and use their own stickers.

"This definitely saves time and makes the process of creating and using custom stickers faster," the report said.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, the messaging platform had added some new stickers to its avatar sticker pack for Android and iOS, following its announcement of the ability to create personalised avatars.



Snap Introduces AI Chatbot Powered By OpenAI's GPT Tech

IAN S

Snap, the parent company of Snapchat, has introduced its new artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot for Snapchat. It is powered by the latest version of OpenAI's GPT technology.

The "My AI" chatbot is available as an experimental feature for Snapchat+ subscribers and will be rolling out this week, the company said in a blogpost on Monday.

"My AI can recommend birthday gift ideas for your BFF, plan a hiking trip for a long weekend, suggest a recipe for dinner, or even write a haiku about cheese for your cheddar-obsessed pal." Users can also name the chatbot and customise the wallpaper for their Chat.

My AI, like other AI-powered chatbots, is prone to hallucinations and can be tricked to say almost anything.

While My AI is built to avoid any sort of biased, inaccurate, dangerous or misleading content, mistakes might however happen.

Also, users can press and hold any message from My AI to provide feedback.

"Please be aware of its many deficiencies and sorry in advance! All conversations with My AI will be stored and may be reviewed to improve the product experience," the company said.

"Please do not share any secrets with My AI and do not rely on it for advice," it added.

Nature-Based Activities Boost Senior Citizens' Health And Quality Of Life: Study

ANI



Spending time in nature has been shown in studies to have psychological, emotional, and physical advantages. To maximise the benefits of spending time in nature for people over the age of 65, researchers revealed. Researchers from Penn State, National Open University in Taiwan, and Loughwa University of Science and Technology in Taiwan studied the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours of a group of elders -- people over the age of 65 -- who spent time in a natural area on a regular basis.

Fostering social relationships around nature-based activities, according to the researchers, may be linked

to enhanced health and quality of life in the elderly. In Japan, the term shinrin-yoku, or "forest bathing," was developed to refer to spending time in nature while engaging all of one's senses: tasting the air, smelling a forest, listening to a stream, and being present with whatever you experience.

For elders who encounter challenges when at-

tempting to hike quickly over difficult trails, forest bathing may present an enjoyable and safe way to spend time in nature. According to the researchers, forest bathing is popular among older adults in Japan, China and Taiwan, where the practice originated, and it is becoming increasingly popular in the United States.

The researchers studied older visitors to the Xitou Education Area, a natural preserve in Taiwan. Between April and June of 2022, the researchers surveyed 292 visitors to the preserve who were at least 65 years old and who visited the park at least once a week. Participants were asked a range of questions, from whether they felt supported by others, to how much they thought about their futures, to how much purpose they felt that their lives had.

The results of the study were published in the journal Leisure Sciences. The researchers found that people who discussed their experiences in nature with others tended to have a greater sense of attachment to forest bathing and a stronger sense of purpose in life.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B)
CONSTRUCTION DIVISON 2ND, SGR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (FOR ROAD WORK/BRIDGES/BUILDINGS)

TWO COVER SYSTEM
NIT No.223 of R&B/CDII/21408-18 of 2022-23

(Above Rs. 2.50 crores)
Dated: 25.02.2023 (E-tendering)

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

| S. No | Name of Work | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs) | T.O.C | Class of Contractor |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Improvement/ upgradation of Qamarwari-Parimpora road by way of 75mm thick WMM, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 40mm thick dense bituminous concrete. | 399.81 Incl. C/o Bitumen | 5500/- | 7.996 | 25 Days | Civil with HMPO/ AAY Class |
| 2. | Improvement of Road taking from Convent School Junction to Tulsi Bagh road via Amar Singh college B.W.O Providing and laying 50mm thick Bituminous Macadam in Patches and stretches and 40mm thick Dense Bituminous Concrete in view of G20 Delegation. | 316.85 Incl. C/O of Bitumen | 5500/- | 6.337 | 25 Days | |
| 3. | Upgradation of allied links on M.A road and Sherwani road including Grade Separation near Radio Kashmir by way of P/L bituminous concrete in stretches. | 276.22 Incl. C/o Bitumen | 5500/- | 5.524 | 21 Days | |

Major Head of Account = G-20/ Relevant Head of Account

Position of AAA = Under Process

Position of T/S = Under Process

Project Authority = PW (R&B) Department Kashmir

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

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 25.02.2023 |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 26.02.2023 from 10.00 A.M to 11.03.2023 upto 4.00 P.M |
| 3. | Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting | 04.03.2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam |
| 4. | Bid submission Start Date | 06.03.2023 From 10.00 A.M |
| 5. | Bid Submission End Date | 11.03.2023 upto 4.00 P.M |
| 7. | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 13. 03.2023 at 11.00 AM in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam |
| 8. | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed |

1.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury challan Receipt (under M.H-0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division 2nd, Srinagar

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

1.2. 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. Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam. The Date of Earnest money must be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 3% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG before the contract award. The earnest money/ bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security @ 3% of the Allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity

2. Bidders can resubmit/ withdraw the bids as specified.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar/ Budgam .The date for same shall be intimated separately.

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of letter on intent.

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

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in into acquaint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid.

6.6. All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer to whom the Enlistment Registration Card was issued.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons

8. Bidders may contact office of the Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Department Kashmir or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ download- ed should be used for filling the rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

10. The rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. Defect Liability Period: The DLP shall be calculated from the date of completion of work and the DLP shall be 18 months for civil works. However regarding macadamization the DLP/ Maintenance Period shall be 3 years for Pavement Bitumen Macadam Layers and 18 months for Bitumen Surface renewal layers. The contractor or his authorized representative must inspect the Road to ensure that the Intervention Period for implementing maintenance measures to control defects for adherence to the Maintenance Criteria as specified in the Contract Agreement. The DLP/ maintenance will be governed by the Road Maintenance Policy's manual for road maintenance and will be based on Performance Based Assessment.

13. The ten percent normal/ performance security deposit for the Bituminous work will be released upon successful completion/ performance in the mandatory DL/ Maintenance Period as outlined below:

A: During DLP/ Maintenance of 3 Years(Bitumen Bases Pavement Layers)

Only 70% of the deposit will be released after the successful completion of the second year and 30% after the successful completion of DL/ Maintenance Period, with each release based on performance evaluation duly certified by the Concerned Executive Engineer.

B: During DLP/ Maintenance of 1.5 Years(Bitumen Based Renewal Layers)

Only 70% of the deposit will be released after the successful completion of the One year and 30% after the successful completion DL/ Maintenance Period, with each release based on performance evaluation duly certified by the Concerned Executive Engineer.

Road Maintenance Activities during the Defect Liability/ Maintenance Period shall include the following:

• Repair of Potholes by way of filling with premix material/ penetration patching in regular cut sections, rectification of Loss of aggregates by replacement with Fresh Bituminous Mix, rectification of Stripping and raveling by way of application of Liquid Seal or Slurry Seal depending on the extent of damage, application of Cutback bitumen covered with coarse sand or slurry seal or premix renewal coat.

• Filling of cracks with a low viscosity binder or a slurry seal or fog seal depending upon the width of cracks.

• Rectification of Subsidence, showing & rutting by way of Removal of the surface layer in the affected area and replacement with fresh material.

14. All key construction material (i.e, cement, steel, bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.

15. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding document available on website

No.21408-18
Dated: 25.02.2023

DIPK-18031-22
DT: 28-02-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Construction Division 2nd, Srinagar

LoC Villagers Look For Support To Market Traditionally Prepared 'Kalakand'

Press Trust Of India

RAJOURI: Residing along the barbed wire fence of the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Nowshera sector, villagers engaged in producing sweet milk cakes, locally known as 'Kalakand', are eyeing government support to market it in and outside the Union territory.

Restricted by limited scope of sale of their produce, the villagers said, majority of households involved in the production of Kalakand often

have to throw away their surplus in the fields.

Kalakand is prepared by processing cow milk on wood fire in Sehar, Makri, Namb and Kadali villages, located ahead of the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district.

"Milk cakes produced in our village are of the best quality but unfortunately, we do not have any scope of sale in outer markets. Our sale is mostly in Army areas on the LoC," Kamal Parkash, a resident of

Sehar village who makes a living by selling the sweet, told PTI.

He said the government should take steps to provide adequate scope to milk cake producers to sell their produce so that they can make a living properly.

"Our village is on the LoC facing Pakistan, and there are very few opportunities to earn a livelihood. Proper marketing of Kalakand can boost the economy of our area as a large number of people are engaged in its making," Parkash said.

More than a dozen forward posts of the Pakistani army are visible from the villages in the area. A majority of the houses here have splinter marks, reminiscent of the times when cross-border shelling was a routine affair before a renewed ceasefire agreement came into place two years ago.

Parkash said a majority of the households have milk-producing animals and they have to throw away surplus milk.

Vicky Kumar, another local resi-

dent, said they collect cow milk from houses in the village.

"The cow milk is processed for hours over wood fire and a meagre quantity of sugar is added to it. The product is healthy as no preservative, flavour or any other substance is added," he said, adding that despite a lot of effort, "we are struggling to get customers and a proper value for the product".

He said the majority of villagers in the area are dependent on agriculture and face various hardships

due to bad roads, poor healthcare and strict security restrictions.

Army personnel guarding the border also lauded the villagers for producing "pure and very tasty" sweets.

Senior scientist and head of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajouri, Arvind Kumar Isher said his office was working on a project to ensure the sale of Kalakand outside LoC villages.

"The need of the hour is that the produce of the villagers be made available in markets of big cities like Jammu," he said.

First Phase Of Smart Traffic Management System Completed In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The first phase of the intelligent traffic management and surveillance system (ITMSS) has been made operational in Jammu, a step that would help authorities better manage vehicular flow and catch violators.

The system is operational at 12 major locations in the city and activities are being monitored from a traffic department-managed integrated command and control centre. "Operations (of the ITMSS' first phase) have started in Jammu," Vehant Technologies chief executive officer (CEO) and co-founder Kapil Bardeja said.

The project is being implemented in phases with system integrators, he said.

"The project was initiated in November 2022. Installations are going on and depending upon the installations with system integrators, the project will be completed soon," Bardeja, whose firm has been tasked with implementation of the ITMSS in Jammu. He added that software solutions have already been deployed at some locations.

In the first phase, the ITMSS has been deployed and made operational at 12 major locations, including at Zorawar Singh Chowk, railway station, RBI Turning, G L Dogra Chowk, Panama Chowk, Jammu University Gate, Last Morh, Main Stop Gandhi Nagar, R S Pura airport, Gujjar Nagar Chowk and Valmiki Chowk, officials said.

