

Job Aspirants Hold Candlelight Vigil Against JKSSB

Dr Farooq, Mehbooba Join Protesters; Seek Cancellation Of Exams



Agencies

Jammu: Two former chief ministers Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday joined the candlelight vigil of job aspirants in Jammu against hiring of alleged blacklisted firm Aptech by Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) to conduct computer based examinations.

Witnesses said hundreds of job aspirants, who continue to protest for the last few days in Jammu against JKSSB decision to hire Aptech firm, held a candlelight vigil here on Saturday evening, thereby intensifying their

protest against JKSSB's move.

They said that protesters were also joined by National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah and People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti.

Congress party's J&K working president Raman Bhalla and Democratic Progressive Azad Party leader Jugul Kishore also joined the march at Kacchi Chawani area of Jammu.

In July last year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha cancelled the selected list of 1,200 **|More on P6**

THE MATTER IS IN THE COURT FOR CONSIDERATION and as per our county's law any comments may influence the judgment of the court. So it is inappropriate to comment on it."

PROPERTY TAX TUSSLE

The Doors Of Administration Are Open For Dialogue: LG

Jammu Observes Partial Shutdown On Chamber's Call, Transport Plies Smoothly

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday reassured the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the imposition of property tax and said that the doors of his administration are open for a dialogue, even as a day-long strike called by a traders' body against the move evoked a mixed response here.

"People's interest is our top priority. The doors of administration are open for dialogue," Sinha told reporters after conducting on-site inspection of key projects here on Saturday.

The Union Territory administration recently notified the imposition of property tax in municipal areas from April 1. The tax rates will be 5 per cent of the annual taxable value for residential properties and 6 per cent for commercial properties.

While some markets in the city remained closed on Saturday, overall there was a mixed response to the bandh call given by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) and the Yuva Rajput Sabha.

Several shopkeepers, who



I BELIEVE, WE HAVE NOT LEFT ANY SCOPE FOR THEM ON SUCH ISSUES. The interests of the people of J&K have been given top priority while framing the property tax policy. The tax amount fixed is one-tenth of the tax being paid by the people in Shimla, Ambala, and Dehradun,"

had kept their establishments closed in the morning, opened them later in the day.

Work in the high court and other subordinate courts was also affected as lawyers associated with the Jammu chapter of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association participated in the JCCI-sponsored strike.

Almost all opposition parties, including the National Conference, the Congress, the

Democratic Azad Party, and the National Panthers Party, also supported the bandh.

The All J&K Transport Welfare Association, however, was not a part of the strike, claiming that they were not taken into confidence by the traders' body.

Public transport remained unaffected and was seen plying on the roads since early morning. The Yuva Rajput Sabha also **|More on P6**

Govt Committed To Promote Quality Education

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that his administration is committed to promote Indian knowledge tradition and access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive environment in the educational institutions. Sinha made these remarks in his interaction with Padma Shri Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri, President, Jammu Kashmir Shree Kashi Vidvat Parishad, at Raj Bhavan here on Saturday, an official spokesperson said. Prof Shastri, he said, discussed with the LG various matters pertaining to preservation and promotion of the ancient vedic culture, teachings and traditions among the young generation. "He apprised **|More on P6**

Saudi Deal With Iran Worries Israel

Agencies

Jerusalem: While wider Middle East heaved a sigh of relief following the rapprochement between long-time regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran the news has sent shockwaves through the Israel establishment and struck a symbolic blow for hardline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has made the threat posed by Tehran a public diplomacy priority and personal crusade.

The breakthrough, a culmination of more than a year of negotiations in Iraq and more recent talks in China also became ensnared in Israel's internal politics, reflecting the country's divisions at a moment of national turmoil.

The agreement, which gives Iran and Saudi Arabia two months to reopen their respective embassies and re-establish ties after seven years of rupture, more broadly represents one of the most striking shifts in Middle Eastern diplomacy over recent years. In countries like Yemen and Syria, long caught between the two regional powers, the announcement stirred cautious optimism.

In Israel, it caused disappointment along with a cascade of finger-pointing.

One of Netanyahu's greatest foreign policy triumphs remains Israel's U.S.-brokered normalization deals in 2020 with four Arab states, including Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, part of a wider push to isolate and oppose Iran in the region.

He has portrayed himself as the only politician capable of protecting Israel **|More on P6**

Govt Probes 2247 Illegal Appointments In H&ME Dept

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday ordered constitution of a five-member committee to probe illegal appointments in the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) department.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of the committee to monitor the exercise of identifying and revisiting the illegal appointments in the Health Department as reported by Audit and Inspection Department and all other illegal appointments," reads a government order.

According to the order, the committee will be headed by director finance H&ME with four others as members.

Director Finance H&ME will be its chairman, while Additional Secretary to the Government H&ME (HRM), Additional Secretary Department **|More on P6**

J&K Parties To Raise Polls, Statehood With EC

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Saturday chaired a meeting with leaders of more than a dozen parties which culminated with the decision to meet the Election Commission in Delhi for an early assembly election in Jammu & Kashmir and restoration of its statehood.

The three-hour-long meeting, which was held at Abdullah's residence here, also ended with a



decision to meet national leaders from the Opposition camp in Delhi to seek their assistance in restoring democracy in the **|More on P6**

Assembly Of Rejected Politicians: BJP

Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Saturday termed a Farooq Abdullah-led meeting of more than a dozen parties as a "non-event" and said this was an assembly of "rejected politicians" unnerved by Jammu and Kashmir's progress towards peace **|More on P6**

Patwaris Defer Strike On Admin's Assurance

Will Begin Strike Afresh Incase Demands Not Fulfilled Within 30 Days: AJKPA

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Patwaris on Saturday deferred their indefinite strike for one month, after the government assured to fulfill their demands within the stipulated time.

Decision comes a day after representatives of All Jammu and Kashmir Patwar Association (AJKPA) held a meeting with the Commissioner Secretary Revenue, Piyush Singla and



Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

Addressing a press conference here, AJKPA president Abdul Majeed Malla said the government sought one month time to fulfill their demands, **|More on P6**

Soldier Arrested For 'Killing' His Colleague

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday arrested a soldier for allegedly killing his colleague last year inside an army barrack in Samba district. The body of Sepoy Pawar Prathamsh (21), a resident of Maharashtra, was found with a bullet injury on May 20 last year, following which inquest proceedings were conducted, a police official said.

Based on evidence collected during investigation under the guidance of Samba Senior Superintendent of Police Benam Tosh, the inquest proceedings were ended and a murder case was registered at the Samba police station, he said.

Sepoy Vaidya Khushreang, also a resident of Maharashtra, was arrested and the weapon used in the crime, an **|More on P6**

PM Modi Calls On President Murmu

President Narendra Modi called on President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday. The meeting came ahead of the second leg of the Budget Session of Parliament.

"Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the president's secretariat tweeted.

The Budget Session of Parliament will resume on March 13 after nearly-a-month-long break.

Commander Visits IAF Station In Jammu

Air Officer Commanding-in-chief, Western Air Command, Air Marshal P M Sinha on Saturday visited the Air Force Station here, a defence spokesperson said. The AOC-in-C was briefed on the operational readiness of the station and inspected all units, the spokesperson said. Sinha appreciated the operational and security orientation of all station personnel and exhorted them to maintain a **|More on P6**

5 Rusted Grenades Defused



The government forces on Saturday recovered and defused five rusted grenades in a village in Akhnoor area of Jammu district. The rusted grenades were recovered by a police team in Charangal village of Akhnoor on Saturday, official sources said. Police, **|More on P6**

Recognising Excellence in Yoga Promotion

Prime Minister's Awards for Yoga

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Please upload the entries at the following MyGov link
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2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship 2023-24

Description: Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship 2023-24 is a research opportunity offered by the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) to outstanding engineers to recognize, encourage and support their translational research for achieving excellence in engineering, innovation, and technology development. Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals/Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) with adequate professional qualifications. The applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree and have a minimum of five (5) years of service left in the parent organization as on the date of the award. The candidates must not hold any other fellowship in the event of selection.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 25,000 per month and other benefits
Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2023
Application mode: via email only at - inaehq@inae.in
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observ-er/AKTINF2

Scholarship Name 2: NETAPS

Foundation - Lead Generation Executive Internship 2023

Description: NETAPS Foundation - Lead Generation Executive Internship 2023 is an internship opportunity offered by NETAPS Foundation [a leading consulting and service-based company where are providing educational services (domestic and overseas)] via the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) internship portal to graduate students.

Eligibility: Open for graduate students with relevant skills and interests. The applicants must be available for a duration of 6 months.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 10,000 per month and other benefits

Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2023

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observ-er/TASD4

Scholarship Name 3: CF Sparkle Inclusive Scholarship Programme for Higher Education

Description: CF Sparkle Inclusive Scholarship Programme for Higher Education aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious girls, students with disability and transgender stu-

dents who belong to a low-income family group in continuing their education which further leads to employability.

Eligibility: Open for girls, students with disability and transgender students.

Applicants must be pursuing first-year of their undergraduate degree in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) courses or undergraduate degree or diploma in Vocational Technical Education (VTE), Paramedical Sciences, and Allied Health Sciences.

Applicants must have scored a minimum of least 60% marks in their Class 12 examination.

The annual family income of the applicants from all sources should not exceed INR 5 Lakh.

Children of employees of Cognizant, Cognizant Foundation and Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply.

Students from Pan India are eligible.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 75,000 per year

Last Date to Apply: 15-03-2023

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observ-er/CFSI1



DBT Funded Project on Development of an Aptamer based kit for detection of Campylobacter infections in Cattle and Poultry".

