

India Slams Pak For Raking Up Kashmir At UNSC

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: India slammed Pakistan after its foreign minister raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at a Security Council debate on women, peace and security, saying it is "unworthy" to even respond to such "malicious and false propaganda".

Responding to Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj on Tuesday termed his statement as "baseless and politically motivated".

"Before I conclude, let me dismiss the frivolous, baseless and politically motivated remarks made by the delegate of Pakistan regarding the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

Speaking at the UN Security Council open

debate on 'Women, Peace and Security', Kamboj said: "my delegation considers it unworthy to even respond to such malicious and false propaganda." "Rather, our focus is where it shall always be – positive and forward-looking. Today's discussion is critically important to strengthen our collective efforts to accelerate the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. We respect the topic of the debate and recognise the importance of time. As such, our focus shall remain on the topic," she said.

Kamboj's sharp retort came after Pakistan Foreign Minister Zardari referred to Jammu and Kashmir in his remarks to the Council debate held under Mozambique's Presidency for this month, on the eve of International Women's Day.

India has previously told Pakistan that the entire territories of Jammu **More on P6**



10% Smart Meters Installed In Kashmir: KPDCL

Agencies

Srinagar: The government on Wednesday said that ten per cent of the smart meters have been installed so far and the rest will be completed by the next two years.

Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Javed Yousuf Dar

said that the electricity will be snapped from the areas where the people will object and halt the smart meter installation.

He said that the people should not halt the smart meter installation, adding that the government has already created awareness in this regard. The Chief Engineer **More on P6**

Ban Aptech Chorus Gets Louder In J&K

Hundreds Of JKSSB Job Aspirants Hit Streets, Seek LG's Intervention



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Job aspirants in Jammu and Kashmir staged angry protests on Wednesday against government decision

to hire a 'blacklisted' company by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for conducting written examinations. Police resorted to cane

charge and detained a large number of job aspirants in Jammu after they tried to stage a massive protest.

The protesters had assembled outside **More on P6**

Computer Based Test To Begin From March 16

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) is conducting Computer Based written Test (CBT) for various posts with effect from March 16 to April 5 at various examination centers in Jammu and Kashmir. The examination has been scheduled to be conducted in multiple batches at different locations/venues setup in various districts of the UT, for which adequate security arrangements have been put in place at each examination centre, an official spokesperson said. He said that the concerned District Magistrate will issue prohibitory **More on P6**

THIS DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS LEFT US SHELL-SHOCKED as the company which has been blacklisted in Ambala, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, has been awarded a contract of holding JKSSB exams. This company is involved in a number of scams, while 25 of its employees including a supervisor were arrested in bribery cases."

'If Voted To Power' Bukhari Promises To Reverse 'Anti-People Decisions'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari Wednesday promised to reverse all such decisions of the Jammu and Kashmir administration which are not in the interests of the people if his party comes to power.

Interacting with reporters after a function here to celebrate the party's third foundation day, he said if his party forms government after Jammu and Kashmir assembly election, whenever it is held, decisions like imposition of property tax, would be reversed.

While municipalities need money to carry out developmental activities, the administration should not have imposed property tax yet. They should



have waited for the economic situation to improve in the Union territory, Bukhari said.

"If they do not revoke this decision, then after coming to power following the election, whenever it is held, all such decisions which are not in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, I promise to the people that we will not

shy away from changing each of them," he said.

Bukhari said that his party is ready for elections and, in a democracy, people have the right to elect their own government.

"The time has come that the people of Jammu and Kashmir be given this right and our attempts to raise this issue whether here or in Delhi will continue," he said.

On the issue of protests against the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) by job aspirants, Bukhari said his party supports them fully and appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to cancel the contract of the firm Aptech to conduct written tests **More on P6**

PM Package Employees To Be Lodged In Secure Hotels

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is mulling to accommodate PM package employees in hotels in secure areas of the Valley, to prevent further militants upon them.

In this regard, an official spokesperson said, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Wednesday convened a meeting of officers to address the accommodation issues of PM Package employees.

The meeting, he said, was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Director Estates Department Kashmir; Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K Srinagar; Chief



Engineer, PW (R&B) Department Kashmir and Sr. Superintendent of Police Security Kashmir.

Addressing the officers, the spokesperson said, Bidhuri directed officers to explore the available hotel accommodation in secure areas so that the PM Package employees are provided the same.

"He also directed concerned to frame **More on P6**

'A Film Must Find Peace And Love': In Conversation with Onir

RHYS GONSALVES

UNLIKE the Bollywood biggies routinely shooting at some select-few valley locations, filmmaker Onir of the "I Am" fame has shot, for the first time, an entire feature film in Gurez valley, predominantly with local cast and dialogues.

"Everyone goes to the usual shooting locations such as Sonmarg, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam," Onir told Kashmir Observer in his Mumbai studio. "But I'm pleased that I was able to shoot a film that is entirely set in Gurez, with 60 per cent of the dialogues in Kashmiri and 50 per cent of my actors being Kashmiri."

Terming his Kashmir shooting experience as excellent, Onir says it was important for him to



use the Kashmiri language and talent to go beyond the typical narrative that is envisioned.

"I believe that more Kashmiris, particularly young people, should begin learning filmmaking and be the ones

to tell more stories about their homeland," the filmmaker says. "There are so many stories because of their experience. So many stories remain untold."

In a brief chat with Kashmir Observer, Onir discusses the

importance of cinema, filmmaking and Kashmir as a location.

Many say Shahrukh Khan's Pathaan broke the "cinema curse" of Kashmir after 33 years, what does it mean for Bollywood's 'shooting paradise'?

What's more welcome than what it means for Bollywood, in my opinion, is that cinema has returned to the valley after 3 decades.

Pathaan bringing people back to the theatres in Kashmir is something to be proud of because without entertainment, the valley would be engulfed in conflict.

You shot an entire feature

film 'Chahiye thoda pyaar' in Gurez, how was the experience shooting in Kashmir?

I think it was very good because it was possibly the first film shot in Gurez, which is a relatively unknown location.

Everyone goes to the usual shooting locations such as Sonmarg, Gulmarg and Pahalgam. But I'm pleased that I was able to shoot a film that is entirely set in Gurez, with 60 per cent of the dialogues in Kashmiri and 50 per cent of my actors being locals.

I received a lot of assistance from Bandipora and Gurez authorities. They obtained all of the necessary permissions, including for drone to shoot our area. The residents of Gurez were equally and extremely helpful. **More on P6**

Dir Information Akshay Labroo Bereaved

The officers and officials of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) have condoled the demise of maternal grandmother of Director Information, Akshay Labroo. A condolence meeting in this regard was chaired by Joint Director Information, Headquarter, Naresh Kumar in which all the officers and employees of the department participated, an official spokesperson said. The officers and officials during the meeting extended **More on P6**

Dr Farooq Backs 'Insaaf Ke Sipahi'

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday welcomed Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal's newly-launched platform 'Insaaf Ke Sipahi'. "Sibal sahab is a veteran leader and a seasoned lawyer. He is considered an important voice of the opposition, and his talk of bringing opposition parties and leaders together should be welcomed. There is nothing better than everyone uniting against injustices," Abdullah said in a statement. He said the National Conference (NC) firmly stands with Sibal in his new initiative. "The party rank and **More on P6**

Traffic Resumes On Banihal Highway

The two-way traffic was on Wednesday allowed on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway which was hit by a massive landslide in Ramban district the previous day resulting in the death of one person and injuries to six commuters, officials said. The strategic 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was cleared of the debris by road clearance agencies late Tuesday night after nearly eight hours of hectic efforts. "After clearing hundreds **More on P6**

Ambulance Mows Down Two Civilians



Two persons were killed after being hit by an ambulance in the city's Bemina area on Wednesday, police said. The accident occurred near a children's hospital, a police official said. Mohammad Dar, a resident of Nowpora in Baramulla, and Fayaz Ahmad Chopan, a resident of Hadipora in Rafiabab, **More on P6**

Woman Found Dead In Poonch

Body of a 50-year-old woman was found under mysterious circumstances in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said. News agency GNS quoting an official reported that the body was found by police in an open field near Ari Bridge at Mendhar area of the Poonch district this morning. The deceased was later identified as Shahmim Akhter (50) wife of Mohammad Ashraf of Ari village. Meanwhile, police shifted the body to Sub District Hospital Mendhar for autopsy, they said. **More on P6**

'Spy Pigeon' Caught In Odisha

A pigeon fitted with devices which appear to be a camera and a microchip was caught from a fishing boat off the Paradip coast of Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district, with the police suspecting that the bird was being used for spying. Some fishermen found the pigeon perched on their trawler while fishing in the sea a few days ago. The bird was captured and handed over to the Marine police here on Wednesday. "Our veterinarians will examine the bird. We will seek the help of the State Forensic **More on P6**



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327

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

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Srinagar | Thursday | 09-03-2023

2

Extreme Wildfires Are Turning The World's Largest Forest Ecosystem From Carbon Sink Into Net-Emitter

The Conversation

The vast boreal forests of the Northern Hemisphere stretch from Scandinavia through Siberia, Alaska and Canada. They cover a tenth of the world's land but hold one-third of the land's carbon, stored mainly in organic-rich soils and in trees. Now, a new study in the journal Science provides further evidence that emissions from wildfires in high northern latitudes are already increasing at an alarming rate.

In these forests, the cold climate and often waterlogged ground means fallen tree bark, needles and other dead organic matter takes a long time to decompose. This has allowed the soils to accumulate carbon over thousands of years after the ice sheets retreated at the end of the last ice age. Since then, these ecosystems have mainly been shaped by wildfires ignited by lightning.

These fires release some of the carbon stored in trees and in the upper layer of soil back into the atmosphere. The release of soil carbon is hugely significant. It means a boreal forest fire will release 10 to 20 times more carbon compared to a similarly sized fire in other ecosystems where fires consume mainly vegetation and where the soil itself does not contain enough carbon to burn.

