26 year of publication KASHMIR OBSERVER 08 Ramazan 1444 | Thursday 30 March 2023 | Srinagar | Vol: 26 | Issue: 80 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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J&K Saw 14.64% Economic Growth: 1.88 Cr Tourist Footfall in 2021-22: LG

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir witnessed economic growth of 14.64% and tax revenue was up by 31%, as 1.88 crore tourists visited the Union Territory last year. This was stated by the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday. He also said investment proposals worth Rs 70,000 crore have been received for industrial development.

"There is huge improvement in the law-and-order situation. It has good results as an unprecedented number of 1.88 crore tourists visited lammu and Kashmir. This is the previous year's figure," Sinha told a press conference here.

"Till late night, people are enjoying Sikara rides. They are taking dinners at restaurants and hotels. Cinemas are running smoothly," he said.

The LG said night bus services have started in Kashmir. "I think this has started after 30 years. Schools and colleges and universities are running smoothly. Shops remain open," he said.

On the Rs 1 lakh crore budget approved for Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha said, "It is the first budget of Amritkaal. It is



the third time that Jammu and Kashmir's budget has exceeded Rs one lakh crore to ensure development. This budget will give a fillip to the development jour-

ney during Amritkaal.' "We are trying to fulfil the dream of new Jammu and Kashmir during city in the country where propthe last three years," he said. erty tax has not been imposed.

The LG said the Rs 1,18,500 crore budget will fulfil the dreams of all. in imposition of property. We "I thank Prime Minister Narendra have imposed the tax after due Modi and Union Finance Minister consideration and with sensitiv-Nirmala Sitharaman from the ity," Sinha said while replying to

Jammu and Kashmir. This is the previous year's figure."

a question at a press conference. The LG drew comparison with neighbouring states and said there was no tax effect on 40 per cent of the residents in cities.

"There are 5.20 lakh houses in cities. Out of them, 2, 03,600 houses will only have to pay Rs 1,000 in a year. There is only some area of specific cities, rest of the houses will have lesser tax," he said.

Sinha said the money collected would be spent on fulfilling the aspirations of the people. LG said that genuine suggestions of the public on imposi-

tion of property tax would be considered. Sinha said that suggestions submitted by the people would be analysed and those found genuine would be considered.

Replying to questions on the cancellation of recruitment examinations, he said people expressed suspicions on three recruitment tests. "A probe was held by a committee and something was found in it. So we cancelled three examinations. CBI probe was also ordered. The agency which was involved in the examination was withdrawn," he said.

Elevated Metro Rail, 40,000 New Homes For Houseless, EWS In Coming Years

crossed uncounted

milestones and have

made attempts to turn

the dream of Naya Jammu

and Kashmir into a reality.

Under the guidance of the

Prime Minister, efforts are

and Kashmir peaceful and

He made these remarks

while addressing a news

conference on the Rs 118,500

Sinha said.

being made to make Jammu

prosperous and self-reliant,"

sserting that his government is determined to fulfill aspirations of the people, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that Jammu and Kashmir will witness large-scale development activities. including elevated light metro rail in Jammu and Srinagar, 40.000 new houses for houseless families, medicities in the twin capital cities besides exclusive markets for "In the three years of developmental journey, we



Snow Predicted On Higher Reaches Today

Srinagar- Weather department on Wednesday predicted intermittent rain and thunderstorm in plains and snowfall over higher reaches at most places of Jammu and Kashmir from March 30 to April 5.

A meteorological department official said that the thunderstorm may be accompanied by strong gusty winds.

Meanwhile the minimum temperatures recorded increase at most places with mercury settling below normal in J&K barring Gulmarg. The official said that Srinagar

recorded a low of 5.5°C against 4.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 2.6°C against 3.5°C on the previous night while Pahalgam, the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a low of minus 0.3°C against minus 0.6°C on the previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of 4.2°C, the same as on the previous night and it was 0.4°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.0°C against 0.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 4.3°C against 3.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 15.5°C against More on P6

'Wasteful Expenditure' Of Rs 7 Crore

CAG Raps J&K Bank For **Hiring Broadway Hotel**

Agencies

Srinagar- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pulled up the Jammu & Kashmir Bank for incurring a wasteful expenditure of Rs 7 crore by hiring hotel Broadway in Srinagar, which was not used at all for its operations. In its report tabled in the Parliament on Tuesday, the CAG said that the Bank entered into a lease agreement with the M/s Broad Way Enterprises Private Limited (firm) in December 2017 and March 2019 for hiring of space in Hotel Broadway for the opening of High Net worth Individual (HNI) Branch and housing its International Banking Division (IBD), respective-Report ly, at a monthly rent of Rs 150 per square feet. It hired the space

housing

its

International Banking Division

(IBD) citing space constraints at

the existing premises at Air Cargo

Complex, Srinagar. The Bank also

for

Red Flags HR Functioning Of SKUAST

iablighting shortcom-

J&K **POLL** PUZZLE **There Is Vacuum That Needs To Be Filled: CEC**

Press Trust Of India

core of my heart for this budget.

I am indebted to the Union home

LG said there was no state or

"Jammu and Kashmir was last

ON PROPERTY TAX

minister too".