Division of Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates giving full details of CV and research experience for engagement of one position of the Junior Research Fellow co-terminus with the project entitled "Development of an Aptamer based kit for detection of Campylobacter infections in Cattle and Poultry" operational in the Division of Veterinary Microbiology & Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Shuhama. Detailed of advertisement is available on university website www.skuastkashmir.co.in

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Principal Investigator

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از نیابت پہاں

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب عبدالرشید دھونی ولد عبدالرحیم دھونی ساکنہ اوٹن کھوٹی تحصیل چن بھراہ اجرائی شوشل کاسٹ بچن اولادان بڈمرہ دھونی

اشہار ہرخاص دعام

معاملمندرجعنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ ایک درخواست بغرض شوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ بڈمرہ دھونی دھونی پیش کی ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی دھونی ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل اوٹن کھوٹی تحصیل چن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل مذکورہ شوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کینہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 79,200 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی گھٹن کو کوئی عزیما عرض ہو تو وہ بدعشرہ اخبار سادات کے اندر اندر اپنے مذکر یا عزیما عرض و دالت حد کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعدگزرنے بعد کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تایب تحصیلدار FKO

Public Notice

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Runways And Highways Tour And Travel" situated at Humdard Complex Mir Abad New Court Road Bypass Batamaloo

Whereas, I Naseem Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Gani Bhat R/o Mirabad Batamaloo Srinagar intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of our proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "Runways and Highways tour and travel" situated at Humdard Complex Mir Abad New Court Road Bypass Batamaloo under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, We will submit State Subject/Domicil Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of our unit as an Excursion Agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before our case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, TRC Srinagar, Kashmir (e-mail Id:-ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.

nj

Office of the Principal Lords Token School

Ganowpora Arshi Shopian (Kashmir0

Fee Structure For the Year 2023-24

| S.No | Class | Monthly Fee | Adm. Fee |
|------|-------|-------------|----------|
| 01 | Nur | 400 | Nil |
| 02 | L.K.G | 400 | Nil |
| 03 | U.K.G | 500 | Nil |
| 04 | 1st | 550 | Nil |
| 05 | 2nd | 550 | Nil |
| 06 | 3rd | 550 | Nil |
| 07 | 4th | 600 | Nil |
| 08 | 5th | 600 | Nil |
| 09 | 6th | 650 | Nil |
| 10 | 7th | 700 | Nil |
| 11 | 8th | 750 | Nil |

Sd/-
Principal
fz

From The Office Of Advocate Khudisfandiyar And Qazi Ayaz

In the case of:

Ghulam Mohammad Tariq
S/o. Hussam Ud Din Balkhi
R/o Dawood Colony, Anchar, Soura, Srinagar

Applicant/Caveator

Vs

Public at Large

Non applicant/Caveator

In the matter of. Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of CPC The Caveat has reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceedings or any other proceedings before the Hon'ble Court on the ground of distorted facts/ misrepresentation and concealing the material facts and may succeed in obtaining some relief or order in ex-parte at the back of Caveator and without providing reasonable opportunity to the caveator and in such eventuality the caveator will be put to irreparable loss and inconvenience. It will be proper that the caveator will be given Opportunity of being head by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order or direction

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides License for my business unit under name & style "Paray Pesticides Kashewa". If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Sgr within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shahnawaz Ahmad Parray
S/o Mohd Yousuf Parray
R/o Kashewa Shopian

fz

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly registered in Online Driving License bearing No; 19494/LAB as Shabir Ah. Lone while the correct name is Shabir Ahmad Dar which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Dar S/o Ab Rashid Dar
R/o Kongamdara Pattan

bmg

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

بالاجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم

محمد رفیق شیندلگزار احمد شیندلگزار ساکنہ کربوراجا
رجسٹرار تحسین اینڈ ڈیٹھس
ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر
(نمویل)

بنام
(سائل)

درخواست بمبراد اندراج کرنے تاریخ فوگئی نسبت گزار احمد شین

اشہار بمبراد آگائی ہرخاص دعام

معاملمندرجعنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ اسلامک نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج کرنے تاریخ فوگئی دائر کی ہے۔ لہذا احوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسلامک منظور ہونے میں کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض ہونے کی صورت میں عدالت میں آکر مورخہ 18-03-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعدگزرنے معیا کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصد 06-03-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج میونسپل سرینگر nj

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

بالاجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم

رایض احمد گوردولہ سلطان گوردولہ
رجسٹرار تحسین اینڈ ڈیٹھس
عمرانی گئی جگہ
ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر
(نمویل)

بنام
(سائل)

درخواست بمبراد اندراج کرنے تاریخ فوگئی ازاں محمد سلطان گورد

اشہار بمبراد آگائی ہرخاص دعام

معاملمندرجعنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ اسلامک نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج کرنے تاریخ فوگئی دائر کی ہے۔ لہذا احوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسلامک منظور ہونے میں کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض ہونے کی صورت میں عدالت میں آکر مورخہ 18-03-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعدگزرنے معیا کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصد 06-03-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج میونسپل سرینگر nj

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

بالاجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم

نثار احمد دلدولہ محمد امین ساکنہ جامہل
خانیہ راعال P.11 قاش بند کلاوٹی ہزار باغ
مربعہ بڈہ پورہ
ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر
(نمویل)

بنام

اشہار بمبراد آگائی ہرخاص دعام

معاملمندرجعنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ اسلامک نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش دائر کی ہے۔ لہذا احوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسلامک منظور ہونے میں کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض ہونے کی صورت میں عدالت میں آکر مورخہ 18-03-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعدگزرنے معیا کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصد 09-03-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج میونسپل سرینگر nj

از عدالت سب جج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

بالاجلاس مہرین مشتاق

رجسٹرار تحسین اینڈ ڈیٹھس
ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر
(نمویل)

بنام
Sabreena Showkat

سائل اسلامک

درخواست بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوقات

نام: Sabreena Showkat

تاریخ: 13-04-1993

معاملمندرجعنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ اسلامک نے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اوقات

نام: Sabreena Showkat D/o Showkat Ahmad

مورخہ 20-03-2023

بذریعہ اشہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے مذکر یا اشاعت اشہار کے اندر میں ہم عدالت میں آکر پیش کرے۔ بعدگزرنے معیا کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہذا میں 18-03-2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تحریر الصد

سب جج میونسپل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر nj

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار صفاکدل سرینگر تحصیل عیدگاہ

مضمون: درخواست منجانب طہور احمد بھار ولد مرموم احمد اللہ بھار ساکنہ موضع گوری پورہ تحصیل عیدگاہ بغرض اجرائی شوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ

اشہار بمبراد آگائی ہرخاص دعام

معاملمندرجعنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل ہے کہ وہ طبقہ تجارتی تعلق رکھتا ہے اور اس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہ اس کے حق میں شوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ بڈمرہ بھار اجراء فرمائی جائے۔

بروے رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ سائل کا کتبہ بذیل درج ہے

طہور احمد بھار 39 سال سائل خود گورنمنٹ ملازم

سمانت عائشہ 35 سال زوجہ سائل گھریلو کام

بارون تلپور 10 سال پسر سائل ذریعہ تعلیم

لبنات تلپور 12 سال دختر سائل

اردم تلپور 07 سال

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کتبہ نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی گھٹن کو کوئی عزیما عرض ہو تو وہ بدعشرہ اخبار سادات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مذکر یا عزیما عرض و دالت حد کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعدگزرنے معیا کوئی مذکر یا عزیما عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تایب تحصیلدار SKU

BB Cant Elections-2023 Over 10000 Voters To Exercise Franchise On Apr 30

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ordinary Elections-2023 of Badamibagh Cantonment Board (BCB) are scheduled to be held on April 30, 2023 with over 1000 electorates going to exercise their franchise on scheduled poll day at 40 designated polling stations.

In order to review the preparations regarding conduct of BB Cant Ordinary Elections-2023, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here on Saturday at DC Office here.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer BCB, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Raies Ahmad Bhat, Deputy District Election Officer (DDEO), Shakeel Hussain, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jameel, Tehsildar South, Moean Azhar Kakroo and other Officials of District Election Authority were present in the meeting.

At the outset, the District Magistrate (DM), Srinagar held a detailed discussion with the CEO, Badamibagh Cantonment Board regarding preparations being made for smooth conduct of Ord-

nary Elections-2023 in all 7 wards under BCB.

On the occasion, the DC also took a detailed review about the Election schedule, appointment of Returning Officer, finalization of Electoral Rolls, Deployment of Staff, setting up of Polling Stations and other necessary arrangements related to casting of votes, etc.

The DC/DM was apprised that in consonance with the notification issued by the Ministry of Defense (MoD) for conduct of elections for 57 cantonment boards in the country, the 7 electoral wards in which Badamibagh Cantonment Board is divided are scheduled to go for polls on April 30 (Sunday).

The DC/DM was informed that over 10000 electorates are going to exercise their franchise on scheduled poll day at 40 designated polling stations.

The DC/DM assured the CEO Badamibagh Cantonment Board that all possible support will be given from District Administration Srinagar to ensure smooth, fair and peaceful conduct of BCB Elections-2023.

Pertinent to mention that the Cantonment Board elections were last conducted in the year 2015.

Water Supply To Be Affected In Parts Of Srinagar On March 14

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The authorities on Saturday said water supply in several areas of Srinagar will remain affected on Tuesday next on account of the cleaning of a service reservoir.

According to a notice issued by Jal Shakti Department, the service reservoir having capacity of 15 lakh gallons is to be cleaned due to which many areas will not get water supply from 10:00 am on March 14 to 06:00 am on March 15.

The areas where water supply will be affected include Chanapora, Nati-pora, Baghat, Rawalpura,

Rambagh, Hafta Chinar, Tulsi Bagh, Gogji Bagh, Wazir Bagh, Solina, Jawahar Nagar, Rajbagh, Humhama and adjacent areas.

Meanwhile supply to several parts of Srinagar was affected due to the damage caused to pipes near TRC, even as authorities said restoration work was on.