However, these boreal forests might burn only once a century, sometimes even less often than that. This is much longer than in most other fire-prone ecosystems, and the extra carbon stored in soils and trees in the long period between fires normally exceeds



the losses from fires. For the past 6,000 or so years this delicate relationship between carbon uptake and release was quite stable and boreal forests served as a globally important carbon sink.

But global heating, which is particularly pronounced in the Northern Hemisphere's high latitudes, is threatening the balance. Soaring temperatures have lengthened the fire season and increased the frequency and severity of wildfires and there is growing evidence that as the interval between fires shortens, more carbon is being released from organic soils in boreal forests than the ecosystems can reabsorb.

Satellites can spot gas emitted by wildfires

That's where the latest study in Science comes in.



These fires release some of the carbon stored in trees and in the upper layer of soil back into the atmosphere. The release of soil carbon is hugely significant. It means a boreal forest fire will release 10 to 20 times more carbon compared to a similarly sized fire in other ecosystems where fires consume mainly vegetation and where the soil itself does not contain enough carbon to burn

The researchers, mostly based in China, used satellite observations of wildfire smoke plumes to look for carbon monoxide, which is invisible to the naked eye but shows up at certain infrared wavelengths. Carbon monoxide isn't itself a greenhouse gas, but if you know how much of it there is, you can infer the amount of carbon dioxide in wildfire smoke as well.

This contrasts with the more conventional methods employed by current wildfire emission models. These also use satellites, but record active fires or burned areas simply by comparing before and after images. They then factor in a range of assumptions on how much vegetation would typically have been consumed and how much carbon is emitted per area of different types of vegetation and soil burned.

While this new carbon

monoxide method has its own uncertainties, it provides independent and more direct estimates of wildfire emissions. It also has potential to give us a more detailed understanding of the differences in wildfire carbon emissions between different ecosystems.

A dramatic increase

The new study showed a significant increase in emissions from boreal fires over the past two decades. Things were particularly dramatic in 2021, when they comprised a record 23% of global vegetation wildfire emissions, more than twice their contribution in a more typical year.

If this trend continues, the boreal forest may very soon become the dominant source of global emissions from biomass burning, overtaking the notorious tropical peatland fires (such as those in Indonesia in 2015) in terms of global significance and adding further to the firecarbon-climate warming feedback.

The 2021 fire season was made particularly extreme by simultaneously hot and dry conditions both in North America and northern Europe and Asia. If such weather patterns do become more frequent, leading to more fires in the boreal region, these forests may reach a wildfire tipping point. A study examining the extreme fires of 2014 in boreal north-west Canada demonstrated that some areas were already turning from carbon sinks into net emitters. This new study covering the entire boreal biome suggests this ecosystem as a whole from Siberia to Canada is rapidly approaching this tipping point.

Court Of The 2nd Additional Munsiff Judicial Magistrate 1st Class At Srinagar

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR: JKS6030059892023 Date of tiling 07.03.2023

Zahoor Ahmad Raina S/o Khalil Raina
R/o Kursoo Padshahi Bagh Srinagar

Applicant

Versus

Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

Non-Applcant

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Zahoor Ahmad Raina S/o Khalil Raina R/o Kursoo Padshahi Bagh Srinagar has born on 06-05-1984 the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the Birth particulars of Zahoor Ahmad Raina in the concerned register of births and deaths.

Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated, this 7th day of March 2023.

Sd/-

(AHTZAZ AHMED)

NJ

2nd Additional (JMJC), Srinagar

از عدالت سبج میونٹیل مجسٹریٹ سرنیگر باجلاس: احسان ملک صاحب

رجسٹرار تھس اینڈ ڈیپنڈنٹس

ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرنیگر (سیول)

ٹھکانہ احمد بٹ

سائل اسانک

درخواست بفرج اندراج تاریخ وفات

نام: عبدالرحمان بٹ

تاریخ وفات 18-11-1979

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسانک نے عدالت ہدائیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ وفات عبدالرحمان بٹ ولد منور بٹ ساکن چنڈ پورہ ہارون سرنیگر

مورخہ 06-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی غدر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے غدرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آکر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی غدر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہدائیں 20-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر

سبج میونٹیل مجسٹریٹ سرنیگر

nj

از عدالت سبج میونٹیل مجسٹریٹ سرنیگر باجلاس: مہرین مشتاق

رجسٹرار تھس اینڈ ڈیپنڈنٹس

ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرنیگر (سیول)

Mushtaq Hussain Akhoun

سائل اسانک

درخواست بفرج اندراج تاریخ پیدائش

نام: Sadiya Zehra

تاریخ پیدائش 12-10-2015

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسانک نے عدالت ہدائیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش Sadiya Zehra D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Akhoun

مورخہ 04-03-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی غدر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے غدرات اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آکر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی غدر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہدائیں 16-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصدر

سبج میونٹیل مجسٹریٹ سرنیگر

nj

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سرنیگر باجلاس: راجا محمد تسلیم

رجسٹرار تھس اینڈ ڈیپنڈنٹس

ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرنیگر (سیول)

نام

اکمل عباس لٹو

ولد غلام محمد الدین لٹو

(سیول)

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسانک نے عدالت ہدائیں ایک درخواست بمبراد تصحیح زات پیدائش داری کی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسانک منظور ہونے میں کوئی غدر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں عدالت میں آکر مورخہ 18-03-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی غدر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر

سبج میونٹیل مجسٹریٹ سرنیگر

nj

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سرنیگر باجلاس: راجا محمد تسلیم

رجسٹرار تھس اینڈ ڈیپنڈنٹس

ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرنیگر (سیول)

نام

صدف معین خان المعروف صدف زرین

زوجہ: اکیل خان

دختر عبدالعزیز خان

ساکند 95-کن گمر سرنیگر (سائل)

(سائل)

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسانک نے عدالت ہدائیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش داری کی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسانک منظور ہونے میں کوئی غدر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں عدالت میں آکر مورخہ 18-03-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی غدر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر

سبج میونٹیل مجسٹریٹ سرنیگر

nj

CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

FREE FOR EVERY ONE

Call, Any Time 24x7

9484100200
01942310018

CONTROL ROOM:
27 Gogji Bagh, Near
Oasis School, Srinagar



از نیابت پہا ہاں

چچی آمدہ از بھارلین ڈی۔ ایم۔ چن زرنیگر DMP/DEP-38-2022-23

مورخہ 15-12-2022 نسبت اجراء کرنے Dependent سرفلیٹ

بجٹ وارٹان غلام حسن بٹ متونی

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست پ بغرض ڈیپنڈنٹ سرفلیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں رائے پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ غلام حسن بٹ مورخہ 26-11-2022 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متونی محمد بیاتھ

(Health) میں تشخیصیت MTS کام کر با تھا اور دوران ملازمت فوت ہو چکا ہے

موتانی کے Dependents بذیل ہے۔

سمات شامین بیگم 47 سال گھر یلو کام زوجہ متونی

مصباح قشم 26 سال زینتیم دختر متونی

اسرار الحسن 22 سال زینتیم پسر متونی

اس کے علاوہ کوئی Dependent نہیں ہے۔ سرفلیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد اشتہار اشاعت دس دن کے اندر اپنے غدرات اشاعت و ادات حد کو فوری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی غدر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO



Excitement And Joy: CRPF Personnel Celebrate Holi In City

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The CRPF battalion headquarters in the Dal-gate area here came alive on Wednesday with its personnel dancing to hit Bollywood numbers and drenching each other in colours to celebrate Holi.

Though being away from their homes and families, the jawans were excited and full of energy as they exchanged greetings and offered sweets to each other.

"A soldier who works hard, also enjoys thoroughly," commanding officer of the battalion Vijay Khatana told PTL.

Most of the personnel of the battalion are posted in sensitive Downtown areas of

other and treat this as a family only. They (jawans) get calls, video calls, from their family members. Since this is a non-family station, we are not in a position to accommodate their families. But, as and when they require leave, we sanction it so that they visit their home," he said.

The personnel may be from different states and cultures but they shed their individual identity when they don the uniform.

"CRPF is generally referred to as mini-India, we come from different backgrounds, different religions, caste, creed, languages, but when we put on this uniform, our identity is this uniform.



KO Photo Abid Bhat

the city and have to maintain a high level of alertness.

On Wednesday, to celebrate the festival of colours, the jawans and the officers mingled with each other on a day when all are a family and there are no boundaries of ranks.

Khatana said the paramilitary personnel were away from their families, but the force and the battalion was their extended family.

"We remain for almost nine to 10 months in a battalion, that is a part of our family. We take care of each

Under the garb of this uniform, we shed our individual identity, and this uniform is our identity," Khatana said.

CRPF personnel Adesh Kumar said, "We celebrate Holi and other festivals together. This battalion is our family." Sepoy Bhaskar Chadha described the force as "our biggest family".

"We stay home for two-three months but this is where we spent most of our time," he said. While families are a huge part of their lives, for jawans the battalion is a real go-to family, both in times of happiness and sadness.

International Women's Day 2023 Function Organized At S P College

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To commemorate the International Women's Day, celebrated on 8th of March every year, a function was organized by District Administration Srinagar here in the Auditorium of SP College under the theme 'Embrace Equity'.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad attended the function as Guest of Honor.

During the function various mesmerising programmes related to women empowerment were presented, besides women achievers of Srinagar were also felicitated by the District Administration.

In his presidential address, Divisional Commissioner, highlighted the achievements of women in diverse fields of life. He also referred to various schemes of the Government launched for the welfare of women, especially those from underprivileged sections of the society.

Bidhuri complimented the District Administration Srinagar, S.P College and Social Welfare Department for collaborating to celebrate the International Women's Day.

He called for one and all to contribute in women empow-

erment for overall prosperity of the society. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, congratulated female faculty members and other female Staff members working in S.P College for being part of the change in J&K's Higher Education Scenario.

"Decades have passed since Lal Ded and Habab Khattoon were born in Kashmir, people of the valley have always given due respect to female folk," He said.

He expressed his happiness over learning that 40 per cent of faculty members of SP College are Women folk.

With regard to some unfortunate incidents which happened in the recent past in Srinagar, the DC lauded the courage of female students who took to social media to raise their voice. He also urged all stakeholders, particularly parents, to lay stress on inculcating moral values among their children so that such shocking incidents do not happen in future.