THERE IS HUGE IMPROVEMENT IN THE LAW-AND-ORDER SITUATION. It

has good results as an unprecedented number of 1.88 crore tourists visited

New Delhi: Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Wednesday said the fresh



Govt Orders Probe Into Gujarati Conman's Visits

Div Com Asked To Submit Report Within A Week's Time

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory istration on Wednesday ordered a time-bound inquiry into the various aspects related to the visits of Kiran Patel who conned the security establishment in Jammu and Kashmir into believing him to be a PMO official and enjoyed five star protocol "brazenly" for a considerable period of time prior to his arrest earlier this month.

to the appointment of Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, IAS, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, as Inquiry Officer to inquire into the various aspects related to the visits of Kiran Patel to Kashmir during the past months and security arrangements made thereof," reads an order by J&K's Home Department

ings in manpower planning, appointments, career advancement and entitlements in the twin agriculture universities in Jammu and Kashmir, the CAG has called for immediate review of sanctioned strength to weed out redun-

> dant posts and adoption of UGC regulations More on P6

> > placed a work order at a cost of Rs two crore for development of the hired premises in February 2019. According to the CAG report, the Bank, how-

ever, in January 2020 decided to de-hire the premises due to a host of reasons. "The Bank. however. More on P6

BY THE TIME THE BANK DE-HIRED (JUNE 2020) PREMISES, IT HAD INCURRED EXPENDITURE OF RS 3.78 CRORE TOWARDS RENT and Rs 2.43 crore on the development of the premises. Out of Rs 2.43 crore, an amount of Rs 1.47 crore was spent on civil interior, furniture items that either could not be dismantled or were dismantled with substantial/ major damages. The dismantlement work was carried out (August 2020) at a cost of Rs 2.99 lakh."

revision of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir does not disturb schedule or conduct part of polls and the poll panel is aware that there is a 'vacuum'' in the Union territory which needs to be filled. Kumar said in J-K, the special summary revision took place taking October 1 as the qualifying date, whereas in the rest of the country, January 1 is the qualifying or cut-off date.

"We went for October 1 as the qualifying date there (I-K) as we wanted to complete the process as fast as possible. This process (fresh special summary revision) is to bring them (J-K) at par as far as the voters' list is concerned." he told reporters at

a press conference convened to announce schedule for the Karnataka assembly polls.

Kumar was responding to a question on the fresh special summary revision of electoral rolls in the Union territory. "But nonetheless, it does not disturb the scheduled part, the conduct part that depends on various other factors which we will come back to you. We are aware that to be filled," the CEC said. A few days ago, the poll panel had ordered a fresh special summary revision of the electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir.

While April 1 has been set as the qualifying date for the summary revision, May 10 is the date for publication of the final electoral rolls.

Following a recent amendment in the election law based on the More on P6



New Excuses To Delay Polls: Omar

there is a vacuum that needs

he Election Commission seems to be in no hurry to conduct the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir and manages to find "new excuses to delay" the elections, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday. "When asked about assembly elections in J&K, the chief election commissioner acknowledged a 'vacuum that needs to be filled'. Yet surprisingly the @ECISVEEP seems to be in no hurry to conduct elections, on More on P6

"Sanction is hereby accorded

"The Inquiry Officer shall identify the lapses on the part of the Officers/ Officials concerned and submit a detailed report within one week," it adds

Patel, a resident of Gujarat was on his third visit to the Kashmir Valley when he was nabbed by security officials from a five-star hotel in Nishat area of Srinagar

on March 2. More on P6

'Doctor' Faces Probe For Failing To Prove His Credentials

Agencies

Srinagar: A "doctor" practicing at a medical shop in the Main Market Budgam failed to prove his credentials and is being investigated by the authorities. The suspicions were raised after he failed to provide the

registration number and other documents, locals of the area told a local news agency KNO. We received information

about the self-styled doctor and a team from the revenue, police and health departments was sent to ascertain the facts, said the Chief Medical Officer

Budgam Dr Ayoub.

"The doctor in question has been prohibited from practicing after failing to submit the necessary papers on time," the CMO said, adding, "We have collected some documents from him, and an investigation is underway."

The alleged actions of the "doctor" have raised serious concerns about the safety and well-being of patients in the area, said a local, adding that this has also underlined the importance of stringent regulations and checks to ensure that only qualified More on P6

LG Greets People **On Ram Navami**

ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami. In a message the Lt Governor said that Lord Ram is the embodiment of righteousness, compassion, justice and high moral values. May the auspicious festival of Ram Navami strengthen our faith in the goodness of mankind, inspire all of us to rededicate ourselves to the cause of selfless service and usher in happiness, prosperity and well being of all, said the Lt Governor.