The intelligent traffic management and city surveillance system will be in place at 38 junctions having traffic signals, once the project is completed, they said.

The officials said automatic vehicle number plate identification, red light violation, stolen vehicle identification and using of mobilephone while driving are among the things that can be detected by the smart system.

Usually, these intelligent traffic management system projects are implemented by a "master systems integrator" firm and then there are artificial intelligence software providers like Vehant Technologies that provide solutions to make



roads safer, they said.

The ITMSS automatically encrypts and transfers data of violation to a centralised server at the Traffic Police headquarters, the officials said.

"The system also facilitates e-challan generation along with photo and video evidence which is then sent to the violator's mobile phone through SMS. The system is capable of 24x7 operations," an official said.

This solution will have an overview camera to capture the zoomed-out picture of an entire area when there has been a red-light violation, he said.

The officials said the network will read the number plate of an offending vehicle and store it in the database. Based on the information received from these cameras, an adaptive traffic-control system can also alter traffic signal cycles in real time to respond to changing traffic conditions.

Once fully-operational, the system is expected to cut down waiting time at traffic signals by almost half, they said.

"The red light violation detection system will allow traffic police to keep a track on violators and generate e-challan," an official said.

The system would consist of camera mounted sensors for better detection of traffic violations and data would be relayed to the central control room, the officials said.

"It will also help police to detect and register cases against persons for not wearing helmets, over speeding, triple-riding, stop line violations, speaking over the phone while driving and other violations," the official said.

These cameras also function effectively during night hours as recording takes place only if there is vehicle movement on the roads, he added.

Protest In Katra Against Proposed Vaishno Devi Ropeway Project

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Cutting across party lines, leaders of the BJP, Congress and the Democratic Azad Party joined thousands of people in Katra on Tuesday in a peaceful protest against a proposed ropeway project at the Vaishno Devi shrine.

On February 20, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said the ropeway project for the cave shrine is in the final phase of tendering and will be undertaken with utmost sensitivity to safeguard the interests of the local business community.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) recently approved a Rs 250-crore passenger ropeway project between Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat along the 12-km track to the revered shrine.

A complete shutdown was also observed in the town and along the Vaishno Devi track as people gathered outside the headquarters of the shrine board and submitted a memorandum.

Chief Executive Officer,



SMVDSB, Anshul Garg said the ropeway is meant to facilitate elderly, medically unfit and disabled people.

"The board has never worked against the interests of local stakeholders while improving facilities for devotees. We have experience of running a ropeway from the holy shrine to Bhairav Ghati for the past four years," he said.

Garg said technical teams will be visiting Katra in the coming days to explore the feasibility of such a project.

"The office of the board is open for people round the clock, and if they have any issue, we will discuss it to reach a consensus. We all are here

to welcome and facilitate the devotees," he said.

The protesters, however, said they will not allow the construction of the ropeway at any cost as it will render the locals jobless.

Development Council member Rajinder Mengi said people are united in their demand that the project should be abandoned immediately.

BJP district president Rohit Dubey and Congress district president Rajesh Sadotra said they stand with the demand of the public.

"The development is welcome but not at the cost of people's livelihood," Sadotra said.

FIR Filed Against Civic Body President For Threatening Docs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Municipal Committee President Pulwama Bilal Ahmad Rather has threatened doctors at District Hospital Pulwama following which hospital authorities have written to higher authorities for legal action.

In a video which surfaced on social media and went viral, Rather was seen threatening doctors at the district hospital.

He told a local news agency KNO, that he feels sorry for using abusive language but said that the full story isn't being shown in the video.

"Some miscreants had made a video behind me and upload-

ed it with some wrong motive. I went to the hospital to see why USG services weren't available when I saw a patient was being taken to a private diagnostic centre for USG in a trolley," he said.

Rather said that there was an exchange of heated argument between a doctor who claimed that USG facility is available at the hospital till 8 pm but the fact is it wasn't.

"Using abusive language can't be justified. I am sorry because I became emotional when I saw the condition of a patient outside who was being taken to the diagnostic centre for USG," he said.

"My sole aim is the wel-

fare of people and I am sorry if I have hurt anyone's sentiments," he said.

Rather demanded that all facilities must be available at the hospital round the clock so that poor patients won't suffer anymore.

Medical Superintendent District Hospital Pulwama told KNO that they have lodged an FIR against the concerned person.

"We have only one radiologist who runs USG, CT scan and even X-Ray and performs duty 10-4:30 pm on a daily basis as per government directions.

If there is any problem at the hospital, the concerned person should have discussed it with us instead of using abusive language," he said.

CUK Commemorates National Science Day

Prof. Farooq, Prof. Andrabi For Inculcating Scientific Temper Among Students, Masses

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah Tuesday underscored the need for inculcating and promoting scientific temper among the students and masses for the growth, progress and development of the nation on the scientific front.

"People across the world including our country are confronting numerous challenges and issues on the environment, health, social and economic front which need scientific and technological intervention. Hence, it is extremely important to develop scientific temper among the students so that quality research would be conducted and solutions arrived at," Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah said while inaugurating the National Science Day 2023 organised by the Department of Zoology in association with the Directorate of Students Welfare (DSW) on the theme "Global Science for Global Well Being," at Nuner campus here.

Former Vice Chancellor, Uni-

versity of Kashmir, and eminent scientist, Prof. Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said the scientific and digital technology has drastically transformed all the sectors ranging from automobile to robotics and has eased the way of living. "Technology which has drawn inspiration from nature has revolutionised every sphere of life and has increased the longevity of human life," he said, adding that there have been breakthroughs in genome mapping and sequencing, which is helping in early detection and cure of several dreaded diseases. He also spoke about the different scientific areas like Fibre optic technology, Computer technology, Robotics, Bionic Eye, White Genome technology, CRISPAR-CAS Technology and Genome editing technology.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar, Prof. M. Afzal Zargar, highlighted the immense contribution of the eminent scientists of the country in the field of Physics, Astronomy, Medicine and Biotechnology. He said the students should emulate scientists like Aryabhata and conduct research and development for the welfare of mankind. Prof. Afzal further spoke about Ayush, Unani, Homeopathy fields of medicine introduced by the country to the world. He

said the world acknowledged the scientific prowess of the country during the Covid when India was successful in developing the vaccine to counter the pandemic. CUK Registrar asked the faculty members to inculcate the scientific temper among the students of other disciplines.

Prof. Pawan Kumar Dhar, Professor, School of Biotechnology JNU, who was the expert speaker, talked about "The Making of a Scientist". In his address, he discussed various aspects of understanding the field of science, research activities, publishing of articles, scientific communications and shared his valuable and informative ideas with the participants.

Dean DSW and Finance Officer, Dr Mehraj ud Din Shah in his speech, said the objective of commemorating the day is to generate awareness among the students about the science education and to recognise the significant contributions made by the eminent scientist in their respective fields.

Earlier, in his address, Prof. Muhammad Yousuf, Dean, School of Life Sciences welcomed the dignitaries, and hailed the department for organising the event. He shared his ideas regarding the research, challenges and opportunities in Science.



Digital J&K To Usher In A Golden Chapter In The UT: CS

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday remarked that the progress achieved towards the goal of 'Digital J&K' in recent times is one of the brightest chapters that would go down as the most transformative part in the history of the UT.

He made these remarks while launching the integration of services of Municipalities with Umang and artisan related services on Digi Locker applications.

On the occasion Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology; MD & CEO, J&K Bank; SIO, NIC; representative from H&UDD and other concerned officers were present either physically or virtually.

Dr Mehta observed that the government has launched digital services for ease of living of the public and to bring transparency in delivery of services to the citizens. He said that the IT enabled governance has reduced the gap between intent and delivery.

He maintained that the transition to Digital J&K has empowered people like never before as it has brought government to the doorsteps of people. He pointed out that the digitization of services not only ensures promptness in delivery of services but equally aids in maintaining high-degree of transparency and accountability.

He established that the endeavour of the LG administration is to bring every possible comfort to the citizens. He emphasized that there is no better way to do it but to enable them to assess all the services from the comforts of their homes. He lauded the IT Department and the local chapter of NIC for making it possible to switch to online mode of service delivery in such a short period of time.

The Chief Secretary impressed that onboarding the services on mobile applications like Umang and DigiLocker will make the services more user-friendly and easily accessible. He reiterated that the time is not far when all the citizen-centric services will be integrated with such platforms including the RAS for feedback with an additional feature of auto-appeal to ensure timely delivery and fixation of responsibility in case of any undue delay.

At the same time the Chief Secretary urged the MD & CEO of J&K Bank to further reduce the time-frame for extending the loans taken for self employment. He also vouched for handholding of all the artisans and craftsmen by giving them easy access to capital to up-scale their activities or establishing the enterprises. He stressed on simplifying the procedures for all such advances by doing away with asking for collaterals for loans of lesser value and documents least required or available online now.

G-20ACWG Meeting

POWERGRID Organizes Awareness Campaign



Observer News Service

GURUGRAM: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE of Ministry of Power, organized a number of programs to generate public awareness in run up to the upcoming meeting of Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) of G-20 Forum being held from 1st-3rd March, 2023 at Gurugram under the directives of Central Vigilance Commission.

Various debate and quiz competitions were organized for students of Gurugram University, Sector 51, Gurugram and Government Girls College, Sector 14, Gurugram.

Essay writing and poster making competitions were also organized in Government Senior Secondary School, Sukhrali, Gurugram, Government High School, Ullawas, Gurugram and Government Model Sanskriti Sr. Sec School, Sushant Lok, Gurugram. Quiz and poster making competitions were conducted at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi, MCD Primary School (Boys) and MCD Primary School (Girls) Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi.

To further strengthen the goal of creating mass awareness, POWERGRID also organized awareness programs for general public through street plays at major public places in Gurugram.

Drug peddler Held In Anantnag: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a drug peddler in South Kashmir's Anantnag district and recovered psychotropic substance from his possession.

"Acting on a specific information, a police party from Police Station Anantnag at a checkpoint established at Momin Abad Anantnag and arrested a drug peddler identified as Muzamil Ahmed Bhat son of Mohammad Akbar Bhat resident

of Arwani Bijbehara," a police spokesman said in a statement.

During checking, he said, officers were able to recover 1200 bottles of Codeine phosphate from his possession.

"He has been shifted to police station where he remains in custody," the police spokesman said.

Accordingly, he said, police have filed a case under relevant sections of law and started further investigations in this regard.



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir on Tuesday accorded a warm and affectionate farewell to Assistant Information Officer, Bilal Ahmad Bhat on his superannuation on Tuesday after rendering his service for four decades in the department on various designations.