Aijaz urged all participants to support the movement for gender equality and women's empowerment by advocating for policies, supporting women's businesses and mentoring and educating, challenging gender norms, and speaking out against violence to help the women in distress.

From the office of Advocate Ishtiyah Ah Khan

In the case of :

Saba W/o Ashiq Hussain Hajam R/o Bilal colony zakoor, srinagar A/p Firdous Abad, Batamaloosrinagar,

VERSUS

Vs

Public at large

(NON-CAVEATOS)

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The Caveator has reason to believe that Non-Caveators may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back /in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

nj

Sd/advocate



International Women's Day 2023

Women Hunt For 'Pink Toilets' In 'Smart' Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Srinagar Smart City aspires to use innovative and inclusive solutions to "enhance the quality of life for its citizens". However, the situation could not be more different when it comes to facilities for women, particularly 'pink toilets' for them.

Smart cities cannot be "smart" if there is a dearth of amenities for women, said Saheen Gulrez, while Mehvish pointed out that the business centre of the city, Lal Chowk, "has just one or two washrooms".

According to a Swachh Bharat Mission advisory for public and community toilets issued by the Union housing and urban affairs ministry, there should be one "water closet" per 250 men and one per 100 women.

"We are facing a lot of problems when it comes to washrooms. If we are talking about a smart city, there should be connectivity and public washrooms," Mehvish said.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu said the civic body is addressing the concern on priority.

"We are building community toilets. We have drafted a

plan to build 100 to 150 community toilets every year. Like in Chandigarh, there is a rule in the master plan to have a community toilet every 500 feet," Mattu said.

He said the civic body is facing difficulty in finding land to build community washrooms. "Here we have a problem... We don't have spaces available because it is a congested city but we have added some toilets," Mattu said, assuring that some pink toilets -- an amenity just for women -- will be added across the city this year.

The 'pink toilet' concept aims to increase women's physical and economic mobility by creating safe and gender friendly public spaces, thus increasing their participation in public life, officials said.

"Every day we are discussing women empowerment... There should be separate washrooms for women. We feel insecure in using common washrooms," Mehvish said.

Gulrez feels talking about a smart city without facilities such as public convenience for women is just rhetoric. "We are living in the 21st century and do you think we should call this a smart city? Except at a few places, there is no facility of convenience for women. The ladies' market of Gonikhan is

nearby but there are no washrooms there," she said.

If women do not feel safe, what is the point of the Smart City project, how can a woman walk a kilometer to find a wash-room in the market, she asked.

Bismah, another local, said Lal Chowk is the city Centre but has just one public wash-room for women. "In this city, there are no washrooms visible anywhere... where will we go?" she asked.

The civic body's commissioner Athar Aamir Khan said 730 toilets have been built under the Swachh Bharat Mission. "We have taken up another 35 toilet blocks, which we will build at prominent places. Of these, a few are exclusively pink toilets," Khan said.

Khan also admitted that maintenance of the public conveniences is a big issue. "For that, we are outsourcing these toilets to private entities where users will be charged and the funds used to maintain these facilities," he added.

The Srinagar Smart City website mentions that the project "aspires to leverage its (city's) natural and cultural heritage/tourism, through innovative and inclusive solutions, to enhance the quality of life for its citizens".

Sabzar Nurseries

ONE STOP SHOP FOR BEST QUALITY HGH-DENSITY PLANTS

We have wide variety of Apple, Walnuts, Pear and Almond. We provide M9 T337,M7 roots as well .

There are 20 varieties of apple available with us and some if them are:

1. Gala Schnico Red
2. Adams
3. Dark Baron Gala
4. King Roat
5. Granny Smith
6. Gala Mema
7. Redlum Gala

8. Buckeye Gala
9. Red Velox
10. Spur Chief
11. Jeromeine
12. Red Love
- and many more.

All the varieties are grafted on M9 T337 and M7.

For Further Queries Please Feel Free To Contact SABZAR NURSERIES

Ph: 7006523399, 7889380996

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



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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

HIJRI CALENDAR

16 Shaban
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:29
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4:52
Magrib	6:36
ISHA	7:56

This Day In History

- 1862 - USS Monitor and CSS Merrimack battle in Hampton Roads
- 1889 - Battle at Gallabat (Metema): Mahdi's beat Abyssinian emperor John IV.
- 1891 - Great
- 1891 - Great Blizzard of 1891 begins in England (lasts until 13th March; 200 people and 6,000 animals killed).
- 1893 - Congo cannibals killed thousands of Arabs
- 1907 - 1st involuntary sterilization law enacted, Indiana.
- 1916 - Germany declares war against Portugal.
- 1925 - Pink's War, the first RAF operation conducted independently of the Army or Navy, begins.
- 1935 - Adolf Hitler announces the creation of a new air force.
- 1942 - Construction of the Alaska Highway began
- 1945 - 334 US B-29 Superfortresses attack Tokyo with 120,000 fire bombs
- 1945 - Japanese proclaim "independence" of Indo-China.
- 1961 - Soviet flight Sputnik 9 carries and returns a dog named Chernushka (Blackie), frogs and a guinea pig from orbit
- 1962 - Egyptian Pres Nasser declares Gaza belongs to Palestinians.
- 1962 - US advisors in South-Vietnam join the fight
- 1975 - Construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System begins.
- 1986 - NASA announces searchers found remains of Challenger astronauts.
- 1986 - Soviet probe Vega 2 flies by Halley's Comet at 8,030 km
- 1989 - Soviet Union officially submits to jurisdiction of the World Court.
- 1991- US 70th manned space mission STS 39 (Discovery 12) launches into orbit

From KO Archives

BJP Ready To Forget 370, Ayodhya

NEW DELHI: Agonising uncertainty over formation of the new government at the Centre continued today with Congress and United Front dithering on a re-union to jointly advance their claim and BJP hoping to ultimately benefit from their external contradiction.

The Front convenor and Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who has reportedly strong reservations on the United Front supporting a coalition headed by Congress cancelled his visit to New Delhi.

The Telugu Desam party leader is likely to come only tomorrow as the next move by the Congress on government formation becomes known after its working committee meeting.

A report from Hyderabad stated that wide-ranging consultations undertaken by Naidu with the party leaders and its 12 newly elected Lok Sabha members had thrown up only two options: Either to extend conditional support to BJP or to abstain from voting in the house to maintain equidistance from both BJP and Congress.

Meanwhile, BJP is said to have decided to put on back burner contentious issues like Ayodhya, Article 370 and uniform civil code while formulating a national agenda that would form the basis for running a BJP-led coalition government at the centre.

Since the party had not been able to secure a clear majority on its own, it was felt that these issues should be kept aside so as to carry along its allies, particularly AIADMK, Trinomial Congress and Samata Party, who have strong reservation on these, the sources said.

A committee will be constituted for this purpose with members from all the major coalition partners after the meeting with the allies tomorrow.

The idea to have a national agenda instead of a common minimum programme was suggested at an informal meeting of office bearers yesterday as several members expressed their reservation against having a CMP as this experiment had not worked during the United Front government. The national agenda would be more effective in having a consensus among coalition partners in running the government with the focus being on tackling some of the pressing social and economic issues confronting the Nation, the sources said.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 March, 1998)

KASHMIR OBSERVER
Thursday | 09-03-2023

Deepening Acrimony

In yet another acrimonious exchange at the United Nations, India slammed Pakistan on Tuesday after its foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at a Security Council debate on women, peace and security. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj termed Bilawal's statement as "baseless and politically motivated." She said it was "unworthy" to even respond to such "malicious and false propaganda". Earlier, Bilawal referred to Jammu and Kashmir in his remarks to the Council debate held under Mozambique's Presidency for this month.

India has continued to reiterate that it wants to have friendly relations with Pakistan on a normal basis and that Islamabad has the responsibility of fostering such a relationship in a setting free from terror and animosity. The relations between the two neighbours have fallen to their lowest since New Delhi withdrew Article 370 in August 2019. Ever since it has become impossible for the two nations to restore dialogue. And the recurrent bitter exchanges such as the one at the UN push the prospect of engagement further away.

In January, in a surprise development, India invited Pakistan foreign minister to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting in Goa being held in May. The invite to Bilawal is an attempt to try and see if relations with Pakistan can be normalized. No Pakistani foreign minister has visited India since 2011 and if the neighbouring country accepts the invitation, it can go a long way in improving their relations. But there are fewer signs of this happening anytime soon.

True, there have been attempts by the two countries to engage over the last three years. They reportedly talked on the back-channel and went back to observing ceasefire along the Line of Control since February 2021 which has since been holding. According to the defence ministry figures, only three minor incidents of "violations" have been recorded along the LoC since then. In comparison, 4,645 ceasefire violations were recorded during its peak in 2020.

But this hasn't brought the countries any closer to dialogue. This is because there are fundamental differences in what they seek from dialogue. Pakistan wants to only discuss Kashmir and also seeks a reversal of the withdrawal of Article 370 which is not going to happen. India desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility, and violence. The positions of the two countries have thus become too irreconcilable to start a dialogue. But it is still possible that in the interest of regional peace, the two neighbours need to transcend their differences and talk to each other. This alone will change the situation in the region for the better.

OTHER OPINION

Climate Injustice

Instances of the rich nations' "traditional response" abound. A recent example is Europe's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which is just protectionism with a greenish tinge. The European Union intends to impose a carbon tariff on energy-intensive imports. While the EU accounted for just 15% of India's exports in 2019-2021, half of the exports are products that will be covered under the CBAM, affecting India-based producers' competitiveness. India joined other developing nations to protest this at the climate summit in Egypt last year, and has now taken the matter to the World Trade Organization. It is amply clear that the measure is intended to protect investments within the EU's geography as it implements measures to realise its green targets, even if this comes at the cost of developing economies.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), when it was established in 1992, urged developed-countries to "take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance the transfer of, or access to, climate technologies to other Parties, particularly to developing countries." Indeed, the UNFCCC states that developing nations' implementation of climate commitments "will depend on the effective implementation" of developed countries' commitments "related to financial resources and transfer of technology". The fact that, 23 years later (in 2015), the Paris Agreement was still talking of a "vision of fully realising technology transfer" is quite telling of how the developed world has dragged its feet. An intent to profit from intellectual property rights continues to impede any significant transfer. Researchers at the Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam/University of Erfurt, as per a report in Science Daily, say that the Global North's patents on low-carbon technologies give it significant competitive advantage. Thus, for much of the developing world, tech transfers remain "critically insufficient". As a consequence, many such nations could get "locked into high-emission energy systems."