An official said the pipeline suffered accidental damage last night due to the ongoing work taken up under Srinagar Smart City project.

The water supply, he said, was affected in areas including Lal Chowk, Khayam, Rajbagh, Khanyar, Safakadal and several other areas.

Trial Run Of Buses On 3 New Routes In Srinagar To Begin Next week

Srinagar: In a significant development, the Transport Department of Jammu and Kashmir is all set to begin the trial run of buses on three new routes from Monday and has sought feedback from the public.

Under the route integration plan, the integrated bus service on three new routes shall cover the city's major areas.

On Route 1, from Parim-pora Bus Stand to Harwan, the bus will cover all routes leading through Budshah Chowk flyover via MA

Road, Dalgate, Nehru Park, Nishat and Shalimar and finally to Harwan.

For Route 2 from Budgam to Hazratbal, the bus will cover Humhama, Rambagh, LD, Rajbagh, TRC, Dalgate, Rainawari, and finally to Hazratbal.

Route 3, starting from Pantha Chowk Bus Stand, will travel through Sonwar, TRC via MA Road, Budshah Chowk Flyover, Karan Nagar, Safakadal, Eidgah to Soura via Dr Ali Jan and return via the same route to its starting point.

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/SBin Noor Tour And Travels" situated at 100 Dood Ganga Road Karan Nagar Srinagar

Public Notice

Whereas, Umrat Farooq sharoo W/O Arshid Noor Wani R/O Naveed Abad Bye Pass Batamloo intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of our proposed Travel Unit under the name and style " Bin Noor Tour And Travels" situated at 100 Dood Ganga Road Karan Nagar Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, We will submit State Subject/Domicil Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Pinting Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of our unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before our case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/ Financial Institutions/ Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, TRC Srinagar, Kashmir (e-mail ld-ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/ newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.

nj



Man works in a paddy field on a sunny day in Srinagar outskirts on Saturday - Photo: Abid Bhat/KO

'All Smart City Projects To Be Completed Before Apr 15'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Amir Khan who also heads Srinagar Smart City Project as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Saturday said that all the ongoing projects will be finished before April 15.

The SMC, under the aegis of Commissioner Athar Amir Khan has assured of completion of the road project before April 15.

"The clock is ticking and the pressure is on for the SMC to deliver on the ground", Athar Amir Khan said adding as the construction workers continue to toil hard, the city is abuzz with anticipation for the G-20 summit.

"Those projects which are

important as per the requirement of the G20 summit will be finished before April 15 and the already issued guidelines will be duly followed," Khan said.

"We are on our toes and our first priority is to finish the

The damaged pipes will be replaced and the water supply will be restored soon. Our site engineers and technicians are trying their level best not to damage any pipeline, and if it happens, it will get replaced on priority

projects of Lal Chowk [the heart of the city] at an earliest. If the weather suits our target, it is fixed and we will complete the full project in due time," Commissioner SMC said.

Talking about the recent scarcity of water supply in Srinagar city, Aamir said that such a situation arises when work is done on any road. "The damaged pipes will be replaced and the water supply will be restored soon. Our site engineers and technicians are trying their level best not to damage any pipeline, and if it happens, it will get replaced on priority."

"As the Chief of the Smart City project, I would like to request everyone to have patience and give us some time", he said.



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HIGHWAY STATUS



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

|  HIJRI CALENDAR 19 Shaban 1444 | PRAYERS | |
|---|---------|-------|
| | FAJR | 5 :23 |
| | ZUHR | 12:41 |
| | ASR | 4:54 |
| | Magrib | 6:38 |
| | ISHA | 7: 59 |

This Day In History

- 1917 - Stalin, Kamenev & Muranov arrives in Petrograd/St Petersburg
- 1917 - A German submarine sinks an unarmred US merchant ship, the 'Algonquin' on the same day that US President Woodrow Wilson gives executive order to arm US merchant ships
- 1925 - British government of Stanley Baldwin refuses to ratify Geneva agreement.
- 1928 - In California, the St. Francis Dam fails, killing over 600 people.
- 1930 - Mohandas Gandhi begins 200m (300km) march protesting British salt tax
- 1935 - Britain establishes 30 MPH speed limit for towns & villages
- 1938 - Nazi Germany invades Austria (Anschluss)
- 1941 - German occupiers confiscate AVRO studios in Netherlands
- 1942 - British troops vacate the Andaman Islands in Gulf of Bengal
- 1943 - Soviet troops liberate Wjasma
- 1945 - Italy's Communist Party (CPI) calls for armed uprising in Italy
- 1945 - USSR returns Transylvania to Romania
- 1947 - US President Harry Truman introduces Truman doctrine to fight communism
- 1951 - Communist troops driven out of Seoul
- 1957 - German DR accepts 22 Russian divisions
- 1959 - US House joins Senate approving Hawaii statehood
- 1967 - Indonesian congress strips president Sukarno of authority and names General Suharto as acting President
- 1968 - Mauritius gains independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1968 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1969 - 120 cannabis joints found at George & Patti Harrison's home

From KO Archives

Mufti Stages A Come Back In Kashmir Politics

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Former union home minister and senior Congress leader Mufti Mohammad Syed turned tables on ruling National Conference, when he defeated the party nominee, Mohammed Yusuf Taing, with a convincing margin of over 48, 000 votes. Mufti who succeeded in establishing lead over his rival, from the very beginning of the vote count, on Monday afternoon, maintained the same till he was officially declared elected in the wee hours of Tuesday morning.

Mufti polled 1,17,152 of 2,12,337 total valid votes polled, while Taing could manage just 68,447 votes. Union state minister for home affairs, Mohammad Maqbool Dar, a Janata Dal candidate finished a poor third by securing 11,063 votes while BJP, which admitted political front of surrendered militant group JK Ikhwan into its fold, on poll eve, got 6861 votes. All the 13 candidates in the fray, excepting Taing of the National Conference, lost their security deposits.

Mufti's victory is seen as his comeback in Kashmir politics, after remaining out of it for quite a long time. In the wake of 1987 Rajiv-Farooq accord, Mufti was relieved as state Congress chief by Rajiv Gandhi and in turn inducted into union council of ministers with a cabinet rank. From that day, Mufti virtually remained aloof from Kashmir politics, especially after he joined Janata Dal and rose to become the chief of party's central parliamentary board, besides holding sensitive portfolio of home affairs. It was only in mid-1996, when Mufti left Janata Dal to join back the Congress, that he started taking keen interest in Kashmir affairs again. He played an important role in finalising the list of party candidates for 1996 assembly elections. Though Congress performed very badly in those elections, it was more because of factionalism within the party with a section of Congress owing allegiance to Ghulam Nabi Azad, openly canvassing for National Conference candidates.

Now with having won the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat with a comfortable margin, Mufti is all set to give sleepless nights to his political opponents especially National Conference, which left no stone unturned to stop him from marching to Delhi.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 March, 1998)

Long Way for Women’s Empowerment

Mushtaq Hurra

The law enforcing mechanism too is vulnerable to prejudice as it is male dominant . Unless and until we crush women tormentors with iron fist, the rate of crime against women will not decrease. Government institutions of power and prestige must set examples in this regard

Placing Adam (as) in Jannah couldn't bring absolute solace to him until Allah SWT created Eve (as) as his companion.

Since that day, women have been standing with men as a great source of support, inspiration and motivation. Woman has been soothing Ibni-Adam since the day of her creation. She is equally admirable as a partner, mother, sister, friend and daughter and she has been performing all the roles with perfection.

Yet man has enslaved her for centuries together against her natural freedom. Many societies treat her intellectually deficient and poor. This is far from true. She is intellectually as vibrant as any man. During the last two decades, our daughters have begun to outshine boys in different examinations and fields. From secondary to senior secondary examinations, girls are bagging top positions in the elite competitive exams of the country as well. They're pioneering in every task they take up.

Women across the globe have exhibited their mettle in different fields of life. We have daughters who have brought laurels to humanity. Contributions of women in science, literature, politics,economy, sports and home-making is notable and praiseworthy. But we still have many male dominant societies across the globe where women are decimated to a mere toy. No doubt, different constitutions, laws and religious scriptures entitle women to certain rights and privileges but men have virtually snatched her rights and freedoms. She has been caged, gagged and choked by men.

Her plight dates back to the times when men began to distance her from education. Her backwardness and misery is largely due to her educational backwardness. And interestingly, women's education is the education of nations. The nations which have prioritized women's education, have emerged as the masters of the world. Educated women can ensure responsible, logical, healthy and honest citizens because mother is the first teacher of a child and her lap is the first school for a child. The foundation of a strong personality is laid in the lap of a mother. So, how can a nation dare to play with their education? A nation can't dream to attain sovereignty unless and until it prioritizes the education of its women.

The world has already taken big strides in the field of women empowerment and education. However, the state of women education and empowerment is not encouraging enough in countries like India , Pakistan and Bangladesh. Even as in Jammu and Kashmir the last few decades have belonged to women but we are still far behind the rest of the world and the country. According to the census of 2011, the female literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir was almost 58% against 66% at the national level. Though these figures are not very discouraging, our rural belt is far behind here. Our daughters in villages are not treated at par with boys. No doubt, in the recent past, the girl enrollment in our schools in rural areas has increased but a very meager number of

girls are given college and university education. The number of girl dropouts is exceedingly higher than that of boys. Why is it so?

Parents are probably either biased or unaware about the value of girl education. Government should ensure certain incentives and privileges for girl students going for college and education. There should be special scholarships to motivate more and more girl students to go for higher education. Imaams of our Masjids should deliver sermons about the value of women's education. Let the holy pulpits be used to free Binte-Hawa from the clutches of male dominance. Teachers and academicians have a greater role to play here. They

Another grave issue is the growing crime rate against women in our country. Sexual harassment, molestation bids and domestic violence are some causes of concern for all of us. During the recent past, we have witnessed a rise in the crime incidents against women in our India. Though there are laws and regulations, we as a society are still biased. The law enforcing mechanism too is vulnerable to prejudice as it is male dominant . Unless and until we crush women tormentors with iron fist, the rate of crime against women will not decrease. Government institutions of power and prestige must set examples in this regard.