In this regard, the department organized a farewell programme to honour and bid warm adieu to the retiring official, and to recall the service rendered by him.

Deputy Director, Information & Public Relations, Bilal Mukhtar speaking on the occasion applauded the official for performing his duties with due

diligence, dedication and honesty, and wished the official a joyful post retirement life.

Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain also spoke about the experience and in-depth knowledge of work that the retiring official had possessed in his service career.

Other colleagues who spoke on the occasion shared their memorable moments that they have spent with the retiring official besides they recalled the helping hand he had rendered to everyone while executing official matters.

On the occasion, the official was presented with gifts, bouquet and memento as a token of love by officers and staff of the department.

UTTAR PRADESH: TORCHBEARER OF RISING INDIA



The juggernaut moves forward

During the strategic 34 sessions that took place from February 10 to 12, a remarkable success story unfolded in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Investors from India and across the world showed their belief in the steely will of the state government led by CM Yogi Adityanath



₹33.52 lakh crore+
Total investment proposals in UPGIS

93,82,607
Total job opportunities

19,058
Total Memorandum of Understanding

the new regime of Uttar Pradesh and hailed it as the preferred destination for investments. He also expressed his clear intent on becoming partners with the state in a symbiotic journey towards sustainable progress. Addressing the attendees, the state CM remarked, "Uttar Pradesh has received more than Rs 33.52 lakh crore investment proposals in UPGIS and is ready to play the role of 'growth engine' of the country in line with the Prime Minister's vision and by imbuing his mantra of 'Reform, Perform Transform'." Introducing the global industrial world to the state's world class infrastructure, industry-friendly policies and better law and order, the chief minister called upon the investor fraternity to take advantage of the immense opportunities present in Uttar Pradesh and become allies in its journey of progress while making new India prosperous and powerful. He also assured them of every possible assistance at every stage as per the policies of the government.

PIC: PMINDIA GOV

REGION-WISE INVESTMENT

PASCHIMANCHAL 45%

POORVANCHAL 29%

MADHYANCHAL 13%

BUNDELKHAND 13%

RT Strategy Group
MoU: 7
Investment: Rs 1,73,031 crore
Employment: 52,300

Imperia Innovation, USA
MoU: 2
Investment: Rs 1,05,000 crore
Employment: 1,10,000

Indo European Enterprise
MoU: 1
Investment: Rs 99,999 crore
Employment: 1,00,000

Austin Group
MoU: 1
Investment: Rs 58,100 crore
Employment: 50,000

ABC Clinic
MoU: 1
Investment: Rs 50,000 crore
Employment: 3,794

NTPC
MoU: 4
Investment: Rs 42,280 crore
Employee: 2,200

Unicorn Energy, Germany
MoU: 2
Investment: Rs 41,500 crore
Employment: 2,000

Kartikkeya Amusement, USA
MoU: 1
Investment: Rs 41,000 crore
Employment: 1000

RE C
MoU: 8
Investment: Rs 35,503 crore
Employment: 8,000

Red Orion
MoU: 3
Investment: Rs 32,800 crore
Employment: 2,500

NIPD
MoU: 1
Investment: Rs 30,000 crore
Employment: 2,160

Chipprime Semi-conductor
MoU: 1
Investment: Rs 28,919 crore
Employment: 1,300

Torrent Power
MoU: 5
Investment: Rs 22,000 crore
Employment: 700



The dream has been to take UP towards a one trillion-dollar economy and the idea was to share this dream with the global community. The theme was to showcase new Uttar Pradesh of new India and the occasion was the grand UP Global Investors Summit 2023. The result was a resoundingly successful summit graced by 10 partner countries (Netherlands, Denmark, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Australia, the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Italy and Mauritius), more than 1,000 foreign delegates from 40 countries, four ministers from partner countries.

Imbuing the 'reform, perform, transform' vision of PM Narendra Modi, UP has worked diligently to build world-class infrastructure in UP along with better law and order promoting a conducive environment for investments. The success of GIS 2023 is the direct result of this

tries, 17 central ministers, five ambassadors/high commissioners and more than 25,000 delegates, including national-international investors and other dignitaries. The event became the 'mahakumbh' of think tanks and country leaders like Droupadi Murmu, President of India, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Anandiben Patel, Governor, Uttar Pradesh and Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister. Top industrialists, including Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group; Mukesh Ambani, chairman, Reliance Industries; and N Chandrasekaran, chairman, Tata Sons also participated in the event. UP garnered investments of more than Rs 33.52 lakh crore with the possibility of generating employment to the tune of 93 crore.

Addressing the inaugural event, the PM remarked, "The state is witnessing holistic development, and has changed its 'soch' and 'approach' for ease of doing business. Today, Uttar Pradesh has become a hope for the world and is driving country's overall growth. UP has also benefited greatly from the work that has been done to increase its social, physical, and digital infrastructures." Taking to twitter he had written, "UP's development strides have drawn several investors to the state. This has created opportunities for the youth of the state."

Speaking at the summit, Rajnath Singh, India's defence minister said that Uttar Pradesh has full capability to reach any height. "I am well aware of the capabilities of this state. In the coming times, the defence corridor of UP will prove to be the backbone of

the country's strategic power. Today, work on infrastructure and connectivity has been done at a very fast pace in UP. We all know how the system was here earlier. Today the Yogi government has made UP completely investment friendly," he stated.

"This was 'the' event in the history of Uttar Pradesh. This summit is going to prove to be an important step towards fulfilling the aspirations of its 25 crore people, the expectations of the youth as well as making the economy of Uttar Pradesh a \$1 trillion economy," said an elated CM Yogi Adityanath after the spectacular success of the scintillating event organised in the sprawling Vrindavan Scheme ground in the state capital, inaugurated by none other than the PM Narendra Modi on February 10. "We have 406 services of 33 departments available on the online single window portal 'Nivesh Mitra' and 'Udayam Mitra' is being deployed to assist the investors. I believe not only in Ease of Doing Business but also in the Ease of Starting Business," the CM added.

Imbuing the 'reform, perform, transform' vision of PM Narendra Modi, UP has worked diligently to build world-class infrastructure in the state along with better law and order promoting a conducive environment for investments. Experts say that the expected success of GIS 2023 is the direct result of this. Today, Uttar Pradesh is fully prepared to implement these investment proposals on ground and will move in this direction at a rapid pace.

Speaking at the summit, investors like Mukesh Ambani expressed their confidence in

PREPARATIONS AHEAD OF UPGIS

The action plan of the Yogi government to invite investors from all over the world to invest in Uttar Pradesh was a tremendous success. This, in fact, was a matter of pride for Uttar Pradesh that 21 roadshows were organised in 16 countries by respective teams of UP ministers and officials. They received encouraging response and paved the way for huge investments from various countries. The success of the roadshows abroad made UPGIS a historic event. In addition to this, the roadshows by Team UP in nine cities of India also met with an encouraging response. Investors Meets were organised locally in all 75 districts of the state where investment proposals worth crores were received



PIC: PMINDIA GOV



PIC: PMINDIA GOV



Mukesh Ambani announced investment of Rs 75,000 crore
Addressing the inaugural ceremony of UPGIS 2023 in Lucknow, Mukesh Ambani, chairman and MD, Reliance Industries, claimed that his latest investment would create around 1 lakh new jobs in the state. The fresh tranche of investment, he said, was in addition to Rs 50,000 crore that the Reliance Group had already committed to UP after 2018. Ambani claimed, "The golden phase of UP has just begun," and termed the summit as 'Vikas Ka Mahakumbh' (congregation of development).



Aditya Birla Group announced an investment of Rs 25,000 crore
Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of Aditya Birla Group, announced that his group will invest around Rs 25,000 crore in cement, metals, chemicals and finance sectors in the state. "UP is vital for India realising its \$5-trillion economy target," he said. Reminding the gathering of PM Modi's 'Uppadi' moniker given to CM Yogi, Birla added that the industry was watching Uttar Pradesh's development roadmap under CM Adityanath, with great interest.



Tata Sons announced an integrated multi-modal air cargo at Jewar airport
N Chandrasekaran, chairman, Tata Group, underlined India's dream of becoming a \$25-trillion economy in its 100th year of independence is "very much achievable" and that India is "well on its path" towards the goal. Tata Group, which has 18 companies in UP, was in an expansion mode and the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Air India has investments in the pipeline for UP. "Air India has a plan to connect UP to all the parts of India," Chandrasekaran said.



Jewar airport will be an aviation landmark
Daniel Bircher, CEO, Zurich Airport Asia, said, "The team is putting together its years of experience and global expertise spanning across 3 continents to make Noida International Airport an aviation landmark of which UP and the nation can be proud. The airport will be a true blend of Swiss efficiency and Indian hospitality." He added that UP government had not only paved way for smooth land acquisition and speedy clearances, but it also had wisdom and foresight to plan for the future. "The government has started acquiring land to north and south of the upcoming airport, paving way for future development of the airport for decades to come," he said.



In achieving the goal of making India a five trillion-dollar economy, Uttar Pradesh has resolved to make itself a one trillion dollar economy. Uttar Pradesh would contribute towards one fifth of India's economy. Efforts to boost the economy in Uttar Pradesh would also strengthen the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'

Droupadi Murmu
President of India

Marching ahead: a new chapter of growth

The closing ceremony of the UPGIS brought the grand congregation of investors to a close. With the attendance of corporate giants from India and foreign nations, Uttar Pradesh has made its limitless potential known to the world. The promise the state holds for new India's growth narrative is a talking point among the global investor fraternity. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Droupadi Murmu, President of India, said, "Uttar Pradesh is prosperous, India too will be prosperous."

"Uttar Pradesh today is capable of becoming the growth engine of new India." She added that the summit, which was organised with the goal of inclusive development, would yield meaningful results, and help UP emerge as the best investment region, while giving it global

recognition. President Droupadi Murmu added that Uttar Pradesh is not only the largest state of the country in terms of population, but also a state that contributes significantly to the country's economy. UP has made significant progress through development of infrastructure in

the recent past. Adding to that, are increasing investments in road transport, highways and expressways that are helping immensely in the region's economic development. Uttar Pradesh's 'One District One Product' programme (ODOP) promoting traditional enter-



PIC: V SUNIL



PIC: V SUNIL



"The UP Global Investors Summit-2023 has been successfully organized under the inspiration of Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji and under the guidance of the visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. National-International investors and other dignitaries enthusiastically participated in this event and took the prestige of Uttar Pradesh to a new level. This will give a new impetus to the industrial development of the state and will help realize the mantra of 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas'. Now Uttar Pradesh is fully prepared to implement these investment proposals on the ground and will move in this direction at a rapid pace.