It is not just knowledge transfer, the developed world's reluctance to fund meaningful climate action is well known. Against an initial commitment of \$100 billion annually in climate finance for developing nations by 2020, a total of just \$83.3 billion was claimed to have been mobilised. The Green Climate Fund, has received commitments of just \$10.3 billion so far. Even the \$100 billion per year target is grossly inadequate. While India and other developing nations point at how rich nations exhausted a large chunk of the carbon budget for keeping the planet to a 1.5oC-warming pathway, developed nations continue to shrug off historical responsibility. Indeed, many experts have pointed out that their announcements of net zero target are hardly ambitious—deadlines that allowed for the developing world to catch up with them would have been much more meaningful. The developed nations must listen to Yadav and act in the interest of the planet, not just theirs.

Financial Express

Luv Puri

The political instability that has wrecked the region in the background of these developments has failed to get adequate public attention. More importantly, irrespective of which political party is in power

Churn in Ladakh

Hot Political Winds In A Cold Desert

Situated along Chinese-controlled territory and Pakistan-administrated Gilgit Baltistan, the cold and arid desert of Ladakh has been on the boil politically for over three years with far-reaching ramifications. Ladakh is nearly 46.4% Muslim, 39.7% Buddhist and 12.1% Hindu. It comprises two districts — Kargil, via Gilgit-Baltistan, which falls on the old route of South Asia's connectivity with Central Asia, and the eastern part of Leh, which faces China-controlled Tibet with whom it shares the same form of Buddhism.

Ladakh, with a population of little over three lakh, has repeatedly come under international spotlight as a result of territorial contestations among the three nuclear-armed armies of India, China and Pakistan. In 1999, Kargil saw incursions by the Pakistani army. A daredevil offensive by the Indian army, coupled with the intervention by the former president of the United States of America, Bill Clinton, led to the withdrawal of the Pakistani army from Indian territory. In 2020, the Galwan Valley saw an unprecedented Indo-Chinese contestation and, notwithstanding several diplomatic and military parleys, there is still a massive deployment of the Indian and Chinese militaries along the line of actual control.

The political instability that has wrecked the region in the background of these developments has failed to get adequate public attention. More importantly, irrespective of which political party is in power, Ladakh as a case study and its ongoing collective political agitation highlight the fact that post-colonial States find it difficult to shed colonial structures and, thus, trigger inadvertent bureaucratic responses that are unpopular and unsustainable. It also demonstrates the limitations of popular movements that are rooted in divisive politics.

To make sense of all this, the pre- and post-August 5, 2019 developments have to be put in a historical perspective. Ladakh became a Union territory on August 5, 2019 after its separation from Jammu and Kashmir. On the day Ladakh attained its UT status, there were protests in Kargil as people in the district demanded that the capital of the new UT should rotate between Leh and Kargil. Historically, Kargil has been opposed to the separation of Ladakh from the Muslim-majority J&K. The reactions in Leh and Kargil were, therefore, along expected lines. But what followed in both districts was more interesting.

The establishment of the UT of Ladakh was in concurrence with the age-old demand of Leh, a demand opposed by Kargil. Leh's demand for UT status started in 1947 as the old statements of the former parliamentarian and religious leader, Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, indicate. On October 10, 1993, the then Central government had announced elected autonomous hill council status for Leh as J&K was under governor's rule. Ignorance about the region at the highest



Ladakh, with a population of little over three lakh, has repeatedly come under international spotlight as a result of territorial contestations among the three nuclear-armed armies of India, China and Pakistan

levels of decision-making can be ascertained from the fact that the former prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, had to be told by a public intellectual that the council's status is limited to Ladakh's Leh district. Kargil, a Shia Muslim-majority district of Ladakh, which had originally opposed the demand, got a similar council in 2003 under the former chief minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

In 2019, it didn't take too long for the initial excitement over the new status of UT to dampen in Leh. Lack of clarity over the powers of the elected councils of Leh and Kargil in the new constitutional arrangement proved to be a trigger. In the new arrangement, the unelected lieutenant-governor is the de-facto head of the government and head of State. Out of the nearly Rs 6,000 crore budget allocated annually for Ladakh from New Delhi, approximately 9% has to be shared by the two councils. The rest is under the lieutenant-governor's administration. The working season in the region is less than six months and the principle of rolling over of the unspent funds was followed before August 5, 2019. Now the unspent funds lapse. There is also an absence of the mechanism of institutional co-ordination between the administration of the lieutenant-governor and the elected council with the senior bureaucrats reporting to the former. Meanwhile, Kargil's political leadership has reconciled itself to the separation from J&K, something that it opposed vociferously in the past, and is now looking at the future.

At the same time, one cannot miss the positives. The political leadership in both districts are now together on one platform, shedding the seven-decade-old politics of religious polarisation between Leh and Kargil which had often become ugly and violent. The two communities agreed to resolve the over five-decade-old religious dispute over the construction of a Buddhist temple in Kargil. One of the forceful voices for sanity and unity is that of Sajjad Hussain, a young political activist, who was runners-up in the 2019 Ladakh

parliamentary election as an independent candidate. He told this author that a divided Ladakh impeded the region's progress and added "our generation cannot afford to make the same mistake of previous generations in a challenging environment with unprecedented challenges."

In terms of tangible political goals, the leadership in Leh and Kargil wants an empowered Ladakh with a possible statehood status along with the restoration of the Permanent Resident Certificate to protect their identity. One of the critical aspects of Article 370 was the provision of PRC that was given to people whose ancestors had lived in J&K for at least 10 years before May 14, 1954. Those with PRC could buy land and get local jobs. There is also a demand for the application of a Northeast-centric Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution for Ladakh. The Sixth Schedule was primarily designed for tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram where autonomous district and regional councils are endowed with legislative, executive, judicial and financial powers. The viability of these demands may or may not be feasible, but this rare moment of unity between Leh and Kargil is hard to ignore.

The new political trends in Ladakh take place in the context of global warming and other major climatic changes, with glaciers that used to abound in the cold desert melting fast. This has direct implications for the low-lying, densely-populated Indus water basin. This challenge, coupled with India and China's continued military contestation, is acute. The grievances of Ladakh require a more grounded and compassionate understanding. The seven-decade passivity is unsustainable given the new political, ecological and strategic environment.

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



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

All That Glitters Is Litter

TODAY'S glitter is a combination of plastic and aluminium. Frequently found in well-known makeup products is glitter. Wrapping paper, holiday decorations, greeting cards, craft projects, and even personal cosmetics all contain glitters, which are clingy, scintillating specks. Glitter made of plastic is probably present in almost anything that glitters. Due to their small size, glitter particles are regarded as micro-plastics, a significant contributor to soil, air, and ocean pollution. Studies explain that glitter is notoriously difficult to clean up due to its small size and

propensity to produce a lot of static cling. The sparkly stuff in our homes and the surroundings is nearly impossible to eradicate due to its tenacious nature. And because these tiny plastic particles can take hundreds of years to decompose, every piece of glitter ever produced is still in existence. The eye-catching shimmer of a substance like water, glass, or precious metal was referred to as glitter for centuries. The plastic is metalized on both sides by applying ultrafine layers of aluminium, which gives the glitter its colour and bling factor. The plastic is made from sheets of both polyvinyl chloride and polyethylene

terephthalate, the same plastic found in water bottles. A third, thin layer of the plastic styrene acrylate is present in many types of glitter. However, secret formulas keep the ingredients used in glitter a secret inside the walls of the factories. The glitter is then removed from the sheets, mostly in the form of tiny, pointy hexagons. Glitter's tenacity explains its role in plastic pollution. Because most glitter is small from the start, it does not degrade and remains intact from the cradle to the grave. The majority of glitter ends up in the water bodies as a result of wastewater generated in our homes and landfill run-off. Be-

cause marine organisms, such as fish, cannot distinguish the tiny synthetic bits from their natural food supply, microplastic has become one of the world's most prolific and intractable pollutants. As these plastics bioaccumulate in the food chain, humans end up consuming enough plastic to fill a credit card every week, primarily through the water we drink and the sea-food we eat. According to the findings, glitter may play a larger role in microplastic pollution than previously thought, particularly in terms of soil health. so outlaw of glitters is badly needed.

Vijay Kumar

Navigating The Path To Studying Abroad – Part IV

Muhammad Tahir

On Scholarships

Studying abroad offers students a chance to broaden their horizons, immerse themselves in different cultures, gain invaluable life experiences, make international connections, and broaden their perspectives on the world. However, studying abroad can be expensive, and many students might be deterred by the high costs associated with it.

Scholarships can be a significant help for students seeking to pursue their studies abroad. Receiving a scholarship is a significant accomplishment and can demonstrate leadership potential, strong academic abilities, and a commitment to one's field of study. So, scholarships can provide a valuable boost to students' academic and personal growth and can help open doors to new opportunities and experiences.

In this fourth and final part of our series on studying abroad, we will discuss the ins and outs of scholarships and how to find and apply for them.

One of the primary reasons why students do not apply for scholarships is the lack of awareness about the various scholarship opportunities available. Scholarships are offered by universities, organizations, and governments worldwide. To find and apply for the right scholarships, it is essential to conduct thorough research and seek guidance from academic advisors or scholarship experts.

Applying for scholarships can be a tedious process that requires time and effort. Students must submit extensive documentation, write essays, and meet specific eligibility criteria to qualify for scholarships. An application that lacks attention to detail or poorly written essays can negatively impact a student's chances of receiving a scholarship.