Let the voice against women discrimination



should sensitize masses about the importance of women's education.

In many homes of our land, the birth of a son is celebrated enthusiastically but the birth of a daughter is not, the education of a boy is considered vital while a daughter's education is considered a liability. Boys are treated as heirs and daughters are considered the assets of other homes. Women are confined to certain domestic chores like cooking, cleaning, sweeping only. Women of the rural belt are forced to work in agricultural fields and farms. There's no leave, no respite for women doing domestic chores. We rarely ever credit women for domestic labour.

It's true that women are to be homemakers among other roles but we have plenty of examples where a woman is not considered more than a domestic servant. She is put to severe hardships at home particularly in rural India. She is considered a machine to produce children. Her plight is going from bad to worse. She is taunted, mocked and ridiculed for any mistake or error. She is subjected to ill-treatment for little dowry. She is kept away from decision making in her own home.

and exploitation go shriller. Let us all take the pledge to give her education, honor, respect and appreciation. She deserves equal opportunities in every field of life. Let her freedom and equality not be confined to the books of law and constitution.

The world is a virtual hell without our daughters. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad Salallahu-Aliahiwasalam has guaranteed a place next to Him in paradise for a man if he educates and marries off two daughters. And who was the most beloved person of our Prophet Salallahu-Aliahiwasalam? It was His daughter, Fatima Aliahi-Salaam. May Allah shower his choicest blessings upon our daughters , may Fatima Aliahi-Salaam be their true inspiration and role model.

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

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What Will It Take To End The War In Ukraine?

Serhiy Kudelia

More than a year after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the war appears to have reached a deadlock.

Since the liberation of Kherson by Ukrainian forces last November, both sides have been engaged in positional warfare with only minor changes in territorial control. The widely expected Russian winter offensive barely moved the front line and failed to seize long-contested towns in the Donbas region, such as Avdiivka, Mariinka, Bakhmut and Vuhledar.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian army used heavily fortified positions and Western-supplied arms to successfully repel Russian armoured assaults. Even if Russian forces ultimately seize the largely destroyed Bakhmut, the heavily fortified Ukrainian positions around the Sloviansk-Kramatorsk agglomeration would hinder any further movement.

On the other hand, the Ukrainian counteroffensive will likely target the southern areas of the Kherson and Zaporizhia regions where Russian forces have been building layered defence lines since the fall. Given the increased density of Russian forces along the southern front line, it will be hard for Ukrainians to repeat the sudden pincer movements which allowed for the quick liberation of occupied towns in the Kharkiv region and parts of Donbas last year.

If there are no decisive shifts on the battlefield over the next six months, however, the pressure for peace talks from Western governments will most likely grow. So would Ukraine and Russia be ready for negotiations?

Obstacles to peace talks in Ukraine

The string of successful military operations that led to the humiliating retreat of the Russian army last year strengthened public confidence in Ukraine's eventual victory. In a January survey of Ukrainians residing in the country, 89 percent of respondents said they were optimistic about Ukraine's future. The majority explained their optimism with their anticipation of victory over Russia.

NATO's willingness to provide Ukraine with increasingly more advanced weaponry, such as long-range artillery, air defence systems and tanks, has further boosted such expectations.

As a result, while in May 2022, 59 percent of survey respondents favoured negotiations with

Russia, by January, the number had slumped to 29 percent, with 66 percent opposing such talks.

Most importantly, the Ukrainian leadership and the public have started defining victory in maximalist terms. For 82 percent of those surveyed, peace with Russia is possible only upon the return of all territories occupied since 2014, including Crimea and the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces.

There is also overwhelming public support for joining NATO with more than 80 percent in favour of it in all regions of the country. Membership in the alliance is viewed by many as a non-negotiable position. Only 20 percent of respondents indicated they would support giving up on this goal for the sake of peace with Russia.

Territorial claims and foreign policy are not the only irreconcilable differences between Ukraine and Russia. Ukrainian leaders have also indicated that a complete victory would require the transformation of Russia's political regime and reparations from Moscow.

As Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba stated during the 2023 Munich Security Conference, until Russia changes, the "war will continue in one or another form".

In a recent interview, the head of the Ukrainian military intelligence service, Kyrylo Budanov, claimed that the return of all territories would mark the end of the first phase of the war only. In the subsequent stage, Russia's territories bordering Ukraine would have to be demilitarised to establish a "security zone around Ukraine ... 100 kilometres in depth".

These post-war scenarios, thus, presume Russian President Vladimir Putin's removal from power as the main condition for peace.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had already established this expectation in October when he signed a decree dismissing the possibility of talks with Putin. Such a position, in his view, should incentivise other members of the Russian political elite to "start thinking about what to do internally so that someone would agree to come to a negotiating table with them".

Obstacles to peace in Russia

While Ukraine is weary of negotiating personally with Putin, the Russian leader sees the war in broader terms as a conflict with the Western alliance and dismisses Ukraine as a Western puppet state. His press secretary Dmitry Peskov argued in a recent interview that by supplying arms to Ukraine, France, the United Kingdom and the United States had entered into a "direct military confrontation" with Russia.

Hence, the Kremlin is willing to accept only Western leaders as counterparts in peace talks. Moscow further rejects the legitimacy of the Ukrainian authorities on ideological grounds, accusing them of "favouring Nazis and promoting Nazi sentiments within the society".

The only Ukrainian politicians that the Kremlin has indicated as possible negotiating partners have long fled to Russia and, hence, could not realistically represent Ukraine. Since the West insists that nothing about Ukraine can be discussed "without Ukraine", the prospect of such talks seems particularly remote at this point.

Another crucial obstacle to negotiations is Russia's rigidity in its war aims, which combine territorial, ideological, and strategic demands. The annexation of four Ukrainian regions last September, only partially controlled by Russian forces, estab-

lished a pretext for additional territorial demands.

At the same time, a law adopted by the Russian State Duma in 2020 precludes any consideration of territorial concessions by establishing criminal responsibility for calls or actual attempts to yield parts of Russian territory.

Ideologically, Russia remains committed to framing the war as the fight against Ukrainian "neo-Nazis", which has to end with regime change in Kyiv. Strategically, Putin presents the war as an existential fight to preserve the unity of the Russian state and prevent its subordination by the West.

This, in his view, justifies the need to push back the Western presence from its borders and ensure that Ukraine remains outside of the Western alliance. The latter demand has been indirectly endorsed by China in its newly released 12-point peace plan. While recognising the importance of upholding the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, it calls for respecting the "legitimate security interests" of other countries and rejects the pursuit of security by "strengthening or expanding military blocs".

Although public opinion has been a weak constraint on the Kremlin's decision-making, its immense propaganda efforts suggest that Russian leaders still take public attitudes seriously. Over the last year, at least a third of Russians have consistently preferred talks over continued military operations. This share reached a peak of 44 percent in the fall of 2022 when Russian forces suffered a series of defeats in the southern and northern parts of Ukraine.

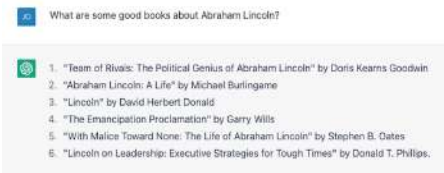
Similarly, in a February survey, 40 percent of respondents said they would like to see Russian troops withdraw from Ukraine without achieving their goals. Even more, about two-thirds of respondents (66 percent) indicated that they would support the signing of a peace agreement and an end to the military campaign if such a decision came from Putin. This suggests that the Russian leadership has a wider leeway in choosing the direction of this war, including a path of de-escalation, than its Ukrainian counterparts.

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

The Chatgpt Miracle

Jonathan May

It doesn't take much to get ChatGPT to make a factual mistake. My son is doing a report on U.S. presidents, so I figured I'd help him out by looking up a few biographies. I tried asking for a list of books about Abraham Lincoln and it did a pretty good job:



Number 4 isn't right. Garry Wills famously wrote "Lincoln at Gettysburg," and Lincoln himself wrote the Emancipation Proclamation, of course, but it's not a bad start. Then I tried something harder, asking instead about the much more obscure William Henry Harrison, and it gamely provided a list, nearly all of which was wrong.

Numbers 4 and 5 are correct; the rest don't exist or are not authored by those people. I repeated the exact same exercise and got slightly different results.

This time numbers 2 and 3 are correct and the other three are not actual books or not written by those authors. Number 4, "William Henry Harrison: His Life and Times" is a real book, but it's by James A. Green, not by Robert Remini, a well-known historian of the Jacksonian age.

I called out the error and ChatGPT eagerly corrected itself and then confidently told me the book was in fact written by Gail Collins (who wrote a different Harrison biography), and then went on to say more about the book and about her. I finally revealed the truth and the machine was happy to run with my correction. Then I lied absurdly, saying during their first hundred days presidents have to write a biography of some former president, and ChatGPT called me out on it. I then lied subtly, incorrectly attributing authorship of the Harrison biography to historian and writer Paul C. Nagel, and it bought my lie.

When I asked ChatGPT if it was sure I was not lying, it claimed that it's just an "AI language model" and doesn't have the ability to verify accuracy. However it modified that claim by saying "I can only provide information based on the training data I have been provided, and it appears that the book 'William Henry Harrison: His Life and Times' was written by Paul C. Nagel and published in 1977."

This is not true.

Words, not facts

It may seem from this interaction that ChatGPT was given a library of facts, including incorrect claims about authors and books. After all, ChatGPT's maker, OpenAI, claims it trained the chatbot on "vast amounts of data from the internet written by humans."

However, it was almost certainly not given the names of a bunch of made-up books



about one of the most mediocre presidents. In a way, though, this false information is indeed based on its training data.