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister

THE EPICENTRE OF PROGRESS

UP, drawing inspiration from PM Narendra Modi and under the dynamic leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath, has proved to the world that if there is a will there is always a way. The state has imprinted the global memory with its remarkable transformation, while becoming a benchmark in reformations and performance-driven governance

With a strategic and tactical approach to bridge demand and supply gaps across sectors and initiate a more value-driven policy framework, Team Yogi went to work and emerged with a completely new structure and orientation towards good governance, Ease of Doing Business and crime-free regime. And the efforts have landed UP right in the centre of opportunities. Positioned to change and lend momentum to India's future-forward growth, UP is emerging as the new powerhouse of manufacturing, IT, engineering, data, revenue surplus and employment.

Speaking at the summit, acknowledging UP's central role in the future of India, PM Narendra Modi, observed, "Uttar Pradesh today is known for good governance, better law and order, peace and stability. The state boasts of modern infrastructure and very soon it will be known as the first state to have 5 international airports in the country while getting connected to the sea and the ports of

Gujarat and Maharashtra through a dedicated freight corridor. New opportunities are being created for wealth creators in the state every day. The state in which you are sitting today has a population of 25 crore, which is higher than the population of many countries. Today, work is being done on social, physical, and digital infrastructure in India and UP has got the maximum benefit from it."

Inviting investors to invest in Uttar Pradesh, the PM added that the Uttar Pradesh government and the bureaucracy have embarked on the path of progress with determination. "To make your (investors and entrepreneurs) dreams come true, it is standing with you at every step."

Praising the commendable work done, the PM also acknowledged the good work that has been done in UP in the field of education and skill development. Many institutions like Mahayogi Gauri Gorakhnath Ayush University, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University and Major

Dhyan Chand Sports University are on the precipice of preparing youth for different skills. More than 16 lakh youth of UP have been trained in different skills under the 'Skill Development Mission' so far. UP government has also started courses related to artificial intelligence at PGI, Lucknow and IIT, Kanpur. It is a matter of great pride for Uttar Pradesh that, this time, four universities of Uttar Pradesh have made India proud in the NAAC evaluation," he added.

Posed as the 'growth engine' of new India, role of UP in the start-up revolution of India is gaining momentum wherein the UP government has set a target of setting up 100 incubators and 33 state-of-the-art centres in the coming years. "That is, the investors coming here are also going to get a huge pool of skilled and qualified youth," PM Narendra Modi added. The Prime Minister also talked about the strong network of MSMEs consisting of many industries linked to tradition and modernity, mentioning in this context

Posed as the 'growth engine' of new India, role of Uttar Pradesh in the start-up revolution of India is gaining momentum wherein the UP government has set a target of setting up 100 incubators and 33 state-of-the-art centres in the coming years

Bhadoli's carpets and Varanasi's silk. He said that with the presence of clusters like Bhadoli carpet cluster and Varanasi silk cluster, UP is the textile hub of India. He added that today, more than 60% of the total mobile manufacturing in India as well as maximum of its components happens in Uttar Pradesh alone. With work fast progressing on the two



CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

prise is also another success story of the state. Promotion of traditional industries has not only led to economic upliftment at the local level, but is also offering investors the opportunities to become stakeholders in the initiative.

The way the state government has made efforts to simplify procedures for investment in Uttar Pradesh is remarkable. The President added, "Uttar Pradesh has more than 90 lakh MSMEs, which is the highest in the country. Apart from being the backbone of India's industries, MSMEs also provide the largest number of employment opportunities, after the agriculture sector, playing a major role in economic development in India."

SECTOR-WISE INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Renewable energy | 15.47% |
| Electronics manufacturing | 12.41% |
| Industrial parks | 11.35% |
| Higher education | 8.92% |
| Manufacturing | 6.85% |
| Logistics & Warehousing | 5.52% |
| Real estate | 4.32% |
| IT-enabled services | 3.90% |
| Tourism | 3.40% |
| Housing | 2.41% |
| Textiles | 1.89% |
| Power generation | 1.85% |
| Healthcare | 1.63% |
| Food processing | 1.29% |
| Dairy | 1.06% |
| Food & Civil supplies | 1.03% |
| Energy | 0.89% |
| Hotel | 0.72% |
| Waste to energy | 0.71% |
| Biofuels/ Biomass | 0.70% |

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday | 01-03-2023

Triumph over
Covid-19 pandemic

Is the Covid-19 pandemic finally on its way out? It seems so. India recorded a negligible 169 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours, while the active caseload rose to 2,257. Similarly, there have been far fewer cases in Jammu and Kashmir. India has witnessed a drastic decline in the number of cases. This is despite the fact that China was recently overrun by a major Covid-19 outbreak leading to the deaths of reportedly thousands of people. The sudden surge in infections followed after the country ended its zero-Covid strategy and lifted the sweeping lockdowns following public protests.

That the infections didn't spread to India shows that the country has developed a certain herd immunity. One of the reasons could be that India experienced a nationwide explosion of infections during the virulent Delta wave in the beginning of 2021. Thousands died as a result. This, together with a successful vaccination programme, may have gone some way to build mass immunity among the people.

However, this is no reason to let our guard down. The virus is now a part of our lives and it has already become endemic. Besides, the new variants of the virus keep triggering fresh outbreaks. More so, in China where recent upsurge in infections is traced to the new Covid variants. Experts have now expressed fear that the virus may mutate its way out of vaccine immunity. Former World Health Organisation (WHO) chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan, Swaminathan has called for continued surveillance to avoid another wave that could potentially kill millions of people like Covid-19 did during the second wave that was dominated by the Delta variant of the virus.

But the overall trend remains one of a steep decline in cases. Though there is some cause for optimism here, things could still turn messy if the existing pandemic-related precautions are thrown to the winds. The Omicron wave early last year was gigantic in nature but its fallout was cushioned by the relatively moderate nature of the virus. The continuously mutating sub-variants of the Omicron virus could, however, in time trigger yet another wave. So people have to continue to take care.

Meanwhile, we can celebrate our triumph over the Covid pandemic with the least number of Covid cases and fatalities to date. In Kashmir, there is a greater need for precaution since it is a tourist place. Though the drastic reduction in new cases and fatalities is a heartening development, the situation can stay this way if people continue to be mindful of the virus. The end of the pandemic is also a boon for tourism in the union territory which has witnessed a bumper 2022 with over one crore people visitors. We can't afford to let this momentum slow down.

OTHER OPINION

Surprising Rise
in Inflation

In its last meeting, held just a few days after the Union budget, the monetary policy committee of the RBI had voted to raise the benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points. The decision of the committee was, however, not unanimous as two members, Jayanth Varma and Ashima Goyal, voted against the hike. Yet despite this dissent within the committee, the tone of the policy statement was markedly hawkish. The MPC noted that calibrated action was warranted to break the persistence in core inflation. As per the detailed minutes of the MPC meeting released on Wednesday, the members who had voted in favour of the rate hike felt that it was premature to pause at this juncture. This suggests that despite expectations that the MPC had neared the end of the rate hike cycle, it is perhaps not done hiking rates.

Inflation data for January, released just a few days after the MPC meeting had concluded, seems to justify the hawkishness. Retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, rose to 6.52 per cent in January, up from 5.72 per cent in December, reversing the declining trend seen in the preceding months. Much of the surge was driven by food inflation — the consumer food price index rose to 5.94 per cent, up from 4.19 the month before, driven largely by cereals. Equally worrying, core inflation has continued to remain sticky. Inflation remained elevated in clothing and footwear, household goods and services, personal care effects and education, signalling that price pressures remain fairly broad-based across the economy. This surprise uptick in inflation is likely to complicate the policy choices before the MPC members when it meets next in the first week of April.

As monetary policy acts with a lag, Varma and Goyal have advocated for pausing at this moment to observe the full impact of the policy tightening so far on the economy before taking any further action. Cumulatively, the MPC has tightened rates by 250 basis points since the beginning of this rate hike cycle. However, with some analysts now expecting inflation to remain above the 6 per cent upper threshold of the RBI's inflation targeting framework in February as well, the hawks, who are looking for signs of a definitive decline in inflation, are likely to gain an upper hand. Some analysts are now penciling in a rate hike in the next policy meeting as well.

The Indian Express

“Going Global?”



Asad Mirza

“Apparently, it seems that Saudi Arabia has embarked on an ambitious project to diversify the economy away from oil and shed its image as a conservative, closed-off state. Besides promoting new narratives of development and progress. Additionally, it has serious regional competition from neighbouring Dubai and the Qatari capital Doha.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) announced the launch of the New Murabba Development Company, last week. The new company will oversee developing a new downtown area spread over 19 sq. km. in capital Riyadh. Authorities claim that plans have been created keeping sustainability and

environment in mind. The project would include green spaces, walking and cycling pathways, to improve the quality of life by encouraging active, healthy lives and social interaction.

What is Mukaab?

The main feature of the project has been named The Mukaab, a gigantic cube structure has been described as the future 'face of the city', and critics say it may even be the face of a new Saudi Arabia, focussing and generating more revenue through tourism than petroleum. At present, the plan is to fill the cube with 100,000 residential units as well as 9,000 hotel rooms.

In addition, it will also have over 80 entertainment and cultural venues. A renowned museum, and a campus for a technology and design university. The 19 km space will accommodate thousands of people. The 25 million sq.mt. floor area is divided strategically into 104,000 residential units, 9,000 hotel rooms & 620,000 sq.mt. of leisure assets. Additional 980,000 sq.mts. will be covered by retail and 1.8 million sq.mt. will be dedicated to recreational facilities.

The building, will be 20 times bigger than the New York City's Empire State Building, and will be a one-stop location for shoppers and business owners, with more than 980,000 square metres of retail shops and 1.4 million square metres of office space.

The Mukaab's core structure will be an atrium, allowing for tons of natural light and foliage to thrive inside. The government brief promises an im-

mersive 'gateway into another world' that is completely powered by the latest digital, virtual, and holographic technologies.

In recent years, Saudi Arabia's abundance of oil money has sparked the design of some absolutely insane architectural projects. In 2021, MbS announced his \$500 billion futuristic Neom city in the northwest of the country, with promises of robot maids, flying taxis, and a giant artificial moon. And last year, he unveiled a giant linear city, The Line, which aims to stretch over 106 miles and house 9 million people. The one-trillion-dollar project will essentially be its own massive city in the middle of a desert once it's finished.

A New Kaabah?

Authorities claim that the project will add 180 billion riyals (\$48 bn) to the Saudi economy and "create 334,000 direct and indirect jobs," though the cost of the gargantuan project has not been mentioned.

New Murabba (square) and The Mukaab were widely ridiculed by social media users, both within and outside Saudi Arabia, apart from a large number of Muslims all across the globe, as soon as the plans were announced.