Scholarships have eligibility criteria that must be met, such as academic performance, citizenship, field of study, language proficiency, etc. It is crucial to verify if you meet the eligibility criteria before applying to save time and effort.

Scholarships are competitive, and there may be many applicants vying for a limited number of awards. Prestigious scholarships like Marie-Curie, Fulbright, Rhodes, Chevening, Commonwealth, DAAD, Irish Research Council, etc., are highly sought-after and can be particularly competitive.

The cost of studying abroad varies by country, program, and duration. In general, a two-year master's program abroad can cost upwards of 20 lakh rupees or more. Germany has waived



tuition fees for students, including international students. Although students may still need 1000 euros per month for living expenses in a European country, universities in Germany are generally public institutions, and students are only required to pay administrative fees, typically ranging from 100 - 350 EUR per semester.

There are two primary types of funding for scholarships: university scholarships and external fellowships/grants. Universities often have a link on their websites to funding sources. These scholarships are highly competitive, and students should look for other sources to diversify their options. The Department of Higher Education, Government of India, provides guidance on external

scholarships, and the latest announcements of scholarships are available on its website. The British Council website is also a great resource for scholarship announcements. PhD studentships are available on job.ac.uk. Another excellent source is the ECPR Jobs Bulletin; you can sign up for its newsletter to receive latest PhD studentship postings. I found my first scholarship by signing up for scholarship-positions dot com. Choose wide range of these sources to find the scholarship that most suits your career plan.

Indian passport holders can apply for several excellent scholarships, including Chevening, Commonwealth, Fulbright-Nehru, DAAD, Endeavour, Erasmus Mundus, Gates Cambridge, Inlaks, Monbukagakusho (MEXT), and Irish Research

Council. For the Fulbright scholarship, students must secure funding first and then gain admission.

The Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) is also an excellent option for Indian students. The CSC provides financial assistance to international students wishing to study in China. To apply for a CSC scholarship, students should first conduct an extensive search to find a program of study in English at a Chinese university. The CSC scholarship program is highly competitive and covers tuition fees, accommodation, and a monthly living allowance for the duration of the study program.

Finally, staying updated on scholarship opportunities is essential. Following funding organizations on social

media platforms such as Twitter can provide valuable information and tips on how to effectively. I follow an academic on Twitter namely Mushtaq Bilal and for me a major take away from advises on scholarship from him is this: "you search for the target program/department and your search for the target scholarship should complement each other. You don't want to select a program only to realize that your target scholarship will not fund your study."

Concluded.

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

Writing In The Era Of ChatGPT

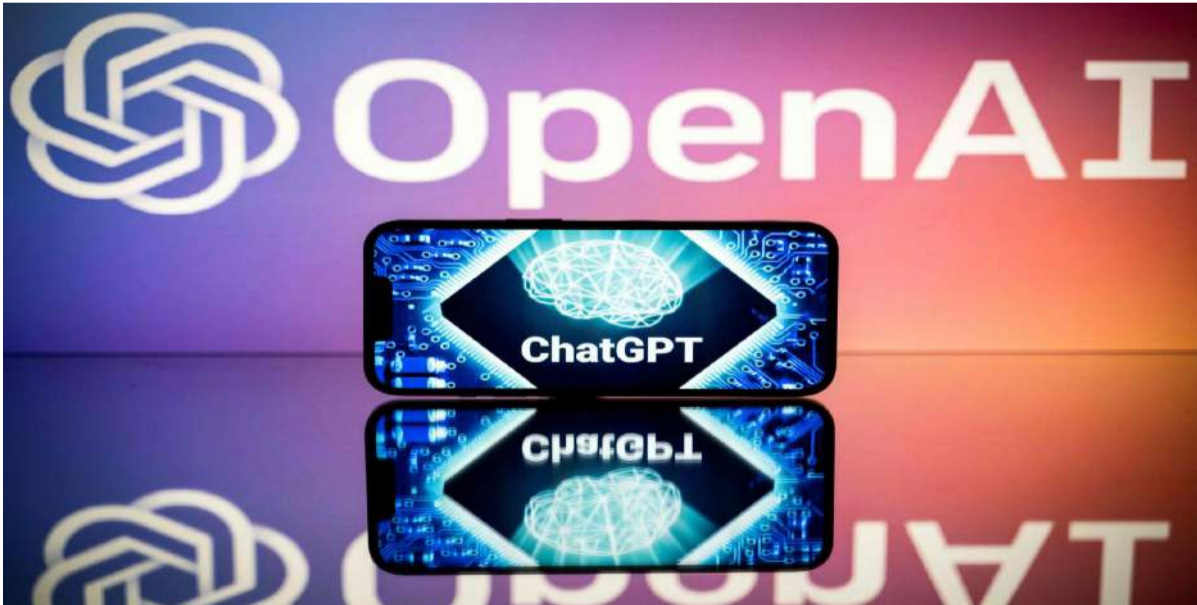
Alexander Danvers

There have been a flood of articles about new artificial intelligence (AI) models that can generate text—including entire essays—for you. I've worked and written a bit about AI in the past, but I really didn't want to write another piece about ChatGPT. They inevitably feel a bit breathless and awe-struck, as if this new generation of large language models (LLMs) overwhelms the typical journalistic snark. I know, in broad strokes, how these models detect and reproduce patterns they've encoded through millions of training examples (as one commenter I saw put it: the entire internet, to a first approximation). I don't believe it's thought or sentience to be able to encode and reproduce even the very complex patterns seen in human language. (For an account of what it means to be alive, I'd recommend people read the work of philosopher Francisco Varela.)

And yet. Here I am, writing about ChatGPT. The thing is, it's very impressive. Playing with it recently, I asked ChatGPT to generate the kind of content I regularly produce for this blog: an essay on the replication crisis in psychology and proposed solutions. Here's (some of) what I got:

WHAT IS THE REPLICATION CRISIS IN PSYCHOLOGY?

ChatGPT: The replication crisis in psychology refers to a growing concern that a significant portion of research in psychology may not be replicable or reliable. This means that when other researchers attempt to reproduce the results of a particular study, they may not get the same results, or they may



find weaker effects than those reported in the original study.

This crisis was first identified in the early 2010s, when several high-profile studies in psychology were found to be difficult or impossible to replicate. Since then, numerous studies have attempted to replicate findings from a range of psychological subfields, and the results have been mixed.

The description goes on from there, but it's pretty good. It's a concise summary that hits most of the major points I'd make if asked to give someone a quick primer. It's a bit colorless, reading like a Congressional Research Service report, but it's certainly sufficient for getting the facts across. Here's more:

WHAT SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED

FOR THE REPLICATION CRISIS?

ChatGPT: Various solutions have been proposed to address the replication crisis in psychology, and these solutions are aimed at improving the reliability and replicability of psychological research. Here are some of the proposed solutions:

- 1. Increase sample sizes:** Many studies suffer from small sample sizes, which can lead to unreliable and non-replicable findings. Increasing sample sizes can help to improve statistical power and reduce the risk of false positive results.
- 2. Pre-register studies:** Researchers can pre-register their studies, which involves specifying their research questions, hypotheses, and methods before conduct-

ing the study. This can help to reduce the risk of p-hacking and other questionable research practices, as the researchers cannot change their methods or analyses after the fact.

- 3. Open data and materials:** Sharing data and materials openly can help to increase transparency and facilitate replication. This allows other researchers to verify the results and conduct their own analyses.
- 4. Replication studies:** Conducting replication studies can help to determine the reliability of previous findings. Researchers can also conduct meta-analyses, which combine the results of multiple studies to determine the overall effect size.

5. Improve statistical methods:

There is a need to improve the statistical methods used in psychology research, including the use of appropriate effect size estimates, Bayesian methods, and multilevel modeling.

- 6. Improve peer review:** Peer review is an essential part of the scientific process, and there is a need to improve the quality and rigor of peer review in psychology. This includes ensuring that reviewers have sufficient expertise in the relevant areas and are able to provide constructive feedback.
- 7. Foster a culture of transparency and openness:** The replication crisis highlights the need for a culture of transparency and openness in psychology research. This includes encouraging researchers to share data, materials, and methods, as well as to acknowledge and report null results.

That's not bad either. It sounds like someone who has visited the Center for Open Science website, or has attended the Metascience conference, and is providing the main talking points. I wouldn't mind seeing this list posted in the labs of social psychologists across a few universities I know.

Being friends with educators, one of the first concerns about this technology I heard discussed was the potential that it will make it too easy for students to cheat. Having used it, I understand the concern. It took minutes to generate that text, whereas it would have taken me over an hour (plus a decade of becoming familiar with the area!) to produce that by myself. If all I need to do is get infor-

mation about a topic across—like in a class essay—then I would be able to skip doing the work myself.

On the other hand, I wouldn't be proud of the writing generated here. I like good writing, and I like trying to polish my own writing. This doesn't meet my standard. What I could see doing, though, is using this as the basis for an article that I then polish up further. This has already been recommended as an approach for teachers: have students generate a first draft of the essay using ChatGPT, then work on the craft of writing by editing it. This seems like a sensible solution for some situations.

However, I think there's something that's still missing about the intellectual quality of the writing that might require more than just reworking language. Good writing is good thinking, and that implies that you can't really take the deep thought out of the process. For example, while I might have produced the list of solutions above three years ago when I started blogging about this topic, I'd now be much more inclined to discuss the problems with theory in psychology and the lack of formal modeling. That's something that often gets short shrift in the mainstream discourse about replication, but that I've learned to appreciate through interacting with other scientists online (sometimes in response to something I posted here!). Recognizing those good ideas, and the flaw in the consensus narrative, is something that ChatGPT might not be capable of. Instead, as a pattern recognizer and reproducer, it will spit back out the "common sense" of the field, without any deeper analysis.