SIU Files Charge Sheet Against 5 OGWs

he Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in Shopian district on Wednesday filed a charge sheet against five militant associates arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. officials said. They were identified as Aaqib Hussain Nanda and Gowhar Manzoor Bhat, residents of Drabgam in Pulwama, Aasif Lateef of Babapora Zainapora, and Afloq Yousuf Digoo and Umer Hussain Dar of Naina Batpora, Pulwama. They were part of a conspiracy hatched More on P6

CRPF Man Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

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head constable of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) died of a cardiac arrest in Biibehara area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said here on Wednesday. They said that the CRPF personnel deployed at the minority guard post at Mehand village complained of chest pain and soon after he was rushed to PHC Srigufwara where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He was identified as Suneel Surain son of Shiv lal Surain of Jharkhand. The official said further proceedings in this More on P6

SIA Conducts Raids In Pulwama

A K E S

he Jammu & Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Saturday conducted raids in Achan village of south Kashmir's Pulwama in connection with the killing of a Kashmir Pandit. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that SIA conducted raids at Achan in connection with the investigation of killing of Kashmiri Pandit Sanjay Sharma. He said the sleuths of the investigating agency assisted by the local police and CRPF carried out raids in the native village of Sharma. More on P6

Labourer Dies At Zojila Tunnel Site

20-year-old labourer from Ramban working at Zojila Tunnel died of some unascertained cause in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, officials said on Wednesday morning. Identifying the deceased as one Haroon Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Hameed, resident of Bassan Ramban an official further said that the labourer died with them still looking for what led to his death. Confirming the death of the individual, a police official said that they are gathering the necessary details for possible cause of the death. (GNS)

12 Goats Charred To Death

t least a dozen goats were charred to death after fire broke out from a cowshed in Chadoora in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, reports said Wednesday. Locals said that fire broke out from a cowshed late last night in Repora village of the district. In the incident, they said, the cowshed was gutted while 12 goats were also charred to death. Meanwhile, an official said the cause of fire was apparently a short circuit, while police have taken cognizance of the incident-(KNO)



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Machine Language Predicts Bird Migration And Identifies Birds By Their Calls

The Conversation

With chatbots like ChatGPT making a splash, machine learning is playing an increasingly prominent role in our lives. For many of us, it's been a mixed bag. We rejoice when our Spotify For You playlist finds us a new jam, but groan as we scroll through a slew of targeted ads on our Instagram feeds.

Machine learning is also changing many fields that may seem surprising. One example is my discipline, ornithology the study of birds. It isn't just solving some of the biggest challenges associated with studying bird migration; more broadly, machine learning is expanding the ways in which people engage with birds. As spring migration picks up, here's a look at how machine learning is influencing ways to research birds and, ultimately, to protect them.

The challenge of conserving migratory birds

Most birds in the Western Hemisphere migrate twice a year, flying over entire continents between their breeding and nonbreeding grounds. While these journeys are awe-inspiring, they expose birds to many hazards en route, including extreme weather, food shortages and light pollution that can attract birds and cause them to collide with buildings. Our ability to protect migra-

tory birds is only as good as the science that tells us where they go. And that science has come a long way.

In 1920, the US Geological Survey launched the Bird Banding

Laboratory, spearheading an effort to put bands with unique markers on birds, then recapture the birds in new places to figure out where they traveled. Today researchers can deploy a variety of lightweight tracking tags on birds to discover their migration routes. These tools have uncovered the spatial patterns of where and when birds of many species migrate.

However, tracking birds has limitations. For one thing, over 4 billion birds migrate across the continent every year. Even with increasingly affordable equipment, the number of birds that we track is a drop in the bucket. And even within a species, migratory behaviour may vary across sexes or populations.

Further, tracking data tells us where birds have been, but it doesn't necessarily tell us where they're going. Migration is dynamic, and the climates and landscapes that birds fly through are constantly changing. That means it's crucial to be able to predict their movements.

Using machine learning to forecast migration

This is where machine learning comes in. Machine learning is a subfield of artificial intelligence that gives computers the ability to learn tasks or associations without explicitly being programmed. We use it to train algorithms that tackle various tasks, from forecasting weather to predicting March Madness upsets.

But applying machine learning requires data and the more data the better. Luckily, scientists have inadvertently compiled decades of data on migrating birds through the Next Generation Weather Radar system. This network, known as NEXRAD, is used to measure weather dynamics and help predict future weather events, but it also picks up signals from birds as they fly through the atmosphere. BirdCast is a collaborative

project of Colorado State University, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the University of Massachusetts that seeks to leverage that data to quantify bird migration. Machine learning is central to its operations. Researchers have known since the 1940s that birds show up on weather radar, but to make that data useful, we need to remove nonavian clutter and identify which scans contain bird movement.



Kashmir bearing Registration No: 1903040005 who perused his Ph.D programme on full time basis in the discipline of Political science through Department of Political Science and public administration and submitted his thesis titled« Political and economic impact of

INF



armed conflict on youth in Kashmir with special reference to Pulwama District : A study[»] under the supervision of Dr. S. Balamurugan, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Annamalai university of Tamil Nadu, is declared gualified for the award of Ph.D degree on 15th of March, 2023.