The Mukaab was also denounced for its likeness to the most important cube-like structure in Saudi Arabia and the most sacred structure of the Islamic world: the Kaabah. During Namaaz Muslims around the world face towards the structure in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, and circumambulate it during Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages.

Why this new developmental push?

Apparently, it seems, that Saudi Arabia has embarked on an ambitious project to diversify the economy away from oil and shed its image as a conservative, closed-off state. Besides promoting new narratives of development and progress.

Additionally, it has serious regional competition from neighbouring Dubai and the Qatari capital Doha, both of which have for decades tried to position themselves as regional tourism and investment hubs.

The kingdom already has an \$800 billion plan to double the size of the capital in the next decade, as well as transform it into a cultural and economic hub for the region, according to Saudi media.

Over the years Saudi Arabia, which has seen an economic boom and a desert country transformed into a modern developing country was essentially based on the petroleum industry.

In addition it earns billions in revenues through the Umrah and Hajj pilgrimages. In recent years, it has made travel to the kingdom friendlier for the pilgrims and expansion plans in the two holy cities of Makkah and Madinah are underway to accommodate more number of tourists.

As a strategy it also is promoting the Umrah pilgrimage more than the annual Hajj, as the revenues through Umrah pilgrims flows throughout the year and the government is not forced to spend more on providing facilities and security to the Umrah pilgrims, whose stay is much shorter as compared to the Hajj pilgrims.

So far, the government was focussing more on promoting tourism, but with the ascension of MbS, it seems to have changed tracks. As his critics say he is pursuing a growth plan which seems more unIslamic than his parleys with the Israelis.

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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He can be contacted at www.asadmira.com



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Dismissing Period Leave

The Supreme Court has recently rejected a plea, seeking State governments to implement nationwide menstrual leave for employed women, and observed that this being a policy matter, the Centre has to take a call on the same. "Period leave" for employed women has been a topic of debate in India for some time now,

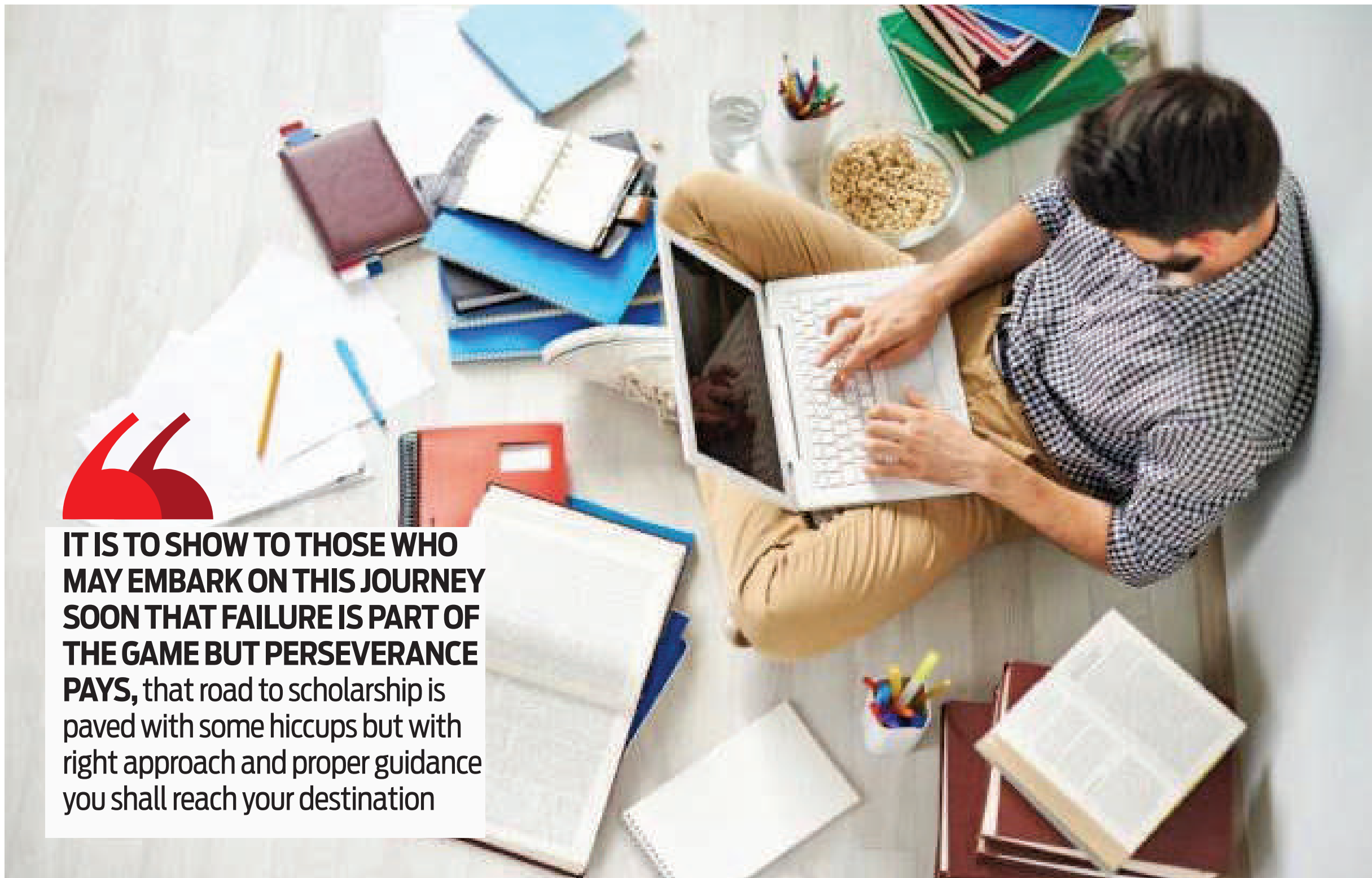
especially after the Indian restaurant aggregator Zomato's decision to give up to 10 days of the same per year, which, however, stirred controversy on gender equality. Menstruation is no longer a taboo in our country, but people often judge you when you talk about it openly. Since ages, women have been a victim of misconceptions surrounding menstruation which

has been an impediment in their growth at the workplace. They face discrimination and are contrived to suffer menstrual pain in silence at the beehives. The severity of period-related pain and cramps (dysmenorrhea) experienced by women add to their mental strain. While this leave policy is not widespread world over, it is gaining traction in some foreign

countries like, Spain, Japan, Taiwan, etc., where legislations are already in vogue which entitle employees to paid menstrual leave. Providing "period leaves" for women can help companies promote gender equality and support the well-being of their women employees.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

NAVIGATING THE PATH TO STUDYING ABROAD



IT IS TO SHOW TO THOSE WHO MAY EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY SOON THAT FAILURE IS PART OF THE GAME BUT PERSEVERANCE PAYS, that road to scholarship is paved with some hiccups but with right approach and proper guidance you shall reach your destination

Muhammad Tahir

In 2012 I received confirmation of my admission from International University of Japan. My response: restrained excitement with a bout of anxiety. Why? Because I had received such confirmations previously, and I had come to realise that they don't mean much without a scholarship. Of course, unless you want to self-finance your foreign degree. A lot of students take a loan and enrol in expensive programs abroad. They work part-time jobs to compensate for the lack of stipend. But not everyone can afford. Scholarship is freedom, while self-financing international students are 'cash cows' for many European universities.

In February 2012 I received an email from University of London: "We are delighted that you have chosen to study at SOAS and very pleased to make you an offer of admissions to a Taught Masters programme." I was tempted to take a loan and study one year MSc State, Society and Development at this prestigious British university. But I decided against that after weighing pros and cons of such a move. I received a similar offer of admission from University of Edinburgh for MSc Nationalism Studies. I applied for Principal India Scholarship and Edinburgh Global Masters Scholarship in October 2011 to make it possible for me to study in Edinburgh. However, in June 2012, I received an email from them: "Competition for the awards was intense and I am afraid that I have to inform you that your scholarship application has not been successful." Earlier in April 2012, Central European University informed me that they will be unable to offer a place of study to me, adding that "Admission to Central European University is highly competitive, with over 5,000 individuals applying for approximately 600 student places for the academic year 2012/2013. As a result, the university is simply unable to offer admission to every qualified applicant."

It is hard luck sometimes, but I also know that I had made mistakes and taken the process casually. I realised guidance was important to mitigate the errors. Mantra was to pursue the whole thing systematically. My mentors were generous enough to help. They had secured funded PhD admissions in the US and knew what works. I drafted my Research Proposal and Statement of Purpose, emailed these documents to my mentors for their feedback and suggestions. I reworked the weaker areas in my application. In July 2012, I was selected for Konosuke Mastushita Memorial Foundation (KMMF) fellowship to study master's in international

peace studies at Japan. Later, in 2014, I got the prestigious Daniel O'Hare Fellowship to pursue my PhD in Europe.

I recounted my story because some aspirants out there might relate with it. It is to show to those who may embark on this journey soon that failure is part of the game but perseverance pays, that road to scholarship is paved with some hiccups but with right approach and proper guidance you shall reach your destination.

THE FIRST STEPS

Many undergrad students toy with the idea of studying abroad but most hesitate or feel dread when it comes to starting the process. Unfortunately, colleges in Kashmir do not prepare them for the task and they rely on information available online. Very few are able to find a mentor who can guide them properly. When I began my journey more than a decade ago there were not many resources, but today there are Kashmiri-led initiatives that help and guide aspiring students to apply for scholarships and funded admissions.

I along with my colleagues at Pend Online have conducted workshops about this. We have collaborated with Wath, an educational platform started by Adeeba Tak (University of Pennsylvania) and Moin Khan (Princeton University). Adeeba and Moin have provided many students structured guidance to get admissions in the US colleges. Similarly, KG-Kashmir Guidance, a Facebook group, have similarly mentored dozens of students since last six years. All these initiatives work pro bono.

Before you approach anyone for guidance, you must have basic documentation ready. Also bear in mind that the process will cost money, somewhere between 15000-40000 rupees depending on where you are applying.

First, apply for a passport. If your passport expires in a year, apply for renewal. Second, take English language test, such as IELTS or TOEFL. Third, scan your passport, IELTS/TOEFL certificate, marks cards and degree certificates along with any work experience related documents.