– Psychology Today

Nita M Ambani Launches The Her Circle Every BODY Project to drive a nationwide body-positivity movement of acceptance and inclusivity

India's foremost digital content and networking platform for women, Her Circle, celebrates its 310-million reach on its 2nd anniversary by launching an inclusive initiative

Mumbai: On International Women's Day this year, Mrs Nita M Ambani, Founder-Chairperson of Reliance Foundation launched The Her Circle, EveryBODY Project to celebrate body positivity and encourage the acceptance of all, irrespective of size, age, colour, religion, neurodiversity, or physicality. The movement aims to create a circle of kindness and non-judgemental acceptance. Her Circle was founded and launched by Mrs Ambani in 2021 to create a safe, inclusive, growth-oriented digital haven for women. On its second anniversary, the platform has become India's largest digital platform for women with a phenomenal overall reach of 310 million. Driving the prime objective of inclusivity, Mrs Ambani has invited every individual to come forward, be a part of this initiative and

make a difference.

On the occasion of the launch of the Her Circle EveryBODY Project, Mrs Nita M Ambani said, "Her Circle is about sisterhood, but also about solidarity. A solidarity that is based on equality, inclusion, and respect for all. And that is the core of our new project – the Her Circle Everybody Project. We have all seen the kind of trolling that happens on social media. They pass opinions without knowing the battles people are fighting. There are medical issues, there are genetic factors people can be going through. And yet they are subjected to trolling and humiliation. It can be so damaging, especially for young minds. I hope our initiative can address this in some way and give people the confidence and freedom to be who they are."

In addition to the launch of the initiative, Mrs Ambani celebrated the second anniversary of Her Circle by featuring on its anniversary-special digital cover and giving an exclusive interview.

Mrs Nita M. Ambani congratulated the users of Her Circle with a special message "Congratulations to the entire team and the millions of women who form Her Circle! We started out as an idea. And we hope to make it a movement for all women! We launched Her Circle in the middle of the pandemic, still in lockdown. And we've come a long way in the last two years. But this is just the beginning!"

Her Circle's second-year milestones cover goals around digital usage and networking. With more than 2,20,000 registered women users mostly entrepreneurs, we are constantly encouraging

women to collaborate professionally and socially to rise together. Through The Her CircleEveryBODY Project, which will be a year-long initiative, Her Circle aims to promote diverse body sizes and appearances through real-life stories and short films of women in the world of social media – women who have challenged the unrealistic beauty standards and toxic norms that expect you to be of a certain size, colour and shape and turned it around to succeed, embrace their uniqueness and be the change and influence in the digital space. At the forefront of driving our founder, Mrs Nita M Ambani's vision of a body-positive world, Her Circle will be encouraging women to put themselves first and build a larger circle of kindness and wellness.

How does Her Circle work?

Her Circle, founded by Mrs Nita M

Ambani, is designed as a one-stop destination to provide women-related content that is engaging, and uplifting-oriented even as it connects women to each other through a social platform. She can engage as she watches vibrant videos, and reads articles with solution-oriented life strategies covering living, wellness, finance, work, personality development, community service, beauty, fashion, entertainment, creative self-expression and active participation in public life through women-led NGOs and other organisations.

Users can toggle between their language of choice—English and Hindi currently—by a simple language selection option. The Hindi content is unique and original, customized for the user.

The platform provides women with answers from Reliance's esteemed panel

of experts on health, wellness, education, entrepreneurship, finance, philanthropy, mentorship and leadership. The section on upskilling and jobs will help her find new professional skills as well as get job opportunities suited to her profile. She can grow and learn through masterclasses from the best in the business or avail complimentary digital courses.

Private, Personalised, Safe: while the content, from videos to articles, is open to all, the social networking part of the platform is only for women. The social connect will provide her with a safe, women-only forum to make new friends with shared interests or ask questions from peers without hesitation. Her Circle also has an exclusive and personal space for women to ask questions to medical and finance experts in a confidential chatroom.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

India Slams

and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are, and shall always be part of India.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan, while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment that is free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's airstrike in Pakistan's Balakot in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama suicide attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India in August 2019 announced the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union Territories.

Ban Aptech Chorus

Dogra Chowk in the heart of the city and tried to take out a march but police swung into action and restored to cane-charge and detained several youths, the officials said. Police said protestors tried to take out a march in violation of prohibitory orders.

The protesters raised slogans against the JKSSB for hiring APTECH Limited, the company which had been blacklisted in 2019 for conduct of computer-based tests.

Similar demonstrations were staged in Doda, Baderwah, Rajouri and other parts of Jammu besides a massive protest which was held at Srinagar's Press Enclave.

Carrying placards which reads "save our future, "error 404", "no govt jobs found", "blanket ban on APTECH", hundreds of the JKSSB job aspirants appeared in Srinagar on Wednesday afternoon and staged a peaceful protest against the administration decision of hiring a 'tainted' company to conduct recruitment exams.

Chanting slogans like "APTECH go back" and "we want justice", the protesters said they are concerned about their future as they were crossing the age limit due to the alleged failure of the administration to complete the recruitment process in time.

"They are conducting an examination and then cancelling it...how many times we have to appear for the same exam time and again," a protester said.

In July last year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha cancelled the selected list of 1,200 police sub-inspectors, 1300 junior engineers and 1,000 finance account assistants (FAA) following allegations of paper leak and malpractices.

The CBI, which is investigating the sub-inspector recruitment scam after registering a case on August 3 on a reference from the J&K administration, had already filed a chargesheet against 24 persons including the mastermind, Yatin Yadav of Rewari, and a BSF commandant, on November 12, 2022.

"APTECH was blacklisted in the past and there is no guarantee it will not do any wrongdoing in future. What forced the LG administration to engage such a black-listed company?" asked a woman protester.

Protesting job aspirants sought a blanket ban on APTECH, claiming that the firm was pan-elized by the top court of India and is on the blacklist of various other states.

They appealed to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to revoke the order of engaging APTECH for conducting exams so the future of thousands of educated youth aspiring to appear in JKSSB exams is saved.

They alleged that the administration, without waiting for the final order of the J&K High Court, assigned Aptech to conduct JKSSB exams in the UT.

"What sense does it make to hire a blacklisted company to conduct recruitment exams? At first, why was Aptech even hired for this purpose?" Arif Hussain Malik, a job aspirant from Anantnag said.

Hussain said that the government cannot put the future of thousands of educated youth at risk by assigning APTECH like fraudulent companies to conduct JKSSB exams.

"This decision of the government has left us shell-shocked as the company which has been blacklisted in Ambala, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, has been awarded a contract of holding JKSSB exams. This company is involved in a number of scams, while 25 of its employees including a supervisor were arrested in bribery cases," he added.

Teheeen Iqbal, another aspirant said that awarding a contract to a tainted company like Aptech amounts to contempt of court as the top court of the Union Territory has reserved its decision.

"This is contempt of court as the J&K High Court is yet to pronounce its final judgment. How can the administration violate law and allow a tainted company to conduct JKSSB exams? We have decided not to appear in any

exam till the government revokes its order and puts a blanket ban on Aptech," he added.

A senior official of the JKSSB told a local news agency KNO there was no justification for the protest as the matter with regard to the hiring of Aptech Company is "sub-judice".

However, he said, the company was hired as per the central and J&K government guidelines as it has already completed the blacklisting period of three years in May last year.

"When we are selecting a company for conducting a written examination, we also employ checks and balances to ensure transparency, accountability and fairness in the selection. We are following a procedure which is matching the standards of major national level recruitment agencies," the official said.

In July last year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha cancelled the selected list of 1,200 police sub-inspectors, 1300 junior engineers and 1,000 finance account assistants (FAA) following allegations of paper leak and malpractices.

The CBI, which is investigating the sub-inspector recruitment scam after registering a case on August 3 on a reference from the J-K administration, had already filed a chargesheet against 24 persons including the mastermind, Yatin Yadav of Rewari, and a BSF commandant, on November 12, 2022.

Meanwhile former chief minister Omar Abdullah along with leaders of other political parties condemned the use of force against the job aspirants.

"I condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the use of force and lathicharge against students and JKSSB aspirants. These youngsters were exercising their democratic right to protest against the recent decision to engage a blacklisted firm," Abdullah, the National Conference vice president, said.

Apni Party president and former minister, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari also appealed to the Lieutenant Governor to revoke its decision of assigning Aptech to conduct JKSSB exams.

He said the government before awarding the contract, should bear in mind that Aptech stands blacklisted in various other states of India for being involved in corrupt practices.

"We demand immediate rollback of the order and stand in support of our children who took to the roads against the decision of this 'unconscious' regime, which is in deep slumbers. I appeal to the LG to revoke the order for the larger interest of the youth," Bukhari said.

Democratic Azad Party (DAP) leader and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad tweeted, "It is disheartening to hear about the use of violence against #JKSSB aspirants in J and K who were peacefully protesting for their future. I strongly condemn such actions and urge the government to intervene to protect the rights of students without fear of harm!"

Computer Based

orders under Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) around the examination centers during the timing of examination.

"A multi layered structure for supervision has also been established with one Centre Observer and Centre Magistrate for each examination center by the respective District Administration. Besides, senior officers shall also be deployed as General Observer by the General Administration Department and IT professionals shall be deployed by Information Technology Department for monitoring of the CBT examinations. The J&K Police shall deploy security personnel for frisking and maintenance of law and order at each venue/location," he added.

In addition, the spokesperson said, CBT shall be conducted under CCTV surveillance for maintaining transparency in the examination.

"Besides, low frequency Jammers are being installed in all the examination centres to prevent the use of unfair means including cheating using Bluetooth and wi-fi enabled electronic devices," he said.

"In order to ensure that the examination process being adopted is completely secure and free from any kind of malpractice, a third party has been hired to review/audit the examination process of Computer Based Tests (CBTs) conducted by JKSSB," he added.

The spokesperson said that the aspiring candidates appearing in the aforesaid examination are hereby cautioned against the activities of vested interests and advised not to fall prey to the designs of touts and unscrupulous elements.

He said if any candidate is approached by touts/unsrupulous elements in any matter pertaining to recruitments of JKSSB, they are advised to immediately report about such persons to the JKSSB.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will appreciate if specific information about such unscrupulous elements along with evidence is furnished to the Board, enabling it to take appropriate legal action. The identity of such candidates who will report about the unscrupulous elements shall be kept confidential," he added.