Sd/-Dy. Controller of Examinations Sd_/Controller of Examinations

Secrecy-I

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have Lost my 7th pass certificate issued by Govt High School Dhobiwan. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody haiving any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained Shahid Wani S/o Mohammad Altaf Wani R/o Utikoo Bangil Tehsil Karhama bmg_r

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

We Peerzada Itifaq Ahmad Makhdoomi S/O Gh. Mohammad Makhdoomi & Jawahera Akhter W/O Peerzada Itifaq Ahmad Makhdoomi R/O S.D. Colony B.K.Pora Present Housing Colony Ompora have purchased Plot No 1271 in Housing Colony Ompora Budgam from Sh. Bashir Ahmad Wagay S/O Abdul Rehman Wagay R/O 72-A Suthrashahi Srinagar, originally alloted in favour of Sh. Bashir Ahmad Wagay S/O Sh. Abdul Rehman Wagay R/o 72-A Suthrashahi Srinagar the following original papers issued by the J&K Housing Board. I have applied for transfer of leasehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

Peerzada Itifaq Ahmad Makhdoomi S/O Gh. Mohammad Makhdoomi & Jawahera Akhter W/O Peerzada Itifaq Ahmad Makhdoomi R/O S.D. Colony B.K.Pora Present Housing Colony Ompora.

mcb

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

I Mushtag Hussain S/O Mohd Amin Shah R/O Housing Colony Ompora Budgam have purchased Plot No 679 with 2 storev house in Housing Colony Ompora Budgam from Sh. Mohammad Akram Nengroo S/O Sh. Abdul Wahab Nengroo R/O Housing Colony Ompora Budgam, originally alloted in fayour of Sh. Gh Rasool Bhat S/O Sh. Gh. Oadir Bhat R/o Solina Srinagar the following original papers issued by the J&K Housing Board stands misplaced /not traceable, 1, Allotment Letter, I have applied for transfer of leasehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period. Mushtag Hussain S/O Mohd Amind Shah R/O Housing Colony Ompora. mcb

'Increased Maternal Education In India Linked With Lower Under-Five Deaths'

Press Trust Of India

Increase in maternal education in India is associated with reduction in preventable deaths in children under the age of five, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Health & Place, is the first to explore the relationship between maternal education and children's health in the rural-urban context in India.

"Understanding how education affects underfive mortality is crucial for understanding future population dynamics in developing countries," said study corrosponding author, Samir K.C from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria.

The researchers analysed five rounds of the Indian National Family Health Survey (NFHS I-V) conducted between 1992 to 1993, and 2019 to 2021.

The under-five mortality rate was calculated using data from a questionnaire, which collected detailed information about birth history data among women,



years, resulting in no sig-

nificant difference between

rural and urban areas, the

education, and especially

secondary education, was

found to reduce the risk of

under-five deaths across

have been no significant

differences in the under-

five mortality rate of chil-

dren born to mothers with

an education level below-

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These

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these tests is that they are

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lecular tests, which amplify

the genetic material of the

virus, immunological as-

says do not amplify their

sensitive. The risk is high that

an infected person might in-

correctly be told that they

community realised it was

time to look at methods

that were as accurate as

tests but could be used out-

side laboratories and on a

generation of rapid, accu-

rate, accessible and afford-

Scientists needed a new

don't have the virus.

This makes them less

The global diagnostic

molecular

The major challenge of

"In recent years, there

the surveys, they said.

maternal

researchers said.

Increasing

especially the date of birth ling for socioeconomic and and survival status of each maternal health predictors, live birth, and the age at the earlier surveys show death of each deceased live a higher risk of under-five deaths in urban areas that The questionnaire also have converged in recent

provided additional information such as age, education, religion, caste, and reproductive behaviours. The data gathered was then fed into a computer

model to analyse predictors of under-five mortality. The results show that

birth

under-five mortality remained higher in rural India across the five study surveys, which may be attributed to poor socioeconomic and healthcare conditions that prevailed there. However, after control-

but we know that in the past, the impact of maternal education on mortality differed between rural and urban areas," said study co-author Moradhvaj, who is also from IIASA.

"We found that women with a secondary education living in urban areas, experienced lower child mortality than their rural counterparts with a similar level of education. We did, however, not find the same effect in the most recent surveys," Moradhvaj explained.

Overall, maternal education, particularly secondary education, remained a protective factor for underfive mortality in both rural and urban areas, even after controlling for predictors the researchers concluded.

"While current policies seem to be on the right track, it will be important to increase the educational opportunities in rural and urban areas with a particular focus on secondary education for girls to ensure that we keep up the decline in the under-five mortality rate in both rural and urban areas in India," K.C. added.

applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the JKBOSE Bemina Sriagar within a period of seven days no objection shall be entertaind. Mohd Arif Shah S/O Gh Nabi Shah

I Mubasharul Islam S/O Mushtag Hussain Shah R/O Housing Colony Ompora Budgam have purchased Plot No 722 in Housing Colony Ompora Budgam from Sh. Mohammad Akram Nengroo S/O Sh. Abdul Wahab Nengroo R/O Housing Colony Ompora Budgam, originally alloted in favour of Sh. Farooq Ahmad Wanganoo S/O Sh. Ghulam Nabi Wanganoo R/o Baghe Sundar Karan Nagar Srinagar Presently Pati Kursoo Rajbagh Sringar the following original papers issued by the J&K Housing Board stands misplaced / not traceable. 1. Allotment Letter . I have applied for transfer of leasehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period. Mubasharul Islam S/O Mushtag Hussain R/O Housing Colony Ompora. mcb



I have lost my 12th class Marks Card bearing Roll No: 926627. Now I have

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PUBLIC NOTICE

R/O Kanihama Magam

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

Covid Testing Led To New Techniques Of Disease Diagnosis

The Conversation

In March 2020, weeks before the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Covid-19 a pandemic, its director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus delivered a speech in which he emphasised the importance of testing:

effective ...the most way to prevent infections and save lives is breaking the chains of transmission. And to do that, you must test and isolate. You cannot fight a fire blindfolded. And we cannot stop this pandemic if we don't know who is infected. We have a simple message for all countries: test, test, test.