As a computer scientist, I often field complaints that reveal a common misconception about large language models like ChatGPT and its older brethren GPT3 and GPT2: that they are some kind of "super Googles," or digital versions of a reference librarian, looking up answers to questions from some infinitely large library of facts, or smooching together pastiches of stories and characters. They don't do any of that – at least, they were not explicitly designed to.

Sounds good

A language model like ChatGPT, which is more formally known as a "generative pre-trained transformer" (that's what the G, P and T stand for), takes in the current conversation, forms a probability for all of the words in its vocabulary given that conversation, and then chooses one of them as the likely next word. Then it does that again, and again, and again, until it stops.

So it doesn't have facts, per se. It just knows what word should come next. Put another way, ChatGPT doesn't try to write sentences that are true. But it does try to write sentences that are plausible.

When talking privately to colleagues about ChatGPT, they often point out how



HOWEVER, IT WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT GIVEN THE NAMES OF A BUNCH OF made-up books about one of the most mediocre presidents. In a way, though, this false information is indeed based on its training data

many factually untrue statements it produces and dismiss it. To me, the idea that ChatGPT is a flawed data retrieval system is beside the point. People have been using Google for the past two and a half decades, after all. There's a pretty good fact-finding service out there already.

In fact, the only way I was able to verify whether all those presidential book titles were accurate was by Googling and then verifying the results. My life would not be that much better if I got those facts in conversation, instead of the way I have been getting them for almost half of my life, by

retrieving documents and then doing a critical analysis to see if I can trust the contents.

Improv partner

On the other hand, if I can talk to a bot that will give me plausible responses to things I say, it would be useful in situations where factual accuracy isn't all that important. A few years ago a student and I tried to create an "improv bot," one that would respond to whatever you said with a "yes, and" to keep the conversation going. We showed, in a paper, that our bot was better at "yes, and-ing" than other bots at the time, but in AI, two

years is ancient history.

I tried out a dialogue with ChatGPT – a science fiction space explorer scenario – that is not unlike what you'd find in a typical improv class. ChatGPT is way better at "yes, and-ing" than what we did, but it didn't really heighten the drama at all. I felt as if I was doing all the heavy lifting.

After a few tweaks I got it to be a little more involved, and at the end of the day I felt that it was a pretty good exercise for me, who hasn't done much improv since I graduated from college over 20 years ago.

Sure, I wouldn't want ChatGPT to appear on "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and this is not a great "Star Trek" plot (though it's still less problematic than "Code of Honor"), but how many times have you sat down to write something from scratch and found yourself terrified by the empty page in front of you? Starting with a bad first draft can break through writer's block and get the creative juices flowing, and ChatGPT and large language models like it seem like the right tools to aid in these exercises.

And for a machine that is designed to produce strings of words that sound as good as possible in response to the words you give it – and not to provide you with information – that seems like the right use for the tool.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Does Inconsistent Sleep Lead to Heart Disease?

Tyler Woods

If you've ever cared for small children, worked a night shift, or stayed out late at a party, you know the feeling of going to bed much later than usual and sleeping in the next day. Sleep researchers call this phenomenon "social jet lag." They have found it can lead to many negative consequences, including poor sleep quality, reduced cognitive performance, unhealthy eating patterns, depression, and anxiety.

Last month, a large new study looked at the link between social jet lag and heart disease. Researchers from Vanderbilt University Medical Center tracked the sleep patterns of more than 2,000 adults aged 45 and older over the course of a week and then scanned the participants' hearts.

The study found people with more irregular sleeping patterns—those whose sleep duration varied by more than two hours a night—were significantly more likely to have atherosclerosis, a build-up of plaque in their arteries that can lead to heart attack, stroke, and blood clots.

That is, people who slept for vastly different periods during the week—such as sleeping only six hours on Thursday night, then 10 hours on Friday night—had much higher risks of devel-

oping heart disease. This held true when researchers factored out other risk factors of heart disease such as sleep apnea, consistently getting too little sleep, body mass index, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

It's important to note: this type of study doesn't prove that irregular sleep patterns cause heart disease. But it does provide another piece of evidence that demonstrates a consistent sleep schedule is an important component of overall health.

Doctors don't understand why consistent sleep promotes cardiovascular health. One theory is that your circadian rhythm—your body's internal, 24-hour clock—helps to regulate heart function. At night, your heart rate and blood pressure change depending on what phase of sleep you're in. During non-rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, they drop and hold steady; during REM sleep, when you tend to have vivid dreams, heart rate and blood pressure rise and are more varied. Moving through these patterns consistently may be important for heart health.

Sleep experts recommend good sleep hygiene to help maintain a consistent sleep schedule. This includes:

- ▶ Cutting down on evening screen time. Televisions, computers and phones emit blue light,

- ▶ which affects the circadian rhythm. Avoid using these types of devices one hour before bed.

- ▶ Engaging in physical activity. Regular exercise can help you feel more tired. If you're exercising outside, the exposure to natural light helps to regulate your circadian rhythm. Avoid exercising two hours before bed to give your body time to wind down.

- ▶ Following a bedtime routine. Repeating the same steps each night will give your body cues that it's time to go to sleep.

- ▶ Avoiding long naps. Long naps can disrupt nighttime sleep. Try not to nap for more than 30 minutes and no later than early afternoon.

- ▶ Reducing alcohol and caffeine use. Although alcohol can make you feel sleepy, it leads to poor quality sleep. Caffeine can linger in your system, making it difficult to fall asleep.

The take-home message: A new study provides evidence that a consistent sleep schedule is linked to cardiovascular health.

– Psychology Today



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Job Aspirants

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, talking to media persons, the protesters accused the government of playing with their future. "We will intensify our protest in coming days if the concerned authorities fail to revoke the decision of hiring controversial and blacklisted firm APTECH to conduct computer based exams," they said.

The J&K services selection board has, however, defended its decision to hire the controversial Aptech agency, saying the blacklisting period of the firm ended last year.

Earlier today, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the matter regarding Aptech Limited is in the court and it is not appropriate to comment on the same.

"The matter is in the court for consideration and as per our county's law any comments may influence the judgment of the court. So it is inappropriate to comment on it," LG Sinha told media persons on the sidelines of an event in Jammu today, (KNO)

Assembly Of Rejected

and development.

The meeting chaired by former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference president Abdullah culminated with the decision to meet the Election Commission in Delhi for an early assembly election in the Union Territory and restoration of statehood.

The three-hour-long meeting, which was held at his residence here, also ended with a decision to meet national leaders from the Opposition camp in Delhi.

Describing the meet as a "non-event", Rana, a former legislator, said it was an assembly of "rejected, dejected, confused and frustrated politicians who are unnerved over the momentous changes brought in Jammu and Kashmir under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that have steered the Union Territory from a dark alley of death, destruction and gloom to become a bright, resurgent, peaceful and developing part of the country".

"The opposition cannot derail Jammu and Kashmir's tryst with peace and normalcy," he said and cautioned those part of the meet "not to assume the role of agent provocateurs to mislead the people for furthering their nefarious political agenda".

Peace and normalcy across Jammu and Kashmir is a sort of threat to their political existence and thus, they smell rat in all that is being done for the overall good of the Union Territory, he alleged.

Politically matured people understand the gimmicks of the self seeking political actors, who can go to any extent to remain relevant in politics, Rana said.

The BJP leader also said that the meet was of all those who have "developed vested interest over the decades in boiling Kashmir to bake their political loaves and sustain their enterprise" and advised them to shun "opposition for the sake of opposition".

Peaceful and resurgent Jammu and Kashmir is against the scheme of things of some political entities who feel uncomfortable with normalcy dawning and the Union Territory treading on the path of development and prosperity, Rana said.

"Every segment of society is part of the growth story and those pretending to be oblivious of the change taking place in both the regions (Jammu as well as Kashmir), irrespective of religion and caste, are betraying their sense of understanding," he said.

Referring to tourism in Kashmir, Rana said last year, the Valley witnessed record tourist footfall that was incomprehensible years ago when the region was pushed to a "dark alley of bandhs and stone pelting".

That situation has now totally changed with economic activity gaining momentum, development getting impetus and people's participation in governance becoming predominantly discernible, the BJP leader.

The Doors Of

took out a peaceful march from Bohri to Talab Tilloo on the outskirts of the city and the marchers later dispersed after being stopped

by police.

"The people of J&K are wise and intelligent. They understand the situation very well," Sinha said.

Asked about the all-parties meeting likely to be chaired by NC president Farooq Abdullah at his residence later in the day with property tax being one of the issues on the agenda, Sinha said he does not speak on political issues.

"I believe, we have not left any scope for them on such issues. The interests of the people of J&K have been given top priority while framing the property tax policy. The tax amount fixed is one-tenth of the tax being paid by the people in Shimla, Ambala, and Dehradun," he said.

He said there will be no tax on property in rural areas and 40 per cent population in urban areas, where 40 per cent of people have to pay around Rs 1000 annually.

Similarly, Sinha said there are 1.01 lakh shops, out of which 46 per cent of shops fall below 100 square feet and have to pay around Rs 700 annually and 36,000 shopkeepers only Rs 2000 annually on account of property tax.

"We have issued toll-free numbers and sought suggestions from the public if they feel there is a scope for improvement. If there is a need for any relief, we will definitely give it to the public," he said, adding his doors are open for dialogue on the issue.

On the protests by job aspirants over hiring of a previously blacklisted company for conducting computer-based written tests, he said "the issue is before the court and the Constitution does not permit me to speak on it."

Earlier, the LG expressed satisfaction on the progress of the projects he inspected today.

"The aspirations of the people of Jammu would be fulfilled soon. These projects will boost the Tourism in Jammu and the footfall of tourists from outside will increase the economic activities and income of the people," he added.

The LG reviewed ongoing construction work of Jambu Zoo, Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams and Tawi Riverfront Project.