Moreover, the spokesperson said, candidates scheduled to appear in the examination are also warned to desist from indulging in any unfair means of practice like impersonation, carrying of prohibited items, communication devices, electronic equipments /gadgets or any other material with the intention of receiving assistance.

"The candidates found to be attempting/using any unfair means practice during the examination, shall be dealt with strictly as per the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022 including debaring of such candidates for appearing in future examinations," he said.

"The candidates have been advised to visit official website of the Boardhttps://jkssb.nic.in only for authentic/verified updates/information. They should also carefully read the instructions enclosed with the Admit Card," he added.

Haji Aspirants

The officer has urged all those aspirants who applied through a special drive to collect passport details from tomorrow and a list will be also sent to Haji office Bemina, he said, adding that passports are under printing and details for which will be provided from Thursday so that the aspirants can fill the Haji form.

The last date for submitting a passport is on December 10 at Haji office Srinagar. (KDC)

10% Smart Meters

further said that a total of 80,000 smart meters have been installed so far and the rest are being installed. "The process to complete the smart meters installation will be completed by the next two years," he said.

Pertinently, a few areas of Habba Kadal area reeling under darkness as the authorities have snapped the electricity after the people staged protest over the installation of smart meters in the locality—(KNO)

Bukhari Promises

for recruitment for various posts.

"On the day of Holī, please fill the lives of these youth with colours, and cancel the

contract... Also, take action against those officials who awarded them the contract," he said.

PM Package

the criteria for allotment of accommodation to married & unmarried employees. He asked Deputy Director Estates to hold talks with stakeholders about additional accommodation available for the employees," he said.

He added that the Div Com directed CE, R&B to pace up the progress of work of transit accommodation tenements.

‘A Film Must

Now I want to work with some of the people I worked with in Kashmir. I believe that when the film industry comes to the valley to shoot, it empowers people from there to come to the rest of India.

Do you've any recollection of dealing with a difficult situation while filming in the valley?

Honestly speaking, no. Gurez is so beautiful that everything becomes worth around it despite the power issues and underdeveloped hospitality sector.

It was critical for us not to encourage the use of any kind of plastic. We had our own water bottles and didn't use any disposable items for food.

While my experience shooting in Kashmir was excellent, I believe Gurez requires more sustainable and cautious development. Otherwise, it will take over and destroy itself, just like all other institutions.

But with an entourage of filmmakers making rounds of the valley, do you see the right projection of the place?

I don't think everyone projects it correctly. You should be aware that some people are only projecting the story, the conflict. And I'd like to work on the other stories.

It was also important for me to use the Kashmiri language, local talent, and to go beyond the typical narrative that is envisioned. I believe that more Kashmiris, particularly young people, should begin learning filmmaking and be the ones to tell more stories about their homeland. There are so many stories because of their experience. So many stories remain untold.

However, the main issue with young Kashmiris is that they do not want to leave their comfort zone. If I come to Bombay from Bhutan and become a filmmaker, they should also come, learn the art, and then create stories about Kashmir.

It's important to look at oneself from different perspective. Otherwise, people who have left Kashmir and those who have remained there will always have a different way of looking at reality.

But what role does Bollywood play in shifting public perceptions of Kashmir?

Cinema, in my opinion, is a very important medium. I shot 'I am' and it was a film about a Kashmiri Pandit and a Kashmiri Muslim. It's important for me to talk about the masses and how everyone thinks—in terms of speech—because not only Bollywood but also regional languages are being filmed in Kashmir.

I believe it's critical to have narratives that are responsible and value people, culture and this is what I see. Cinema is a partisan medium. The tool should be used with care and love.

So how do audiences respond to the movies based on Kashmir? Do they raise some troubling question?

It all depends. Some recent films, I believe,

made a lot of noise, but not the right kind of noise. To be honest, I'm not comfortable watching a film that makes my minority-community friends uncomfortable.

For me, a film must tell every truth and find peace and love. No film should be used to instil hatred. I'm simply speaking as a filmmaker. There is far too much hatred and conflict in the world. As humans, if we can love and live together, there is nothing more valuable than that.

Dir Information

their deepest condolences with the Director Information and also prayed for eternal peace to departed soul.

Dr Farooq Backs

file, including (vice president) Omar Abdullah, is of the firm belief that the initiative will act as a catalyst in bringing the opposition parties together for a common cause of fighting injustices," he added.

Alleging that a government working against the citizens is at the helm, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal had recently announced the new platform 'Insaaf' to fight "injustice" prevailing in the country and called on everyone, including opposition parties' chief ministers and leaders, to support him in his endeavour.

Traffic Resumes

of stranded vehicles on Tuesday night, fresh light motor vehicles (LMVs) were allowed from both Jammu and Srinagar, while heavy motor vehicles were only allowed from Jammu to Srinagar this morning," a traffic department official said on Wednesday.

He said the traffic was moving smoothly on the highway when last reports were received.

A crane driver was killed and six members of a family were injured when two vehicles came under the landslide at Seri village near Ramban town around 2.30 pm on Tuesday.

The stranded vehicles were allowed to move towards their respective destinations around 10 pm on Tuesday after the clearance of the debris, the officials said.

Ambulance Mows

were rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared them dead, he said.

The official said a case has been registered.

Woman Found

"We have started inquest proceedings," said a police officer.

‘Spy Pigeon’

Science Laboratory for examining the devices attached to its legs. It appears that the devices are a camera and a microchip," Jagatsinghpur Superintendent of Police Rahul PR told PTI.

It also appears that something is written in a language unknown to the local police on the wings of the bird.

"Experts' help will also be sought to find out what is written," the SP said.

Pitambar Behera, an employee of the fishing trawler Sarathi, said he saw the pigeon perched on the boat.

"Suddenly I noticed that some instruments were attached to the bird's legs. I also found that something is written on its wings. I could understand it as it was not Odia," Behera said.

He called the pigeon and caught it after the bird came closer. Behera then informed the incident to the owner of the trawler. The pigeon was found on the trawler when it was anchored around 35 kilometres off the coast from Konark around 10 days back. Behera said he fed the bird broken rice for the past several days.

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

Panels Formed For Monitoring Implementation Of Bio-Medical Waste Rules In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Wednesday constituted Union territory Level Committee and District Level Committees for monitoring the implementation of Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) Rules, 2016 in Jammu and Kashmir:

The Union territory Level Committee comprises Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department as Chairman and its members include Director, Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K, Representative of Housing and Urban Development Department (not below the rank of Additional Secretary), Representative of DMRRR (not below the rank of Additional Secretary) and Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Board.

"The Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Board shall act as Nodal agency for coordination and compliance," reads the order, adding, "The Committee

shall be free to co-opt any other experts/agency for its assistance and shall meet within two weeks in the first instance and thereafter once in a month."

Similarly, the district level committee (s) will be headed by Deputy Commissioners concerned and members include Principal, Government Medical College or other reputed Medical College in the area, Representative of SSP concerned, Chief Medical Officer and Regional Officer, J&K Pollution Control Board, the order reads. The Regional Officer, J&K Pollution Control Board shall act as Nodal agency for coordination and compliance. The Committees, it said, shall be free to co-opt any other experts/agency for its assistance. The Committees shall meet within two weeks in the first instance and thereafter once in a fortnight initially till the situation improves and at longer intervals thereafter as may be found necessary, the order added. (GNS)

Hope Amshipora Case Is Taken To Logical End: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday expressed hope that the Army court's decision to recommend life imprisonment for a captain in connection with a "staged" encounter in Shopian district's Amshipora is taken to a logical conclusion.

She also demanded government jobs for the victim's families.

Completing general court-martial proceedings in less than a year, an Army court has recommended life imprisonment for a captain in connection with the killing of three men in the "staged" encounter in Amshipora in south Kashmir in July 2020. According to officials, the life sentence is subject to confirmation by higher army authorities.

"I hope the case is taken to a logical conclusion because we have seen, be it Pathribal or Machhil, it is said there will be action, but ultimately, nothing happens.

"I hope the three innocent labourers who were brutally murdered get justice," Mehbooba

told reporters in the Shopian district in south Kashmir.

She said Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had promised government jobs to the victims' families and should keep the pledge.

"Whatever little money they were given, that was spent in fighting the case. Now they have nothing left. So, I appeal to the LG to provide jobs to them," Mehbooba added.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister also demanded government job and compensation to the family of Rashid Dar of Kunan village in Kupwara, whose body was recently found in a forest "after he went missing in army custody two months earlier".

"He was also an innocent labourer. He was in Army custody and disappeared. Then his body was found. We have no hope of justice, but, I will still say that a thorough probe be conducted.

"His family is very poor, they should be given a job and a huge compensation from the Army," Mehbooba said.

Govt Grants 60-Day 'Special Maternity Leave'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government has decided to grant a special maternity leave of 60 days to a woman employee in case of the death of a child soon after the birth or stillbirth with some conditions.

According to a notification in this regard has been issued by Director General Codes, Finance Department, the condition includes that "in case a maternity leave has already been availed by a woman employee and her leave continues till the date of expiry of (a) child soon after birth/stillbirth, the maternity leave already availed till death of the child may be converted into any other kind of leave available in her leave account without in-

sisting for a medical certificate".

A Special Maternity Leave of 60 days may be granted from the date of expiry of a child soon after birth or stillbirth in case the maternity leave has not been availed by a woman employee, the notification reads, adding, "60 days of Special Maternity Leave may be granted from the date of expiry of (a) child soon after birth/stillbirth."

As per the notification, the condition for the death of a child soon after birth may be defined as up to 28 days after birth. A baby born with no signs of life at or after 28 weeks of gestation may be defined as stillbirth and the benefit of Special Maternity Leave shall be admissible only to a woman employee with less than two surviving children, it reads. —(KNO)



CRPF PERSONNEL CELEBRATING the festival of Holi at their camp in Srinagar on Wednesday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Mining Block Allottees In Reasi Booked For Cheating

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Several allottees of mining blocks of minor minerals in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district were booked for cheating, police said on Wednesday.

The accused were allegedly selling sand and Bajri using fake bills and receipts, they said.

The action followed reliable information that the allottees of mining blocks at Arnas and other areas were selling construction material to dumper drivers in Mahore using QR codes of bills already paid for riverbed material, a police spokesperson said.