The pandemic exposed critical shortcomings of existing diagnostic techniques. It revealed an urgent need for tests that are faster, simpler, cheaper and more scalable than existing methods, and just as accurate.

Three years on, the global face of diagnostics has changed. New techniques of disease diagnosis have been developed that can be applied to other emerging zoonotic pathogens such as disease X a hypothetical infectious disease that has the potential to develop into a pandemic.

As a molecular scientist with a keen interest in veterinary disease diagnostics, I have closely followed developments in the diagnostic space since the start of the pandemic. These emerging technologies, together with

conventional tests, have the potential to overcome

diagnostic procedures. tests into a country's healthcare system, clinicians and policy makers are better

at constant temperature. Immunological assays also helped. These tests can bottlenecks in the current

be used on-site or in the By incorporating these lab and are able to detect specific molecules such as antibodies and antigens. Antibodies are generated equipped to practise preciin a person's body when a sion medicine and to react foreign molecule (antigen) to potential outbreaks. invades the body.

The first diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes Covid disease) used established molecular techniques such as reverse transcription polymerase reaction (RT-PCR). These techniques detect and identify organisms by amplifying their genetic material millions of times. Running the tests

however requires trained technicians and expensive equipment.

As the pandemic became more severe, other ways to test for the virus had to be developed. Substances and compounds needed to effectively run diagnostic tests were in short supply and many countries did not have the kinds of sophisticated laboratories needed for the existing tests. Low- and middle-income countries like those throughout the African continent had limited finances too and not

able diagnostic tests. of Health in the US set up enough trained specialists to handle the demand. the Rapid Acceleration of Isothermal amplification Diagnostics programme (RADx) in 2020 to fund intechniques helped to address

the need. This is a simple novative point-of-care and home-based tests and to process which rapidly and effectively amplifies DNA speed up the development, and RNA (genetic material) validation and commercial-

isation of these tests.

One particularly interesting change in this space is the use of CRISPR. The technology was previously known for its use in gene editing.

But now it has revolutionised diagnostics with the launch of SHERLOCK and DETECTR. two innovative CRISPR-based kits cost-effective used for the detection of tests provide rapid results SARS-CoV-2.

These are particularly sensitive and specific and provide a visual colour readout using a commercially available paper dipstick, making them suitable for use as a point-of-care test.

The versatility of these techniques enables researches to apply the same principles to the detection of other infectious diseases too.

There have also been advances in using biosensors, nanotechnology, smartphone-based tests and wearable technologies for diagnostics.

Overall, in the past three years, the focus of disease testing has moved from simple detecting and understanding to incorporating speed, efficiency and portability of the tests.

While there is a lot to celebrate in the diagnostic space, problems remain. The National Institutes There are barriers in developing and disseminating tests, particularly in poorer countries. Fairer access to quality testing and improved data sharing between countries is needed to eliminate the inequity in diagnostics.

NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all the concerned that the 2nd Convocation is likely to be scheduled in the month of May, 2023. The provisional list of the students who in light of the statutory provisions have secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position in their respective batches and are eligible for award of Gold Medal and Certificate of Merit is available on University website www.iust.ac.in. Any student having any objection may contact the office of the Controller Examinations of at examinations@islamicuniversity.edu.in or visit personally by or before 04-04-2023 after which no claim whatsoever shall be entertained. IUST/Exam-Deptt/Convocation/23/541 Sd/-**Controller of Examinations** Dated: 24-03-2023 DIPK-NB-7077/22 DATED: 29-03-2023

Office Of The Principal Govt. Degree College, Anantnag

Khanabal. Anantnae 192101 (J&K) NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE "B" (CGPA:2.53) Website: www. adcboysana. ac. in Mail: principal@gdcboysana.ac.in Tel. No. (o) 01932-222308 Fax: 01932-223509

No: DCA/ Auction Paper /23/542 dated: 29-03-2023 **TENDER NOTICE**

Wax sealed tenders affixed with a revenue stamp of Rs. 6/- are invited from registered agencies/vendors for auction and Disposal of old periodicals including Newspapers and Magazines of the college. The tenders accompanied with a CDR of Rs. 1000/- should reach to the office of the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this tender notice.

Terms and Conditions

1. The rates should be quoted F.O.R College inclusive of all taxes. Tenders will be opened one day after closing date. Interested tenderers may present themselves on the day of opening of tenders.

3. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any and/ or all the tenders or cancel/withdraw the tender notice without assigning any reason thereof.

Principal DIPK-18989/22 Govt. Degree College, DATED: 29-03-2023 Anantnag

Public Notice

I have changed my name from Tanavush Fatima Khan to Tanavush Fatima. In future I will be known as Tanavush Fatima. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

Tanavush Fatima

SS

Subject:- Grant of Registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name & style "M/s Tinda Tour And Travel ' Situated at Saidakadal Rainawari..

Public Notice

Whereas, I Mohammad Abbas Akhoon S/O. Mohammad Aslam Akhoon Tinda Mohalla Nehrupark Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s Tinda Tour And Travel" situated at Saidakadal Rainawari, District Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile 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-Register , 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 my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (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.

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KASHMIR OBSERVER[™] | ∩ Srinagar | Thursday | 30-03-2023

DESK Notifies New Timings For Schools Outside Municipal Limits

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Wednesday ordered change in school timings from April 1 for all schools of Kashmir division falling outside municipal limits.

An order was issued by Director of School Education (DSEK), Tassaduq Hussain Mir in this regard.

In the order, he said the new timings for the government and the recognized private schools falling outside Srinagar Municipal limits will be from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

The orders shall be implemented from April-01. 'The order and the instructions shall be adhered to strictly by all the concerned institutions," the DSEK said.

Earlier on February-28, the School Education Department had changed school timing in Srinagar city from 9Am to 2 Pm.

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

Pertinently, in the backdrop of ongoing work for Srinagar smart city, the timing of all schools within the Srinagar municipal limits shall remain the same from 9Am to 2Pm.



As Mosques remained jampacked with worshippers, KU students offered Zuhar prayers at varisty campus on 7th day of the holy month of Ramazan, KO Pic Syed Mohammad Burhan

Major Crackdown Launched Against Illegal Profiteers In Srinagar

Pays Obeisance At Dastgeer Sahib, Zadibal Imambarah

Div Com Visits Shrines,

Mosques In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of the Holy Month of Ramadan and forthcoming Shab-i-Qadir and Eid ul Fitr, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri conducted an extensive visit of Shrines and Mosques in Srinagar.

He was accompanied by Addl Commissioner Kashmir, Qazi Sarwar, Commissioner SMC & CEO Smart City, Athar Amir; officers of line departments including Power, PHE, R&B, Sanitation, SMC, Waqf Board etc.

While reviewing the availability of electric and drinking water facilities. Div Com directed the concerned to ensure uninterrupted supply of services to facilitate devotees visiting these Shrines and Mosques.

He instructed illumination of Dargah Hazratbal, Dastgeer Sahib Shrine and Imambarah to reflect an environment of festivity.

He also instructed Darn Hazrathal Management Committee & SMC to make the currently defunct water fountain in the frontier lawn of Shrine functional

at the earliest.

Besides, he issued directions for grass cutting and landscape development

directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad the District, to control prices of food items and ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards.

The checking squads headed by SDMs with Tehsildars of Srinagar South, Eidgah, Shalteng, Panthachowk, Srinagar North, Chanapora and Khanyar Tehsils conducted intensive market checking in Sonwar, Dalgate, Drugjan, Lal Chowk, Rawalpora, Sanat Nagar, Channapora, Hyderpora, Eidgah, Panthachowk, Zewan, Bemina, Nishat, Harwan, Khanyar and other adjoining markets of the City and took action against dozens erring shopkeepers.

During the drive huge fine of Rs 3.53 lakh was imposed on erring shopkeepers for failing to maintain the quality of food items, not displaying rate lists of essential commodities, selling expiry products, besides indulging in practices of profiteering and overcharging. The large quantity of expired food products and rotten vegetables/fruits were also destroyed on the spot.

During the drive, a Restaurant was sealed in for not maintaining proper hygiene besides found in overcharging. Similarly, 2 shops including a Grocery and Bakery outlet were also sealed for violating norms.

The Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar in this regard has asked the Market Checking teams to continue the drive to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with sufficient availability of consumables in wake of ongoing Holy month of Ramzaan.

3 shops sealed For Violating Essential **Commodities Act**

rinagar: The Enforcement Squad of FCS&CA Department headed by Assistant Director Enforcement launched a massive drive within the vicinity of Srinagar City during the current month amid complaints pouring in from various corners

During the course of action 355 erring traders were penalized with a sum of Rs 240400 in District Srinagar. Besides, three mutton shops have been sealed for violation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

It is pertinent to mention here that during the current financial year in the entire valley, an amount of Rs 11019280 has been collected as fine from 23730 erring traders. Besides, 401 establishments have been sealed and police complaints against 22 defaulters lodged for violation of the set norms.