He ascertained the progress of the work being carried out at all the three sites, and laid emphasis on timely completion of the projects.

During his visit at the construction site of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Sinha interacted with the temple officials and asked them to start construction of a Gurukul and Health Centre simultaneously.

Later, he made an inspectional visit to Tawi Riverfront project site, which envisages to reduce erosion & flood and to provide socio-cultural amenities for sustainable development of the city.

"The vibrant riverfront will ensure urban infrastructure sustainability. Once completed, the project will provide unique business opportunities and help in overall social upliftment. With social infrastructure and recreation facilities, Tawi Riverfront will enhance the quality of life of the citizens," he said.

Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Government Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment briefed the LG on the progress of Jambu Zoo. He informed that the high level team of Central Zoo Authority will be visiting for the final inspection this month and the entire process will be completed within the time frame. (With PTI inputs)

Govt Committed

the Lt Governor about the endeavours of his organisation in the fields of education and social welfare. He also put forth the demand of establishing a Shardapeeth International University in J&K," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, while interacting with Prof Shastri said that the government is committed to promote Indian knowledge tradition and access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive environment in the educational institutions.

Saudi Deal

from Tehran's rapidly accelerating nuclear program and regional allies, like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Israel and Iran have also waged a regional shadow war that has led to suspected Iranian drone strikes on Israeli-linked ships ferrying goods in the Persian Gulf and assassinations of Iranian scientists, blamed on Tel Aviv.

A normalisation deal with Saudi Arabia, a wealthy Arab state and birthplace of Islam, would fulfill Netanyahu's prized goal, reshaping the region and boosting Israel's standing

in historic ways. Even as backdoor relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia have grown, the kingdom has said it won't officially recognize Israel before a resolution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Since returning to office late last year, Netanyahu and his allies have hinted that a deal with the kingdom could be approaching. In a speech to American Jewish leaders last month, Netanyahu described a peace agreement as "a goal that we are working on in parallel with the goal of stopping Iran."

But experts say the deal that broke out Friday has thrown cold water on those ambitions. Saudi Arabia's decision to engage with its regional rival has left Israel largely alone as it leads the charge for diplomatic isolation of Iran and threats of a unilateral military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. The UAE also resumed formal relations with Iran last year.

"It's a blow to Israel's notion and efforts in recent years to try to form an anti-Iran bloc in the region," said Yoel Guzansky, an expert on the Persian Gulf at the Institute for National Security Studies, an Israeli think tank. "If you see the Middle East as a zero-sum game, which Israel and Iran do, a diplomatic win for Iran is very bad news for Israel."

Even Danny Danon, a Netanyahu ally and former Israeli ambassador to the U.N. who recently predicted a peace agreement with Saudi Arabia in 2023, seemed disconcerted.

"This is not supporting our efforts," he said, when asked about whether the rapprochement hurt chances for the kingdom's recognition of Israel.

In Yemen, where the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran has played out with the most destructive consequences, both warring parties were guarded, but hopeful.

A Saudi-led military coalition intervened in Yemen's conflict in 2015, months after the Iran-backed Houthi militias seized the capital of Sanaa in 2014, forcing the internationally recognized government into exile in Saudi Arabia.

The Houthi rebels welcomed the agreement as a modest but positive step.

"The region needs the return of normal relations between its countries, through which the Islamic society can regain security lost from foreign interventions," said Houthi spokesman and chief negotiator Mohamed Abdulsalam.

The Saudi-backed Yemeni government expressed some optimism and caveats.

"The Yemeni government's position depends on actions and practices not words and claims," it said, adding it would proceed cautiously "until observing a true change in (Iranian) behavior."

Analysts did not expect an immediate settlement to the conflict, but said direct talks and better relations could create momentum for a separate agreement that may offer both countries an exit from a disastrous war.

"The ball now is in the court of the Yemeni domestic warring parties to prioritize Yemen's national interest in reaching a peace deal and be inspired by this initial positive step," said Afrah Nasser, a non-resident fellow at the Washington-based Arab Center.

Anna Jacobs, senior Gulf analyst with the International Crisis Group, said she believed the deal was tied to a de-escalation in Yemen.

"It is difficult to imagine a Saudi-Iran agreement to resume diplomatic relations and reopen embassies within a two-month period without some assurances from Iran to more seriously support conflict resolution efforts in Yemen," she said.

War-scarred Syria similarly welcomed the agreement as a move toward easing tensions that have exacerbated the country's conflict. Iran has been a main backer of the Syrian government, while Saudi Arabia has supported opposition rebels trying to overthrow the UN recognised government.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry called it an "important step that will lead to strengthening security and stability in the region."

In Israel, bitterly divided and gripped by mass protests over plans by Netanyahu's far-right government to overhaul the judiciary, politicians seized on the rapprochement between the kingdom and Israel's archenemy as an opportunity to criticize Netanyahu, accusing him of focusing on his personal agenda at the expense of Israel's international relations.

Yair Lapid, the former prime minister and head of Israel's opposition, denounced the agreement between Riyadh and Tehran as "a full and dangerous failure of the Israeli government's foreign policy."

"This is what happens when you deal with

legal madness all day instead of doing the job with Iran and strengthening relations with the U.S.," he wrote on Twitter. Even Yuli Edelstein from Netanyahu's Likud party blamed Israel's "power struggles and head-butting" for distracting the country from its more pressing threats.

Another opposition lawmaker, Gideon Saar, mocked Netanyahu's goal of formal ties with the kingdom. "Netanyahu promised peace with Saudi Arabia," he wrote on social media. "In the end (Saudi Arabia) did it with Iran."

Netanyahu, on an official visit to Italy, declined a request for comment and issued no statement on the matter. But quotes to Israeli media by an anonymous senior official in the delegation sought to put blame on the previous government that ruled for a year and a half before Netanyahu returned to office. "It happened because of the impression that Israel and the U.S. were weak," said the senior official, according to the Haaretz daily, which hinted that Netanyahu was the official.

Despite the fallout from Netanyahu's reputation, experts doubted a detente would harm Israel. Saudi Arabia and Iran will remain regional rivals, even if they open embassies in each other's capitals, said Guzansky. And like the UAE, Saudi Arabia could deepen relations with Israel even while maintaining a transactional relationship with Iran.

"The low-key arrangement that the Saudis have with Israel will continue," said Umar Karim, an expert on Saudi politics at the University of Birmingham, noting that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank remained more of a barrier to Saudi recognition than differences over Iran. "The Saudi leadership is engaging in more than one way to secure its national security." (AP)

Govt Probes 2247

(Law) H&ME, Under Secretary to the Government H&ME (HRM) and section officer, H&ME (HRM) will be its members.

The committee has been directed to take a policy decision once for all to settle the issue by applying a common yard stick to 2274 employees.

It will also take a decision against the officers and officials, who were involved in the illegal appointments.

The committee has been asked to submit its report within 30 days.

J&K Parties

Union Territory.

"The meeting was convened to discuss the prevailing situation, unrest among the people and discuss future course of action. All leaders put forth their view point and it was unanimously decided that we will go to Delhi and meet the national leaders to brief them about the issues being faced by the people.

"We will brief them and seek their help in restoration of full statehood and democratically elected government.

The Prime Minister and Union Home Minister say there is peace, if this is true, then why do they not hold the assembly election?" Abdullah told reporters after the meeting.

"The last assembly elections in J&K took place in 2014 and there is a Supreme Court ruling that the polls must be held within six months of the dismissal of an elected government. People want a popular government back in place," he said.

Referring to the anti-encroachment drive and imposition of property tax, he said an extraordinary situation prevails in J&K where orders are passed in night by the Lt Governor Administration and implemented the next day.

"We want a popular government and statehood. Not a truncated statehood but a powerful statehood like every other state has a right to. This is for the first time in the history of the nation that a proud state has been reduced to a UT, a tragedy for the nation," Abdullah said.

He said J&K is an integral part of the nation and not separate.

Asked whether they will meet the Prime minister and home minister during their visit to the national capital, he said it will be decided later.

"After returning from Delhi, we will meet here (in Jammu) again and a similar exercise will be held in Kashmir to chalk out the future course of action," he said.

Abdullah condemned the lathicharge on the job aspirants protesting against the hiring of a previously blacklisted company by the administration to conduct computer-based written tests.

He said LG administration is not a people's government and neither the LG nor his

officers has any stake to face the public in elections.

The leader also accused the BJP of fanning communal fire and dividing people on religious lines.

"Mahatma Gandhi saw a ray of hope in J&K at the time of partition when entire country was engulfed in communal violence. We are proud that the communal brotherhood still prevails in J&K, which is secular, and will remain so," he said.

Asked whether Democratic Azad Party chairman and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad was also invited to the meeting, he said "doors are open for everyone."

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami said the meeting was a message to the people that all of them are united and will not let them down.

"Our message to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is that there were attempts to divide us and break our ranks but we are united and will not let you down. We have come together to safeguard the constitution and strengthen democracy," Tarigami said.

Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani, PDP leader Amrik Singh Reen, National Panthers Party leader Harsh Dev Singh, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and district development council member T S Tony, Dogra Sadar Sabha president Gulchain Singh Charak, Shiv Sena (UTB) leader Manish Sahni and mission statehood president Sunil Dimple were among the leaders present in the meet.

Patwaris Defer

including enhancement in grade pay of Patwaris from Rs 2400 to 2800, ban on direct recruitment of Naib Tehsildars, creation of Girdawar circles and rationalizing of Patwar halqas.

Malla said the strike has not been called off but deferred for one month and in case the government failed to fulfill their demands, they will begin strike afresh. He said many organizations supported their strike and pressed for the early redressal of their demands.

"We don't want to confront the government, nor do we want people to suffer. We have decided to suspend our strike for one month as the government endorsed our demands and sought one month's time to fulfill the same. In case our demands are not fulfilled, we will begin the strike afresh," said Malla.