You should prepare well ahead of time. Give yourself at least a year of preparation. Remember securing admission and securing funding are two separate processes (I will come to the latter in a while) and it will consume your energies. If you want to apply for an M.A programme in International University of Japan, the course begins in September (fall-term) and you need to start applying around December a year ahead. The application deadline is January, February and March and the admission results

will be announced in March and April 2023. The good thing about IUJ is that Kashmiri students are exempt from IELTS/TOEFL requirement. That will save you at least 15000 rupees. Secondly, there is no interview for international students, except for PhD admissions. However, there is a non-refundable application fee of 5000 yen (roughly 3000 rupees). If you want to study in Europe or the US, most universities will ask for IELTS or TOEFL score as proof of English language proficiency. American universities will require Graduate Record Examination (GRE) which costs \$228 (roughly 19000 rupees). You will need to travel outside Kashmir to take this test, nearest centre is in Chandigarh or Delhi. For undergraduate admission in the US you will need to sit for Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) which costs around 10000 rupees. But the good news is that in August 2020, Delhi Public School Srinagar was allotted an SAT centre.

PREPARING CRUCIAL DOCUMENTS

Statement of Purpose and Research Proposal are two most crucial documents that largely determine the application outcome at graduate level. Your CV, grades and work experience is important but these two are read first by the selection committee.

Much material is available online on how to write a good research proposal, but surfeit of information creates an overwhelming situation for many students. So, let me briefly summarize the key points. When you write your RP, the first paragraph should clearly state what you want to explore. In this paragraph your research question should come out explicitly. Write in simple and formal English. You should tell your reader why your topic is important and what new significant contribution your research will make to the existing literature on the topic. For this you must know what has been already written about the topic and what areas have not been sufficiently covered. Next you should explain which theoretical framework informs your research. You also need to clearly state the methodology you will be employing in your study. For example, semi-structured interviews, surveys or archival research? In other words, how and where you are going to get your data from and how your proposed methodology will enable you to address your research questions. In the final section, you must outline a rough schedule of your research: what will you do in each year of your PhD. Divide years into quarters and fill each quarter with concise description of what you will do. For example, 'Jan-Apr 2023: Presentation of preliminary research

findings at Annual Political Studies Association International Conference'. Be realistic with milestone and deliverables (note: this applies for PhD research proposals).

You can find sample PhD proposals online but remember template for each institution may differ. So be diligent. Choose wisely when searching online. You should be able to separate wheat from the chaff. I would recommend university websites like this one (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe-writing-centre/plan-your-assignment/write-a-research-proposal>) or this (<https://fass.open.ac.uk/sites/fass.open.ac.uk/files/files/research/sample-research-proposal.pdf>)

It is always better to visit the website of your target university, because they usually put guideline documents on how to write a good research proposal. Each university has different word limit requirements. You must strictly follow it. If they ask for 2000 word RP, don't overwrite. They will see your discipline. You must tailor your RP according to the requirements of your target university.

BACKGROUND CHECK

There are two ways to write your RP. Either you chose your own topic which you really want to do or you develop a topic which matches the research interest of the faculty member at your target department or university. If you decide the former, find a professor with research interest closer to your topic. After all, most professors take those prospective students under their wings who they think would contribute to their own research area.

Once you identified your prospective supervisor, read his/her profile carefully (you will find the details in the 'People' or 'Faculty' section of their department's website). Go through a couple of his/her recent articles to see what kind of scholarship he or she has produced and what he or she has been researching lately.

Once you have done the background checking, compose a clear and professional email and send it to that professor (I will get to email etiquettes later). If the professor replies and shows interest in your topic, then you have accomplished an important milestone.

It is always advisable to apply to at least five to six universities, because you will be competing at the international level where far many prospective students apply to the same department. That is why you should keep your options and cast your net wide. For this you will need to spend a great deal on internet looking for the right match in each target university.

SEEKING FEEDBACK

Once you have a draft of RP, show it to an experienced person like your professor or your friend or acquaintance who you think can help. Don't feel shy asking for the feedback. Shyness and inhibition is a big handicap and must be overcome to get things done. There is no harm asking for help, either you get a response or you are ignored. But at least you tried. It is also not inappropriate to remind the person whom you have sent your proposal. Sometimes people forget. Revise your RP by incorporating suggestions. Sometimes not all suggestions can be accepted, that is fine. Include what you think is useful to improve the proposal. Proofread it a couple of times. A polished document reflects well on you.

PREPARING YOUR CV

Some professors may ask for the CV or curriculum vitae (Greek for 'course of one's life'). Don't rush. Send only a latest and polished CV. Understand the difference between an academic CV and a regular job hunting resume (French for 'a summary'). Academic CV may be two to three pages long where you list all your academic achievements and highlight any work experience relevant to the proposed research. If you have any publications, put them in your CV. But remember only the relevant publications. If you have already accomplished something, such as articles in respected newspapers and magazines and work experience with a reputed organisation, put it there. Overall, your CV should complement and connect with your SOP and RP. It should help you market your candidacy by showing required skills for the position. Be attentive to fonts and alignment. Your CV should look neat and clear. Latest MS Word has ready-made templates but I will recommend this link for you to see how you can frame your academic CV (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/sites/careers/files/phd-applications.pdf>) or this one (<https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/careers/CVGuideforPhDandPostdoctoralResearchers.pdf>)

(to be continued...)

Muhammad Tahir is an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at Dublin City University, Ireland

This article is being reproduced from the archives as most sought after universities are closing admissions soon. You can read the entire three part series on our website

Decks Cleared For USD 100 Million Support By IFAD In J&K

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, gave a green signal to pose "Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP) to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) for financing through International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for project implementation in J&K.

The project shall contribute to the sustained increase in incomes of rural households by improving pre-production, production and post production verticals of agriculture. The project objective is to improve the competitiveness of the farmers through a value chain approach with emphasis on export of high value agricultural commodities and development of business incubation centers and start-up support.

Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP) comprises of 4 components which inter alia includes value chain support with export focus, incubation and start-up support, support to vulnerable communities and project management. The project implementation would spread over

7 years (2023-2030) across all districts of J&K.

"The project will have a number of positive outcomes which will further complement the growth of agriculture & allied sectors in J&K, including export promotion of potential agricultural commodities and GGAP practices that would encourage export promotion like GI tagging, promotion of niche crops, certifications, quality control, laboratory/logistic support, branding facilities, marketing platforms and development of an organized value chain", said Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department.

"The project will also support activities focusing on tribal and other vulnerable communities which inhabit some of the most vulnerable landscapes such as hillsides, rangelands, semi-arid and arid lands and rely on climate-sensitive natural resources to make a living. IFAD shall promote environmentally sustainable and climate resilient agricultural practices for them", he added.

Implementation of JKCIP is a part of the government's larger efforts to look beyond the objectives of Holistic Agricultural Development Plan (HADP) to capture the opportunities in global trade by tapping the

competitive advantage of J&K viz agro-climatic diversity, monopoly in production of default organic crops (Walnut, almond, cherries), year-round vegetable production, niche crop advantage & pristine climate which catalyzes the opportunity to export high value agricultural commodities. Besides provisions of HADP, concerted measures shall be implemented through JKCIP to create an enabling environment to reform agricultural sectors and better price realization.

APD in collaboration with the Apex Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Mangla Rai has prepared an export promotion plan which is scheduled for ratification with the Apex Committee during 1-3 March, 2023 at SKUAST-Jammu. The plan after ratification shall construe an integral part of the IFAD project.

The project shall also encourage complementarily and convergence with the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan through identification of common activities for financing with focus on augmentation of livelihood of tribal and other vulnerable communities. Another major goal of the IFAD project is to establish incubation centers to undertake skilling of more than 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs targeted under HADP projects, besides giving adequate

focus on extension of support for training of trainers, demonstration set ups, entrepreneurship development and facilitating partnership with research institutions like ICAR, NFDB, NDDDB. It shall also enable & foster establishment of agri start-ups.

The project includes a range of interventions to support commercialization & sustainability of agriculture through promotion of 300 new agri-tech start-ups, establishment of 60 vegetable, 117 Aromatic/Red rice, Guchi, Kashmiri Chilli, saffron and medicinal plant production clusters besides establishment of 20 vegetable seed, 20 potato seed and 40 oil and pulse seed clusters. The project aims to create 6 mini-Centers of Excellences with 24 satellite centers for niche agri products and 4 mini-Centers of Excellences for fruit and nut crops besides establishment of 3 Export Hubs and 2 Business incubation centers.

Additionally, it aims to establish 60,000 integrated farming models for fringe and nomadic communities and establishment of 200 horticultural nurseries. The project would also undertake GI tagging, aggregation, processing and marketing of at least 6 agriculture and minor forest produce.

Mandeep Kaur Reviews Development Scenario Of Poonch

Asks officers to ensure timely, quality completion of projects

Observer News Service

Poonch: Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development (RDD) and Panchayati Raj (Mentor Secretary), Mandeep Kaur on Tuesday chaired an online review meeting regarding progress on development works and related issues pertaining to Poonch district.

She had threadbare discussion on several important government interventions like MGNREGA, Amrit Sarovars, PMAY, AWAAS+, 14FC besides other development related issues concerning different departments of the district were also discussed.

Apart from RDD, Commission Secretary took a detailed department wise review of all development works being executed in the district.

It was informed in the meeting that 109 Amrit Sarovars have been completed against the target of 75. Besides, 9841 houses stand completed under PMAY (G) in the current Financial Year and 143 works have been completed under PMAY(U). About 46 ponds (NGT Water Bodies) have been completed in the FY 2021-22 while 25 ponds have been completed in the current FY. Besides, 3 Panchayat Ghars have been established in the FY 2021-22



and 229 Panchayat offices have been established in the district. Also, 4052 works have been completed under 14th FC and 714 works completed under B2V3 program.

It was further told that 84392 individual Household Toilets and 210 Community Sanitary Complexes have been constructed with an aim to create a neat and clean environment and to make the Halqa Panchayats open defecation free under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). And, 183 villages have been declared open defecation free plus under SBM (G) Phase 2nd and rest of the villages are in the process of being declared as ODF Plus before March 2023.

The meeting was further informed that 22 roads and 8 bridges have been completed under Languishing scheme while 112 vehicles have been distributed among the unemployed youth generating employment for 180 persons under Mumkin Scheme. Under Ayushman Bharat AB-PMJAY

AB-PMJAY-SEHAT schemes, 82.19% beneficiaries have been registered in the district.

It was informed that 100% Aadhar Seeding at Ration Card Level and Beneficiary Level, 100% implementation of One Nation and One Ration Card and 100% distribution of Food Grain through POS machine have been achieved in the district.

Commissioner Secretary also reviewed working of other departments and directed the officers for timely completion of their respective projects while adhering to quality parameters.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Poonch, Tazeem Akhter and DDC members who held detailed discussion with the Commissioner Secretary about various development issues pertaining to their constituencies.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Inder Jeet, Director RDD Jammu, Chaudhary Mumtaz Ali, Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers of different department besides other concerned officers.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Two Militants

so far has revealed that both the militants, although joined through different organisations, had come together to conspire and attack minorities, outsiders, other vulnerable targets and security forces.