A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Mahore police station, he said.

A police team established a checkpoint at Ganjote in Mahore and seized two dumpers and 38 fake bills issued under different names and styles of concessionary of Block number - 11 belonging to Vikesh Kumar of Arnas, Block number - 14 belonging to Raman Kumar and Block number - 28 belonging to Sumit Gupta of Himna village, the spokesperson added.

During the investigation, police teams raided mining blocks at Kanthan, Arnas, Chinkah and Himna and seized incriminating documents, including a desktop, a mobile phone and two rubber stamps used to is-

sue the fake bills, he said.

Another police team raided Seela Reasi from where three laptops and three printers were seized from a private office as evidence.

Investigation in the case is underway and whoever is found involved will not be spared, Senior Superintendent of Police (Reasi) Amit Gupta said.

"No one will be allowed to violate the law and any citizen having grievance regarding fake bills, overcharging in buying minor minerals or in its transportation are advised to immediately approach the nearest police unit and task force members for immediate legal action as warranted under law," he said.

Mercury Rises In J&K Barring Gulmarg, Pahalgam; Kupwara

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for mainly dry weather, the minimum temperature recorded a rise in Jammu and Kashmir barring Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Kupwara on Wednesday, officials said.

An official of the meteorological department here said Srinagar recorded a low of 3.5°C against 3.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 2.4°C against 2.0°C on the previous night and Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 1.7°C against minus 1.4°C on the previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of 4.1°C against 3.9°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.6°C against minus



0.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 0.2°C against 0.4°C on the previous night and it was 1.2°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 14.6°C against 12.9°C on the

previous night. It was 0.6°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 4.7°C (above normal by 0.6°C), Batote 7.6°C (above normal by 1.7°C), Katra 11.8°C (0.3°C above normal) and Bhardwah 4.1°C (1.0°C above normal). The Met department has forecast dry weather to continue till March 12. (GNS)

Harsh Dev Singh Calls For United Fight For Statehood

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: National Panthers Party leader and ex-minister Harsh Dev Singh Wednesday advocated for unity among political parties to seek revival of statehood and restoration of a democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir.

He alleged the BJP was breaking the opposition by its "divide and rule policy" to continue its "political hegemony" in the Union Territory.

"Collective efforts are required to be made to ensure justice to the people of the erstwhile state reeling under the dictatorial regime of the BJP," Singh told reporters here.

He said the BJP government will "continue to deprive" the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their basic democratic and constitutional rights until and unless the opposition leaders join hands against its "authoritarian and despotic" rule.

"We have to come together for a united fight against the misuse and atrocities of the present regime. It's high time therefore that all political parties, except BJP, having faith in the Indian constitution and its flag join hands to restore justice with dignity to the people of the incarcerated land of Jammu and Kashmir," the National Panthers Party (NPP) leader said.

He claimed the BJP was "hell-bent on demolishing the opposition and wants to establish a one-party system" in the country.

"It is breaking opposition

parties using money and muscle power. It also resorts to coercion, threats, intimidation and persecution to bully the opposition leaders and eventually make them fall in line," Singh alleged.

"BJP leaders accused of corrupt practices, land grabbing, dis-proportionate assets and other fishy deals are being given immunity while even the sincere motives of opposition leaders are questioned," he said.

About the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and bifurcating it into two Union Territories, Singh said, "Not only has it been robbed of its statehood and deprived of a legitimately elected government, but people are being subjected to the most unpopular rule of outside bureaucrats who hardly have any knowledge of Jammu and Kashmir and its peculiar problems."

"The government is resorting to strong-arm methods to evict the poor, indigent masses from their small, marginal landholdings and uprooting their houses, shops and other permanent structures without any qualms of conscience.

"Unemployment is at its peak and government jobs are being openly auctioned. The contractual, daily wagers and other temporary workers are agitating for their rights with none to listen to their cries for justice. Property tax is being imposed without consulting the stakeholders," he said.

HC Issues Notice To PCC, DC Budgam On Brick Kiln Issue

Locals Want ACB Inquiry As 10,000 Trees Have Been Cut Down
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As J&K Pollution Control Committee has given a consent to set up a brick kiln in Rangeen Kultreh village of Chadoora in Budgam district some months back, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh recently issued a notice to Member Secretary Pollution Control Committee, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, District Officer PCC Budgam, Tehsildar Chadoora and Mughloo Brick Kiln asking them to file their response.

The matter has been listed on March 17th. The aggrieved orchardists Abdul Gani Bhat and others moved to High Court to seek judicial intervention against the order of the Member Secretary Pollution Control Committee who gave consent for the establishment of a brick kiln in favour of M/S Mughloo Brick Kiln.

The petitioners Abdul Gani Bhat and others challenged the consent order dated 24.11.2022 before High Court saying that Pollution Control Committee District officer Budgam on 12th March 2022 had refused to issue the consent order and other departments had also raised their serious concern over this issue.

High Court Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal on March 2nd 2023 while hearing the case issued notices to the Member Secretary Pollution Control Committee, DC Budgam, District Officer Pollu-

tion Control Committee Budgam and Tehsildar Chadoora to explain their position.

Pertinently more than 1000 almond trees have been axed on the karewa land in Rangeen Kultreh in Budgam last year by some land owners who want to lease out their land for brick kilns as they claim that almond trees were not fetching them good revenue and brick kilns give them Rs 30,000 per year for a kanal of land

"We fail to understand that when the Pollution Control Committee field staff of Budgam in March last year didn't give NOC for brick kilns and wrote an adverse report which we have produced before the High Court, what prompted the Member Secretary to issue a consent order in 9 months? After the Member Secretary gave the consent order, some touts are now taking money from people so that more brick kilns would be set up. We have developed apple, plum and pear orchards in the area and we can't allow this disaster to happen. There are already two dozen brick kilns in the area and more brick kilns will destroy only the environment but it will be a threat to air traffic also as the airport and air force base is located nearby which comes within 3 to 4 kms aerial distance. We demand a probe by ACB also in this issue," said Abdul Gani, the petitioner in the case.

The local of Kultreh and adjoining villages in Chadoora have appealed DC Budgam, Air Force and other departments to look into the issue on merits.

J&K Bank Celebrates Women's Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the economic empowerment front, J&K Bank is leading the pack of financial institutions especially in the twin UTS of J&K and Ladakh in facilitating the enterprising women entrepreneurs to realize their economic pursuits where they will be creating employment opportunities not just for themselves or their gender but the society at large.

J&K Bank MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash stated this on Wednesday at a special function organised to celebrate the achievements of women in their personal and professional lives on 'International Women's Day (IWD) 2023' that has been themed by the United Nations Organisation as 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'.

Professor Neerja Mattoo was the guest-of-honour at the function that was attended by Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers, DGMs, other officers especially women staff

of the Bank. Members of JK Bank Officers' Association (JKBOA Kashmir) led by President Riyaz Ahmad Bhat were also present on the occasion. All the zonal offices of the Bank also joined the function through VC mode.

Detailing few of the female-focused schemes, MD & CEO said, "Under UMEED a dynamic program aimed at financial independence and empowerment of Rural Women (NRLM), the Bank has achieved Bank Linkage of over 30000 Women SHGs and Credit Linkage of over 12000 Women SHGs with credit facilities of Rs 260 Crore. Besides, the Bank is also aggressively facilitating and implementing other government programs like Beti Padhao, Tejaswini, Ladli Beti, etc."

With an improving proportion of 38% in the Workmen Cadre and 30% representation in the Junior Management Grades, he said that the picture on the horizon was clearly pointing towards the times when majority of the Top Executives in the Bank will be women and not be-



cause of any favour but due to their sheer talent and performance.

"Now, it is the responsibility of all of us in general and the empowered women in particular to act as change champions for broad-basing the transformation and let the empowerment reach to the women in the hinterlands as well," MD & CEO added.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Neerja Mattoo – who was also felicitated as valuable and long-time customer of the Bank – recalled how she always felt

herself an empowered woman in the Kashmir she grew up thinking that sky is the limit. She said, "As far as women empowerment in Kashmir is concerned, we have great inspirations in the form of Lal-Ded, Habba Khatoon, Arin Maal and Rupa Bhavani to emulate and follow for they were truly emancipated women."

"They were the original women who charted their own course and had the courage to stand up to the difficult social norms and challenges of their respective times",

she added.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, "Today's function is not just an isolated event but a part of the global movement to promote gender equality and create a better society for all. As a bank, we are committed to providing women with access to digital tools and services that can help them achieve their financial goals and build a better future for themselves and their families. We believe that empowering women is

not just a social obligation but a necessity for building a better and more stable society."

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager Tabassum Nazir stressed upon her women colleagues to take lead in all the initiatives aimed at people's empowerment in general and women in particular. She said, "Things should be spoken without reference to gender as women are excelling in every field of consequence because of their capabilities not gender."

"When we talk of equality, it must be followed with equity to ensure equal outcomes from different situations", she added.

Meanwhile, MD & CEO also launched the poster for awareness of POSH Act (Prevention of Sexual Harassment during the function, where after President JKBOA gave a detailed overview of POSH ACT which was passed in 2013 for Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of sexual harassment of women at workplace. "Today we have launched a year-long awareness

campaign to sensitize the staff about the need and importance of making workplace better and safer for our women colleagues", he said.

A short-film titled womencipation@J&K Bank was also screened at the function. Scores of bank's retired women staff were felicitated during these functions held across the country along with dozens of bank's valuable women clients.

DGM Manju Gupta presented the vote of thanks. The function concluded with releasing of balloons by the participants in presence of MD & CEO and top management executives in the lawns of Bank's corporate headquarters as a symbolic gesture of emancipation.

Pertinently, the Bank has digitally on-boarded over 1.28 lac women customers during the month-long campaign that was launched last month with twin objectives of facilitating women empowerment through digital on-boarding and enabling access to digital banking services for promotion of cashless economy.

Bank Aggressively Facilitating, Implementing Government Programs Like Beti Padhao, Tejaswini, Ladli Beti: Baldev Prakash



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