He said the AJKPA held online and offline meetings with the government during these eleven days, however the government did not budge, prompting them to adopt a 'stubborn' approach.

He said the government, after the last meeting, sought three month time to consider their demands and requested them to call off the strike for the larger interest of the public.

"We attended the virtual meeting with Commissioner Secretary Revenue, Piyush Singla, who sought three months' time to consider our demands. However, we outrightly declined his offer and sought redressal of our demands within one month," he added.

Malla said the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere while Div Com Kashmir and Commissioner Secretary Revenue gave patient hearing to them. He also extended gratitude to the people for facing problems on account of their eleven days strike.

Soldier Arrested

AK assault rifle, seized, according to the official.

He said the inquest proceedings were conducted in a highly professional manner taking into consideration all aspects and evidence, and closed on merits with the registration of the murder case.

Commander Visits

high degree of readiness at all times.

He said President AFFWA (Regional), Anita Sinha, who accompanied the Air Marshal, visited various ventures run by the station for the welfare of the families of air-warriors.

A meeting of all ladies of the station was also organised, the spokesperson said.

He said to promote the esprit de corps, a health run was organised with all air warriors of the station that was led by Sinha.

5 Rusted

they said, summoned the bomb disposal squad to the spot. All five grenades were successfully defused by the BDS without causing any damage, they said. (GNS)

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

Police Asks Women Not To Hesitate In Reporting Crimes Against Them

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Baramulla district police in Jammu and Kashmir celebrated International Women's Week on Saturday with senior officers appealing to women not to hesitate in reporting crimes against women while assuring them of prompt action.

Addressing the event, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amod Ashok Nagpure said respecting women should not be limited to a day or a week, but they should be respected every day.

He said men do not have any right to harass women. If they can respect women at their homes, then why not respect those elsewhere, Nagpure said.

"There is no need to hesitate while reporting any such incidents. You should not feel ashamed. Instead, the person who does wrong should be ashamed. If any man is indulging in any wrong act against you, then you should have the power to slap him, you should be able to hit him with your shoe, you will have to take such a step," the senior police officer said.

Speaking to reporters, Deputy superintendent of police, (probationary), Kubra Nazir, who is currently SHO of the Boniyar police station, said the police are there to help the women and such cases will be attended to on a priority basis.

Nazir said that if any woman is suffering from any abuse or sees another woman suffering, then she should come forward to report it without any hesitation.

"The police will take cognizance of the offence and do the needful," she said.

Nazir said that International Women's Week was observed from March 4 to 11 to celebrate the achievements of women and to fight against the evils against them in society.

"We all, together, men and women, have to fight such evils to make the society gender-equal," she said.

Meanwhile, the centre administrator of One-Stop Sakhi Centre, Baramulla, Bushra Karamat said the centre has registered 192 cases in which it has successfully held mediation talks with 140 families.

DC Baramulla Discusses Four Lane Highway Project

Redouble Efforts For Timely Completion Of This Strategically Important Project: Dr Sehrish To Officers



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar Saturday convened a meeting of concerned officers here to discuss the possession of land and other related matters regarding construction of National Highway Four Lining under Package A1 and AB from Narbal Pattan and Tappar Sangrama.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held wherein the DC asserted that the project is of strategic importance and stressed upon the concerned officers to redouble their efforts so that the project is completed in a time bound manner.

Discussing various issues related to the project, the DC directed the officers of Revenue Department to handover the possessed land in first instance to Beacon Authorities so that the work is assigned to them and accordingly the other formalities are carried out including disbursement of funds for land acquisition.

Dr Sehrish also directed R&B Department to make auction within 10 days duration for chopping down of trees falling under A1 and AB package be-

sides directed Divisional Forest Officer to make a detailed Project Report for planting more trees so that the deficiency of trees is made up and beautification of the road and afforestation is not compromised.

The DC also passed on spot directions to resolve the issues hindering the project.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Tariq Ahmad Reshi; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Sub Divisional Magistrate Pattan, Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg, OC BEACON besides all concerned functionaries of Revenue, R&B and Social Forestry Departments were present in the meeting.

Earlier, the DC chaired a meeting with Revenue officers to discuss the change of Land use in the district.

On the occasion, threadbare discussion was held with regard to the process of change in land use from agricultural to non-agricultural activities in the district.

While taking a comprehensive review, DC enquired about the status of NOCs being issued in favour of applicants and applications received till date besides their reporting and follow up status by the concerned departments.

DENIAL OF SECURITY CLEARANCE

RPO To Take Up Issue Of Job Aspirants With CID Officials

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The regional passport office (RPO) will take up the issue of denying security clearance to various job aspirants with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) wing of the Jammu and Kashmir police, a senior official said.

During an interaction with media, Regional Passport Officer (RPO) for Kashmir and Ladakh, Davinder Kumar said that he was aware about the denial of security clearance by CID to the youth who want to go outside for taking up jobs.

"I have noted down the issue. I will take it up with a meeting with the officials of CID," he said.

However, Kumar quickly added that CID doesn't have any personal issues with anyone and whosoever is involved in any criminal activities or has an FIR, is barred from getting a passport.

Notably, on March 5, The Hindu reported that the delayed or no police verification or adverse police reports have left hundreds of job aspirants who wanted to travel abroad in lurch.

Pertinently, the Regional Passport Office organized a special camp on Thursday where they handed over passports to over 700 Hajj aspirants in Srinagar.



Kumar, while talking to reporters, said he had sought permission from the central government to hold a special camp for Hajj aspirants.

He said that his office doesn't delay issuance of the passports, but the applicants don't complete the formalities and many times the documents are mismatched.

On being asked about the delay from CID for issuing Police Verification Report (PVR), Kumar said the delay is for those who are involved in any criminal activity or have an FIR.

"But if the FIR is on personal or land disputes, there shouldn't be any hurdle in issuing the PVR," Kumar added.

On being asked about the pendency of cases at present, he said from over 6000 cases in December 2022 to nearly

2500 cases, they have been trying hard to bring the number of pending cases to zero by the end of March.

About the rush in the passport office Srinagar, the RPO said they have provided all the services online but when the appointment of passport verification is being issued, the office witnesses the rush.

When asked about opening a few centers in North and South Kashmir to minimize the rush, Kumar responded that approval from a high level was required for such a move.

He further added that if anyone has any issues related to their passport, they should hesitate to reach out to the officials.

"We are here to resolve your issues, the people should come here and take up their grievances with us," he added.

MeT Predicts Cloudy To Dry Weather In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for partly cloudy to mainly dry weather, the minimum temperature recorded a slight rise in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that generally cloudy weather with light rain at isolated to scattered places was expected on March 13 and from 14th-17th, generally cloudy weather with dry weather was expected.

"Afternoon thunderstorms at isolated places can't be ruled out," the official said, adding, "generally cloudy with intermittent light rain with thunder at scattered places during March 18-21st."

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 3.4°C against 3.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.1°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 while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.4°C against minus 1.2°C on the previous night.



Kokernag recorded a low of 5.3°C against 4.3°C on the previous night and it was 3.4°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.0°C against 0.6°C on the previous night and it was 5.5°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 1.2°C against 0.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the north Kash-

mir area. Jammu recorded a low of 15.5°C against 14.6°C on the previous night. It was 1.4°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 4.3°C (above normal by 0.2°C), Batote 9.2°C (above normal by 3.3°C), Katra 13.7°C (2.2°C above normal) and Bhardwah 6.6°C (3.5°C above normal).

Ladakh's Leh and Kargil, he said, recorded a low of minus 4.8°C and minus 16.7°C respectively.



MoS Jitendra Singh Assesses Progress On Mega Projects In Doda

Observer News Service

DODA: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess progress on mega development projects being executed under NHIDCL, NHPC and GREF in Doda.

District Development Commissioner, Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, presented an overview of achievements and progress recorded by BRO (GREF) and NHIDCL in creating and augmenting road infrastructure in Doda and Kishtwar districts.

NHPC authorities also gave detailed project wise information to the Union Minister about their projects. It was informed that hydroelectric project (HEP) Keru shall be ready for commissioning by 2024, while HEP Kwar and HEP Pakal Dal shall be ready by 2026 and 2027 respectively.

Union Minister reviewed

Sudhmahadev Dranga Tunnel, Goha- Khalleni road, Khalleni-Khanbal road, Khalleni Tunnel and Sangpura- Vailo tunnel being executed under NHIDCL.

Dr Jitendra Singh, while responding to demand of local representatives regarding allocation of employment in the mega projects for local youth, directed DC Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav to ensure that all get their due share in employment in all the government projects under NHPC and NHIDCL.

He reiterated that it is the endeavour of present government led by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to trickle down the benefits of all the centrally sponsored schemes to the deserted lot and to the last person in the queue.

Union Minister asked the executing agencies and the local administration to redouble their efforts, make use of latest technology and work in coordination to come up to the expectations of public.

'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

CBC Organises Awareness Programme For Tribal Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on Saturday organised a one day Integrated Communication and Outreach Program (ICOP) on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) in Srinagar.

The awareness programme was organised by CBC's Field Office Srinagar at the Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel in Gogji Bagh.

The outreach programme was organised for sensitisation of students from the tribal community about AKAM and inform them about various scholarship and skill development schemes launched by the government for them. Information about AKAM and other public welfare schemes of the government particularly for the tribal welfare was displayed through informative standees and printed awareness material.

Mudasir Hussain Choudhary, Secretary Srinagar Municipal Corporation was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his presidential address he lauded CBC for organising the outreach programme for the tribal students. He said that Amrit Mahotsav is a celebration of our unity in diversity. He said that we need to follow the noble ideals of our freedom fighters and take inspi-

ration from their firm resolve to fight the evils of discrimination, illiteracy, poverty and malnutrition in society. He urged students to take advantage of different scholarship schemes and skill development courses being offered by the government. Mudasir called upon the tribal youth to take lead in environment protection and mobilise their community for a sustainable living and be part of the development story of India.