"They were involved in FIR No. 14/2023 of PS Litter (recent killing of Kashmir Pandit Sanjay Pandita at Achan, Pulwama), FIR No 82/2022 of PS Pulwama (attack on 2 outside labourers at Lajoor), FIR No 115/2022 of PS Tral (weapon snatching attempt), FIR No 76/2022 of PS Tral (OGW module which supported them for grenade lobbing) among many other cases," he added.

He further said that incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 1 AK-47 rifle, 1 AK-74 rifle, 1 pistol, 3 grenades, 2 pouches, 5 AK magazines, 2 pistol magazines, 103 AK rounds, 20 pistol rounds and 2 Aadhar cards were recovered from the site of encounter.

"ADGP Kashmir paid rich tributes to the martyr soldier and appreciated joint efforts of police and security forces for conducting such a complex operation where a hostage situation was defused tactfully and also the sanctity of the mosque was maintained," the spokesperson added.

MHA Team In

level meeting was also held by the Union Home Ministry in New Delhi to discuss phased replacement of Army from some districts of Jammu and Kashmir and its replacement with Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). However, this issue is unlikely to figure in the meeting of the Home Ministry's team with the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

The Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes will also be reviewed at a high-level meeting of the Home Ministry team with top officials of Jammu and Kashmir administration, sources said.

A number of projects are under execution under PMDP in Jammu and Kashmir besides various works are going on under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The works are progressing smoothly, they added.

The Home Ministry team will return to New Delhi on March 2 and submit a detailed report to the Union Home Minister, sources added. (KNO)

13000 Schools To

December-19 to February-28.

According to official figures, a total of 10,851 government and 2550 private schools are functioning in the Kashmir division.

In the meantime, the School Education Department Tuesday changed school timing in Srinagar city from 9Am to 2 Pm.

The Under Secretary to government for School Education Department said, "I am directed to convey approval of the department for change of school timings in Srinagar City from 9 Am to 2 Pm from March-01." (KNO)

Karan Singh Calls

between people and the government.

"Today, there are no MLAs and so there is a bureaucracy and they cannot listen to everyone. It is not their job and that gap needs to be filled, which can be done by holding free and fair elections to pave way for a popular government. The popular government will be a link which is missing," he said.

Asked whether it is time to get back Pck, he said "reversing the time is not so easy and without a war it is not possible to get it back. You know the consequences of a war which brings death and destruction."

However, he said it is true that the areas under illegal occupation of the neighbouring countries are part of Jammu and Kashmir and "if we get these areas back it is good. But are we ready for a war, China is also standing there."

He also advocated restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

On bifurcation of the erstwhile state, he said, "I believe we have to look forward rather than going back which is not beneficial."

"My mantra is that I have always looked at the present and future. I have seen a lot of things (in my life) and I have never been discouraged (by events). Time keeps changing and let us do something to make the world a better place," he said.

"Our elders have given their blood to spread the borders of India to Gilgit and Ladakh," he said.

Singh also opposed forced conversions, whether in India or Pakistan and said such things should not happen.

150 Delegates

and it was divided into two union territories in August 2019.

The LG also asked Jio representatives to take dedicated measures to resolve the issues of call drop and interruption in connectivity.

G20 brings together 19 of the world's leading economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 percent of global trade and 60 percent of the global population, according to the MEA.

G20 member nations are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Safeguard Interests

the Civil Secretariat here, an official spokesperson said. During the public hearing, he said, several cases were disposed of on the spot for which the applicants expressed their gratitude to the LG.

"JKIGRAMS complaint mechanism is serving a range of objectives including feedback on the quality of services and strengthening transparency, integrity and accountability in the system to respond to people's needs," the LG said.

He directed the officials to safeguard the interests of the common citizens and ensure that the grievances are attended promptly.

On one grievance filed by Sanjay Sharma from Akhnor regarding non-functioning of tubewell in his area, the Deputy Commissioner Jammu informed the chair that it would be replaced with a new one within 3 days.

In another grievance filed by Mir Irsheed Hussain regarding encroachment within the premises of Govt. Middle School Hajipora in Anantnag, directions were issued to District administration to remove encroachments from the School land and restore it as per the revenue records.

The LG also took note of the grievances posted by people from Samba, Udhampur and Poonch over road connectivity, water supply and delay in financial assistance under Marriage Assistance Scheme.

Launches Jio

healthcare, information technology and small & micro enterprises," Sinha said, after launching Jio True 5G in Jammu and Srinagar.

Congratulating the citizens of J&K, the LG said the 5G services will play an active role in socio-economic development, enable integrated action for prosperity and bring transformational benefits to the people. He also underscored the significance of adopting future technologies and their effective utilization for

holistic development of J&K.

"The latest 5G technology and enhanced connectivity will bridge the rural urban divide, improve productivity, generate more employment and it will ensure growth of grassroot enterprises, self help groups and knowledge connectivity for rural schools," he said.

The 5G will also enable citizens and the Government to remain connected on real time basis and will assist & improve the implementation and efficacy of Government schemes and public service delivery," he added.

Highlighting the digital initiatives of the government, the LG said that his administration is providing around 440 services online for the convenience of the common man.

"We have also ensured the hassle free delivery of those services which are impacting the majority of our population," he said, adding "The e-office has made the working of the administration more transparent and accountable. On an average J&K is recording a higher number of digital transactions than many bigger states & UTs."

The LG further said that strong internet connectivity will also complement the government's efforts to bring the reforms in the Agriculture & allied sectors through the implementation of 29 projects recommended by Apex Committee on Holistic Development for Agriculture & allied sectors.

"The kind of talent J&K possessed is one of the best in the country. Education, MSMEs, startups, and remote areas will benefit from this initiative," he added.

Kapil Ahuja, CEO North, Reliance Jio extended gratitude to the UT government for continuous support to realize the vision of Digital J&K.

"We are excited to launch Jio True 5G in Jammu and Srinagar. By December 2023, Jio True 5G will cover every town of Jammu & Kashmir. This is testimony to Jio's commitment towards the Government's priorities," Ahuja added.

The 5G Services have been activated in twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

Jio has made the investment of Rs.6529 Cr in the UT to give a fillip to the vision of Digital J&K and has created 36,000 direct & indirect employment. More than Rs 1230 Cr investment is in progress and by end of December 2023 it will connect every block & tehsil of J&K, an official spokesperson said.

Kashmir To Have

requisite formalities," he said, "I got the franchise and started work on it at Shalimar area

of Srinagar. We are busy developing a beautiful garden on one kanal land at the moment and I hope that people fully enjoy the service and appreciate the idea."

Since people of Kashmir have hardly any idea about the hanging restaurant, the owner said, tourists are eager to enjoy meals in a sky hangout.

"Almost entire process has been completed and I am sure people would enjoy dining up in the sky," Dar said.

"From wazwan to Indian and Chinese cuisine, everything will be available at Fly Dining."

CRPF Man

in Rajouri following additional deployment of 18 companies to strengthen security in the aftermath of the January 1 Dhangri terror attack that left seven civilians dead and 14 others injured.

Unclaimed Bottle

"After inspection, it turned out to be a water bottle," said a police officer. Asked about the panic due to it, he said, "Security establishment does not take any chances."

Train Crushes

relevant sections of law has been registered in this regard

Two Gamblers

The police identified the arrested duo as Suhail Ahmad Sofi and Bashir Ahmad Rather, both residents of Heewan Baramulla.

"Officers have also seized stake money of 3850/- and playing cards from the gamblers. They have been shifted to the police station where they remain in custody," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sheeri and further investigation has been initiated.

Ancient Stone

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to establish the historical significance of the sculptures, the official said.

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, on receiving the information, confirmed the findings from Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gandoh, Arun Kumar Badyal.

After confirmation, Mahajan has taken up the matter with the secretary of the Culture department who has assured appropriate action, the spokesperson said.

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

KO PODCAST

IND vs AUS: India Thinking Of Simulating English Conditions In 4th Test

Press Trust of India

INDORE: India are on course to reach their second straight World Test Championship final and if they end up winning here, a pace-friendly track could be laid out in the final game of the series in Ahmedabad to prepare for the summit clash in London in June.

Before the start of the Border-Gavaskar trophy, India needed to beat Australia 3-0 or 3-1 to qualify for the WTC final and keep the destiny in their own hands.

India skipper Rohit Sharma doesn't want to jump the gun but, ahead of the third Test beginning at the Holkar Stadium on Wednesday, he said the team has already spoken about simulating English conditions in the fourth and final game against Australia.

There is a strong possibility that India might end up facing Australia in the WTC final.

"It will be a different ball game (facing Australia in England) for both teams, actually. There is definitely a possibility of that (Ahmedabad as preparatory game for WTC final). We have already spoken about it. We need to get the guys ready for it," Rohit said in a media interaction.

The WTC final will be played at The Oval in London from June 7-11, right after the IPL. Rohit Sharma said Shardul Thakur becomes an important member of the side in overseas conditions.

"The important one is Shardul Thakur, because he comes into the planning for us. We don't know how ready he is since he has just got married (laughs). We don't know how many overs he has bowled. But that thought process is definitely there.

"If we get the result we want here



(Indore), we might think of doing something different in Ahmedabad for sure.

"But we are not there yet. We have to win this game and then talk about it. That'll be the right thing to do," he said.

"YOU ARE NEVER IN ON THESE WICKETS"

India are well on their way to their 16th straight series win at home. Rohit feels reaching the WTC

final will be a big achievement for his team, as winning even at home has not been easy.

"Yes there are home conditions but they are challenging conditions; it is not easy for the batters to score runs consistently." Australia have collapsed in the second innings of both the Tests and Rohit said it shows how hard it is to play in Indian conditions.

"Yeah....that's the beauty of this game and the pitches we are playing

on. It can happen to us as well, not just them. I played 200 balls in Nagpur and never felt set. It just takes one ball to grip or keep low and you are out. On pitches like this, you are never in.

"Yes, we have quality spinners who can change things around just like that but that does not give us the guarantee that we are going to win the Test or roll them over in one session. We have got to keep the disci-

pline going," he said.

Rohit promised that the spinners will keep coming at the Australians relentlessly as the visitors look to find ways to slow down the momentum generated by Ashwin and Co.

"It comes very naturally to (Ravindra) Jadeja. Sometimes it is difficult as captain. If you want to push a fielder a couple of yards behind, Jadeja is already running in. It is a very valid point. You don't want to give the op-

position time to think what they want to do. These are small tactical things that are very important," said Rohit.