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200 AIRPORTS X SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153 **HIGHWAY STATUS** Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open) Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar-Leh-(Open) PRAYERS FAJR 4:56 HIJRI ZUHR 12:36 CALENDAR 5:03 ASR 6:53 Magrib **08 RAMAZAN** ISHA 8:13 1444

This Day In History

- 240 BC- 1st recorded perihelion passage of Halley's Comet.
- 1603 Battle at Mellifont: English army under Lord Mountjoy beats Irish
- 1796 Carl Friedrich Gauss, German mathematician, discovers the construction of
- the heptadecagon 1814 Napoleonic Wars: Sixth Coalition forces march into Paris after defeating
- Napoleon
- 1842 Ether used as an anaesthetic for 1st time by Dr Crawford Long (Ga) 1856 - Russia signs Peace of Paris, ending the Crimean
- War
- 1885 The Battle for Kushka triggers the Pandjeh Incident which nearly gives rise to
- war between the British Empire and Russian Empire.
 - 1919 Gandhi announces resistance against Rowlatt Act
- 1925 Stalin supports rights of non-Serbian Yugoslavians 1941 - German counter offensive in North-Africa
- 1945 USSR invades Austria
- 1945 World War II: a defecting German pilot delivers a Messerschmitt Me 262A-1
- to Americans 1950 - Phototransistor invention announced, Murray Hill, NJ
- 1953 Albert Einstein announces revised unified field theory
- 1959 Dalai Lama flees China and is granted political
- asylum in India 1961 NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 169,600' (51,690 m).
- 1965 Vietnam War: A car bomb explodes in front of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon,

of premises with repair of railings. Moreover, he called for a continuous dog catching drive at Hazratbal Shrine to ensure the safety of people and the sanctity of the holy place. He also exhorted to

speed up renovation works at Dastgeer Sahab and development of separate Wazu Khana for women at the Shrine.

While visiting Imambarah Zadibal, the Divisional Commissioner was apprised by the Committee regarding requirement expansion of premises and road widening issues and sought his intervention in this matter.

Regarding, Power & Electricity Div Com issued on spot directions to PDD & PHE officials to ensure continuous supply of electricity & drinking water to the Imambarah.

Bidhuri during the visit

Srinagar: Special Market Checking teams of District Administration Srinagar Wednesday launched an intensified market checking in all markets of Srinagar City to crackdown

Observer News Service

on illegal profiteering and black marketing. Drive was launched on the

paid obeisance at Dastgeer Sahib Shrine & Imambarah Zadibal during which he prayed for peace & prosperity of Kashmir.

J&K Bank MD & CEO Launches Banks e-Patshala

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Bank MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash today rolled out J&K Bank's maiden staff portal - JKB e-Pathshala - a Unified elearning platform that has been designed to meet the knowledge requirements of the staff.

The launching ceremony held at corporate headquarters was attended by Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers and senior officials of the bank besides representatives of K-Nomics (Mintbook) that has developed the module.

While appreciating the concerned department for coming up with such a vibrant e-learning portal, MD & CEO urged upon the staff to take full advantage of the courses and training programs that have been tailored to upgrade their knowledge levels about contemporary issues and practices in banking and finance. MD & CEO said, "We want to develop a learning culture in the Bank. And with sweeping changes happening in knowledge driven sectors like Banking, there was a need for our staff to have easy access to quality learning anytime and anywhere. I am happy to see the JKB e-Pathshala

as a result of that quest." "In line with the digi-

tal progress and to ensure training needs of our employees are addressed in an effective and convenient manner, we have implemented a Unified eLearning Solution to enable our L&D team to organize, track, manage and most importantly develop the talent within the organisation. The platform will also encourage healthy competition among the staff with best performers getting rewarded suitably", he added.

Earlier General Manager (Human Resource) Sushil Gupta while giving an overview of the platform stated that the new module will go a long way in building the capacities of the staff.

"In JKB e-Pathshala we have employed gamifications such as coins and badges: leaderboard, quiz hour etc. to ensure staff engagement besides forums and query-corners allowing the employees to avail realtime support from the experts of relevant subject-domains. The portal contains various learning modules of Indian institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) with a special focus on training material related to credit, Forex, Treasury operations, Information Security etc.," he said.

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- 8. Buckeye Gala 9. Red Velox
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- killing 22 and wounding 183 others.
- 1968 General Ludvik Svoboda elected president of Czechoslovakia
- 1970 USSR wins its 8th straight world hockey championship
- 1972 North Vietnamese troops enter South Vietnam
- 1976 Israel kills 6 Palestinians protesting land confiscation
- 1982 3rd space shuttle mission-Columbia 3 lands at White Sands, NM
- 1984 US ends participation in multinational Lebanon peace force
- 2006 Marcos Pontes is the first Brazilian astronaut in space.
- 2006 UK Terrorism Act 2006 becomes law.
- 2011 Global credit information group Experian report that economic recovery in
- Wales slower than the rest of the UK, forecasting growth of 1.6% vs 2.2% for the rest
- of the UK
- 2012 Mastercard and Visa announce a massive breach in security with over ten
- million compromised credit card numbers.

From KO Archives

Ansari Faces Expulsion From Congress

Observer News Service

ew Delhi- Influential Shia leader and lone Congress minister in Farooq Abdullah government Moulvi Iftikar Ansari, appears certain to face expulsion from the party in case he refuses to quit as a minister.