In his welcome address Muhammad Sikander, In-charge, CBC Field Office Srinagar informed the participants about the objective of the awareness programme. He gave a detailed presentation about the mandate and functioning of the bureau and provided a brief overview of the activities undertaken by CBC in Kashmir.

Coordinator Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel Srinagar, Naseem Choudhary in his address said that AKAM presents an opportunity to every citizen to contribute in whatever capacities they can. He said that the government is making every effort to ensure uniform development of all the sections of the society. He called for a need to organise more such programs in future.

A quiz competition on AKAM was also organised by CBC on the occasion, wherein the winners were felicitated.

Director SCERT Applauds Stakeholders As 8th Class Exam Ends

Observer News Service

JAMMU: While expressing his gratitude to all the stakeholders on the successful conclusion of the 8th class examination, the Director of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, Prof (Dr) Parkshat Singh Manhas, on Saturday, said that perseverance and diligence are the hallmarks of those nations that accept change in their lives wholeheartedly.

After the government granted its approval for the implementation of the unified academic calendar and the holding of exams in the March-April session, around 1.79 lakh students from both government and private schools in the Jammu and Kashmir Divisions took the examination of the second term of the academic year 2022-23.

The examination to the 8th standard concluded on Friday.

"Some adjustments may initially seem challenging but you will soon realize that space is being created in your life for something new to develop," Prof. Manhas, while wishing good futures to the



students, said. "Change certainly brings with it unexpected dividends", he added.

It was decided to begin conducting the theory exam in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir in the first week of March, with the exception of specific areas rated as "difficult" in both divisions.

"The examination in these difficult areas shall be delayed and held from 2nd week of April as the calendar proposed, when these areas are fully accessible and the delivery of the examination stationery and confidential material is ensured," the government order No: 287-Edu of 2022 of 30/04/2022 reads.

The result of these examinations, the order reads, shall be declared simultaneously.

During his visit to the valley on

February 27, Prof. Manhas hurried right immediately to several examination centres to assess the preparations made by the authorities. Additionally, he visited centres where children with special needs (CWSN) were taking the test.

In the Jammu Division, he also visited various examination centres and inspected the arrangements put in place. He gave SCERT and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) officials instructions to conduct similar inspections and ensured that the students did not face any difficulties.

Prof. Manhas, who was appointed as the Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE), has also been given the additional responsibility of Director of the SCERT.

Dr Farooq Welcomes Iran, Saudi's Decision To Resume Ties

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of the Parliament from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Saturday welcomed Iran-Saudi diplomatic relations, hoping the rapprochement between the two countries will benefit the fostering unity among Muslims.

Welcoming the move, Dr. Farooq Abdullah said, "Restoration of ties and reopening of diplomatic missions between the two countries is a welcome step that will have wide-ranging implications across the Muslim world. I hope it acts as harbinger of greater cooperation in the Islamic world in particular and the world community in general. This dialing down of tensions and de-escalation will not just benefit the Gulf region, but the world at large," he said.



DC Kupwara Presides Over Transporters Meet At Town Hall

Urges For Quality Transport Services For Tourists, Visitors



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: All J&K Transporters Confederation today organized a mega meeting of All India National Auto, Taxi, Bus Transporters Federation and Bhartiya Private Transport Mazdoor Maha Sangh here at Town Hall Kupwara.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray was chief guest at the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that transporters are an important segment of the society and the District Administration is always committed to uplift the transport sector in the district to ensure better services to the people.

He said that as the tourist flow has increased manifold in the district in recent years, the need is to provide quality transport services so that tourists coming from outside the UT are able to travel and explore different

places including ALC areas of the district.

The DC said that the District Administration is always available for hand holding of those youth who are willing to start their own business ventures including purchase of commercial vehicles under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). He said Government schemes like e-Shram and Health Cards are also aimed to protect the welfare and future of the youth especially transporters and workers.

Earlier, President, All JK Transporters Association, Mohd Shafi put forth various demands including establishment of transporters welfare board and other issues pertaining to the transporters of Kupwara district.

The DC heard them patiently and assured resolution of their genuine demands.

ARTO Kupwara, Anees Ahmad; Representatives from Different Transport Associations outside UT, besides, local transporters were present on the occa

Demise Of Wushu Player Jabeena Akhtar Widely Condoned

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Condolences have poured in from all quarters after the sudden demise of international Wushu athlete and General Secretary Wushu Association Baramulla, Jabeena Akhtar of Dobiwan Tangmarg. Akhtar passed away on Friday at her residence.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar held a condolence meeting in this regard at the DC's office chamber on Friday at DC Office Complex Baramulla.

Jabeena Akhtar was known for her exceptional skills in Wushu as well as for her philanthropic work, using her honorarium to help the needy and starving.

The DC while terming it a huge loss for the entire district said that Jabeena's contributions to the world of sports will always be remembered and her



legacy will continue to inspire athletes in the region.

Deputy Director Information PR Kashmir, Bilal Mukhtar Dar also expressed his grief on the demise of Jabeena Akhtar.

He said she was courageous, talented and a master in her profession who played an important role to empower Kashmiri girls and bring up the hidden sportsmanship in them.

DoPE, Gandhi College Organises Cross Country Run



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 7km-long Cross Country Run for boys was on Saturday organised by the Department of Physical Education (DoPE), Gandhi Memorial College, from Nehru Park to Nishat Garden.

In all 80 students of the college participated in the said event.

The cross country run was flagged-off by the Principal of the College Prof (Dr) G.M Lone at 7:18 AM from Nehru Park.

Later, on the banks of Dal Lake

at Nishat Garden, a felicitation ceremony was organized where-in Principal Lone felicitated the first, second and third position holders namely Zakir Hussain of B.Sc IV Semester, Raqib Ali of BBA 2nd Semester and Waseem Ahmed Khouja of B.Sc 2nd Semester respectively.

Prof Bilal Ahmad Convener Sports presented vote of thanks in presence of Mr. Parvez Ahmed Motta (Co-Convener Sports Committee), Police officials of Nishat Police Station, faculty and supporting staff of the college.

IND v AUS: Gill Scores Classy Ton But Test Match Evenly Poised



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Shubman Gill gave ample display of his immense talent with a stylish hundred but India's batting unit didn't fully press home the advantage, ending the third day at 289 for three against Australia in the fourth Test, here Saturday.

Gill, who batted for nearly six hours scored a chanceless 128 off 235 balls, hit 12 sweetly-timed boundaries apart from a lofted six off Nathan Lyon to justify his selection in playing XI ahead of KL Rahul but India scored only 256 runs in 90 overs.

The hosts are still 191 runs behind Australia's first innings total of 480.

Leading the series 2-1, India need a 3-1 series win to qualify for the World Test Championship final. If India lose this match and Sri Lanka win their

ongoing series against New Zealand 2-0 then the island nation will qualify for the WTC final against Australia. In case India play a draw, and Sri Lanka fail to win 2-0, the WTC final will be between India and Australia in June at the Oval.

All eyes will be on Virat Kohli (59 batting off 128 balls), who looked purposeful and confident during his two hour plus stay at the crease, on the third day. There was no celebration after completion of his 29th half-century in Test cricket. The pace of his partnership with Ravindra Jadeja (16 batting, 54 balls) will set the narrative for the final couple of days.

The Indian team management is probably mulling batting the entire fourth day and try to get a lead in excess of 150 in order to unleash the spinners on the final day, when signifi-

cant turn will be on offer.

As of now, the pitch continues to be firm but also on the slower side. As the SG Test ball gets older, scoring becomes increasingly difficult and Australia took a cue from India. Till 93 overs were bowled, Steve Smith didn't take the second new ball, preventing India from getting some easy runs.

But the day certainly belonged to Gill, who is currently going through a purple patch in his career.

In a space of less than two months (since January 15, 2023), he has scored five international hundreds across three formats.

The pleasing aspect of his batting is how languid he is as he holds the shape when he drives through the off-side. He can also play the sweep and reverse sweep effectively without taking any unnecessary risk.

All India Police Football C'ship: Final Arrangements Reviewed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: ADGP Armed J&K S.J.M Gillani-IPS convened a meeting of concerned officers and officials on Saturday to review the final arrangements and preparations for the smooth and successful conduct of 71st B.N Mullik Memorial All India Police Football Championship 2022-23. The championship is being hosted by Jammu and Kashmir Police from 11th-21st March 2023 at Bakshi Stadium, in which football teams from across the country are participating.

A draw of lots for distributing the teams into groups and rehearsal ceremony for the opening ceremony of the championship were also held on the occasion.

The meeting convened and presided by the ADGP Armed J&K was attended by all the managers of football teams, designated nodal officers, members of J&K Football Association alongwith technical officers for carrying out different activities



related to the event.

Group (A) teams: CRPF, SSB, Sikkim and Chhattisgarh

Group (B) teams: West Bengal Police, HP Police, Chandigarh and RPF

Group (C): CISF, Maharashtra, Odisha and ITBP

Group (D): Mizoram Police, Gujarat Police, Jharkhand and MP

Group (E): Assam Rifles, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Puducherry

Group (F): Punjab Police, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Telangana

Group (G): Kerala Police, Arunachal Police, Bihar and J&K

Group (H): BSF, Haryana, Delhi, Assam and Goa

The opening ceremony is scheduled for today.

AIFF Officials, Referees Meet Ahead Of All India Police C'ship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A meeting was held between match officials from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and referees from (J&K) in preparation for the upcoming 71st All India Police Football Championship at Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from both the AIFF and J&K Football Association (JKFA) and focused on ensuring that the upcoming championship is conducted smoothly

and with the highest level of professionalism.

During the meeting, the officials discussed various topics related to the tournament, including the rules and regulations, player eligibility, and the scheduling of matches. They also reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the match officials and referees and emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest standards of fairness and sportsmanship throughout the championship.

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