Having scored the only hundred of the series, Rohit is expecting more runs from the top order and wants the lower-order comprising Jadeja, Axar Patel and Ashwin to carry on in the same vein.

"Last game specifically after 139 for seven, to get to 260 was a great effort. In this team, Axar, Jadeja and Ashwin bat in the lower order but Axar when he plays domestic cricket he bats at five. They all are quality batters. It doesn't matter whether runs come from top or lower order, the end result for the team is what matters. We are in a stage we can create that depth in our batting.

"Yes the runs have not come from the top order as expected but the quality they bring to the table that is what matters to us," said the skipper.

"TEST MATCHES SHOULD BE ORGANISED EVERYWHERE IN COUNTRY"

The crowd turnout in the first two Tests made a good advert for Test cricket and a big crowd is expected too on day one of the third Test here.

When he was captain, Virat Kohli wanted Test cricket to be played in five centres around the country but Rohit said it should be taken "everywhere".

"All the Test centres we are playing in, we have got decent crowds in almost every game. Delhi was quite surprising. The crowd in Delhi was superb. We have not seen many people turn up in big centres especially. That was how other centres started getting Tests. Test cricket should be played everywhere in India. Why just big centres? We want to take the game to all parts of India," he added.

JKSC To Hold Asia's Longest Ultra Cycle Race Today

Participants to peddle 3651kms from Srinagar to Kanyakumari



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) on Tuesday revealed plans to hold first-of-its-kind Asia's Longest Ultra-Cycling Race which will be flagged-off on March 1, 2023.

The Council held a press briefing Tuesday presided over by Project Director, Jeetendra Nayak; Joint Secretary JKSC, Bashir Ahmad Bhat and other officers.

Addressing the media, Nayak said that till date only 1000km races were held in India and added that this longest race will give an opportunity to all the ultra-cyclists in India to participate in this ultra cycling event of international standards.

He informed that the Cycle race is recognized by World Ultra Cycling Association, USA and declared as the Asian Ultra Cycling Championship and World Ultra Cycling Championship.

The participants shall peddle in Solo, Team of 2, Team of 4 with cut-off time of 12 days 10 days and 8 days respectively.

The officers briefed that the

3651 Km long race with total elevation gain of 1895 pmts will start from Srinagar and end in the Southern tip of the Indian Peninsula, Kanyakumari in Tamilnadu.

"The route is the Indian longest highway, NH44 and passes through 12 major Indian States and 3 major metropolises and over 20 major cities," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Secretary said that all the arrangements for safe and successful event have been made including security and assistance teams.

He said all the riders will be supported by their respective crew members and support vehicles to finish the race.

The solo riders are Dr Amrit Samarth, Sahil Sachdeva, Sumer Bansal, Dhiraj Kalsait, Shubham Das, Mahesh Kini, Atul Kadu, Vikram Uniyal, Manish Saini, Indrajeet Vardhan, Geeta Rao and Amoeba Ravindra Reddy. The teams include Maha Cycling Squad, Maharashtra Police, ADCA and Amravati Riders. Bashir Ahmad Bhat said that the objective of the race is to cultivate Cycling Culture and take up Cycling as a sport.

Bumrah Ruled Out Of IPL 2023, No Comeback In Next Six Months

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Struggling to shake off his injury woes, Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the IPL for failing to fully recover from his back injury and is unlikely to make a comeback in the next six months, a BCCI source told PTI on Tuesday.

It's yet to be ascertained if the seasoned pacer, who also missed the T20 World Cup in Australia last year, would require a back surgery.

"Bumrah has been ruled out of the IPL as he will take another six months to come back. Even then, he might or might not make a comeback. The 50-over World Cup is the target, but that is also not guaranteed," the BCCI source said.

The development means that Bumrah is now also set



to miss the World Test Championship final (if India qualify), which starts on June 7 at The Oval.

Bumrah was initially named in India's T20 World Cup squad.

The IPL is starting on March 31, and Bumrah has been the

lead pacer for Mumbai Indians for many seasons now. The ODI World Cup is scheduled in October-November in India.

The 29-year-old Bumrah has played only five Tests, five ODIs and as many T20Is in 2022, apart from IPL games for Mumbai Indians.

We Had To Fight Really Hard To Reverse Momentum: Williamson



Press Trust of India

WELLINGTON: New Zealand had to fight really hard against an "incredible" England to reverse the momentum in the hard-fought second match, Kane Williamson said on Tuesday after his side pulled off one of the greatest Test victories.

Following-on after conceding a 226-run lead at Basin Reserve, the former skipper batted more than seven hours in his knock of 132 to take them to 483, setting the visitors a 258-run target.

In a heart-stopping finish, New Zealand won the match by one run.

"It isn't quite fair to be standing here after a game of cricket like that," Williamson said at the post-match presen-

tation ceremony.

"The contributions we've seen from both teams, fantastic game of cricket to be a part of. For us as a team, we've been fighting away in the Test format for a while, it's kinda nice to get across the line in this one

"You always try to do the best you can for the team and it's never enough. We saw some really valuable partnerships to get us a total on the board and something to bowl at in the last innings. We had to fight really hard to reverse some of the momentum.

"This English team is playing incredible cricket at the moment. We were up against it coming into this game. To fight away, to complete and ultimately just get across the

line is a nice feeling." Williamson notched his 26th Test century to become the highest Kiwi run-getter in the longest format eclipsing Ross Taylor and was adjudged the 'Player of the Match'.

Talking about his own innings, the former captain said, "I was just trying to stick to the basics. We knew we were going to be challenged. There is so much quality in this English attack and the pitch offered a little bit throughout."

"Amazing pitch that set the platform for a fantastic game of cricket."

It was New Zealand left-arm pacer Neil Wagner (4/62) who did the star turn when he dismissed England's last man James Anderson, caught down the leg to signal the Kiwi win.

Alaba Abused, Croatia Coach Critical Following FIFA Awards

Agencies

GENEVA: Real Madrid defender David Alaba was racially abused on social media after voting for Lionel Messi, and Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic accused FIFA of disrespect on Tuesday in fallout from the soccer body's annual awards ceremony.

Messi was named the best men's player on Monday after leading Argentina to last year's World Cup title in Qatar, with Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema in third place after a standout season helping Madrid to another Champions League title.

The awards were decided by a poll of national team captains and coaches, selected media and fans voting online from candidate lists decided by FIFA-appointed expert panels.

Alaba's vote as captain of Austria's national team -- placing Messi first, Madrid teammate Benzema second and Kylian Mbappe, the eventual runner-up, in third -- was among the results published by FIFA after the ceremony in Paris.

That choice provoked anger from Madrid fans and others because Alaba, who is Black, voted for Messi, who spent 17 seasons at Barcelona, Real Madrid's biggest rival.

"The Austrian national team vote for this award as a team, not me alone," Alaba wrote on his social media accounts. "Everyone in the team council is able to vote and that's how it's decided.

"Everyone knows, especially Karim, how much I admire him and his performances," added Alaba, who joined Madrid last season after more than a decade at Bayern Munich.

"I have often said that for me he is the best striker in the world, and that is still the case. Without doubt."

Dalic said Tuesday he refused to vote in protest at a perceived lack of respect for himself and his team, which eliminated Brazil before losing to Argentina in the World Cup semifinals.

"I am disappointed with FI-



governing body of world football than we have received," the coach said in a statement published by the Croatian soccer federation.

Croatia captain Luka Modric, another Real Madrid player, was fourth in the voting. Modric won the FIFA award in 2018 when his team reached the World Cup final, losing to France.

Dalic, who placed third in 2018 in voting for the best coach award, pointed Tuesday to himself being left off the five-man shortlist this time, and for his players being overlooked for other awards, including a player-voted all-star team.

"Was there really no place for Mateo Kovacic on that list, even though he's won the FIFA Club World Cup (with Chelsea) and played a brilliant World Cup in Qatar? Where is Josko Gvardiol's name?" Dalic asked.

"And did Dominik Livakovic not deserve to be one of the five finalists for the Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper after everything he did in Qatar?"

Dalic also noted that Morocco coach Walid Regragui was a candidate -- finishing fourth for the coaching award won by Argentina's Lionel Scaloni -- despite Croatia beating that team in the third-place game at the World Cup and drawing in their group match in Qatar.

"Having taken all of the above into consideration, I have decided not to partake in the voting process for this year's awards," Dalic said, aiming a further barb at FIFA.

"Both the time slots of our matches at the World Cup and the quality of refereeing -- especially at the semifinal match -- made me feel that there was a lack of respect towards the Croatian team."

FIFA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

LG's Rolling Trophy: Jammu To Face Anantnag In Final



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The second semi-final of LG's Rolling Trophy was played on Tuesday at Khel Gaon here. The district team of Jammu played District Doda in the important match.

Director Youth Services & Sports (YSS) Department, Subash Chibber, declared the match open and was accompanied by various senior officers of the department.

After winning the toss Doda

elected to bat first and managed to score 157/7 in the allotted 20 overs. Mubarak of Doda scored important 38 runs. Abhishek of Jammu took 3 wickets.

In reply, J&K reached the target in 18.3 overs with 6 wickets in hand. Satish of Jammu scored 45 runs. Secretary to Govt. YSS Sarma Hafeez interacted with the winning and runner up teams and expressed his good wishes.

District Jammu will now take on District Anantnag in the LG's Rolling Trophy final.



Caringly yours



Make your existing health policy more comprehensive by adding



HEALTH PRIME RIDER



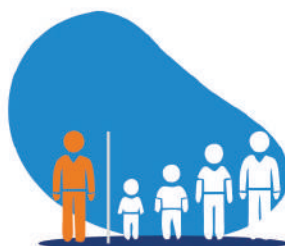
Preventive Health Check-up
(45+ Test Parameters at Network Centres)



24x7 Unlimited Tele-Consultation
Individual and family members



90,000+ Doctors
(35+ Specialisations for Tele-Consultation)



Rider for both Individual & Family Floater Basis*
*Based on the variant opted in your health plan

Health Prime Rider can be opted only with Bajaj Allianz Health and PA products

To know more:
Contact your nearest J&K Bank Branch

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawade, Pune - 411006. IRDAI Reg No.: 113. | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | Health Prime (Rider) UIN: BAIHLUA22169V012122 | Health Prime Rider (Group) BAIHLGA22166V012122
For more details, log on to : www.bajajallianz.com or call at : Sales - 1800 209 0144 / Service - 1800 209 5858 (Toll Free No.) | For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BIAZ-O-JK-0016/25-May-22

J&K Bank Ltd. is a licensed Corporate Agent [bearing License No.: CA0029] of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. [IRDA registration No. 113]. The benefits/features of products are indicative and for more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale.

*T&C apply