Taking exception to Farooq Abdullah's overtures with the BJP, the Congress leadership feels that "it is right time" to ask Iftikhar to resign and work for "revitalising the party" in the state, highly placed sources said here tonight. In case Ansari refuses, the party will be left with no other alternative but to expel him, the sources added

Incidentally, senior Congress leader Mufti Mohammad Syed had a long meeting with the newly appointed party president Sonia Gandhi, late last night. Mufti's meeting with Sonia assumes significance in the background of wavering approach of former Congress chief Sita Ram Kesri with regard to party affairs in Kashmir, making it virtually defunct.

The party leaders are sore that no action was taken against Ansari even as he openly campaigned against the Congress candidates in just -concluded Lok Sabha elections in Kashmir. "Time has come now to show the Moulvi his right place" a senior AICC leader told this reporter.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 March, 1998)

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KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Thursday | 30-03-2023

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Thursday | 30-03-2023

Spurious Medicines

he central and state regulators have conducted joint inspections at 76 pharma companies across 20 states and Union territories in the past 15 days. They have cancelled licenses of 18 pharma companies for manufacturing spurious and adulterated drugs and for violating good manufacturing practice (GMP). Additionally, 26 firms have been given show-cause notices. This action is a part of a special drive against the manufacture of substandard drugs, and as part of this drive, regulators have identified 203 firms, with the majority of the companies being from Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh. Recently, there have been concerns over the quality of drugs manufactured by India-based companies, with a Tamil Nadu-based company recalling its entire lot of eye drops allegedly linked to vision loss in the US in February. Incidentally, the states and the regions where inspections were carried out included also Jammu and Kashmir which is regarded as one of the hubs of spurious medicines in the country.

Several years ago, the then J&K health minister Bali Ram Bhagat told the then Assembly that he had found 83 drugs to be sub-standard and misbranded in the then state. He admitted that nexus between "doctors and the private pharmaceutical companies in the state, has led to medicos prescribing medicines of a particular company with whom they have tacit understanding"

Kashmir, as was pointed out once also by India's leading cardiologist Naresh Trehan at a seminar in Srinagar a decade ago was the hunting ground of the spurious pharma companies in the country. How do these companies survive in the region? This is because their products are prescribed in Kashmir. And doctors – a section of them, at least – are culpable for it. At the same time, the successive governments can hardly absolve itself of its dubious role in the process. And if spurious drug companies find the Valley as an easy target, isn't Drug Controller Department responsible for it? And once these companies are allowed a toehold in the region, it is but natural they will try to sell their products and in pursuit of this goal build dubious relationships with medical professionals.

It is incumbent upon the heads of health institutions in J&K to check the practice and conduct intermittent prescription audit. As for the doctors' associations, they should formulate voluntary guidelines and sensitize their tribe. To begin with, what is needed is a wider public awareness about this menace so that the doctors involved in the practice feel a sense of accountability towards the society.



Getting Comfortable With Gender Equality

murder of a woman in district Budgam is not the first case of violence against women in Kashmir, but the severity and nature of crime is quite unusual and unheard of. The incident has triggered a public outrage in the form of protest demanding justice and has generated fresh discussion, in and outside households as well as on social media about women's safety and violence against women in Kashmir.

recent gruesome

However, these conversations gradually die down only to resurface again when another tragic incident happens. Women in Kashmir have been at the receiving end of conflict as well as patriarchy in Kashmir. Due to persistent conflict, Kashmir has come to become a place of utmost uncertainty: one of our individual and collective lives. In this atmosphere, the top-down approach to address the issue of women safety, from the state has a very limited scope in its effectiveness particularly in the absence of an elected representative government. The overwhelming dominance of the security discourse on governance undermines the democratic process and hinders democratic decision making and participation of people in issues that concern them. Should women continue to suffer until political stability arrives and there's potential to hold the government more accountable? Perhaps not. It is time that society takes it upon itself to adopt a bottom-up approach to address this problem and make society safe and just for women. The discussions around the issues of women, occasionally caused by incidents of harassment and violence against women, reflect the recognition of the problem in the society by its members irrespective of

the outcomes of these decisions. However, the real significance of these conversations lies in whether they enrich and expand our understanding of the problem. And how are these conversations helping in making the lives of women better and safe around us? What matters is the way we discuss and whether these discussions challenge or affirm the status quo.

The common problem with these discussions is they are repetitive in their content and predictable in their arguments. The substances of our conceptions of gender equality largely come from the public sphere dominated by men and absence of gender equality thereof. A large section of our society continues to believe in the subordination of women and have been extensively deploying cultural and rethe gendered bias and sometimes facilitate the oppression. Religion and religious pulpits have also sometimes been misappropriated in this direction.

It is thus imperative that we hold people who preach objectionable ideas about women accountable in our society and inculcate in our children the values of freedom and gender equality. Our conversations about women are often in relation to men as mothers, sisters. daughters and partners. Can we change the contours of our conversation about women by treating them, first and foremost, simply as human beings who deserve to be treated justly and as equals just by virtue of being one? It is not to strip the women of her overlapping religious and social identities impacting their lives but to set the basic terms

Danish Shafi

Chis Repugnance against the idea of

against the idea of feminism and the idea of gender equality should concern us all. It

OTHER OPINON

All Over Again

ail may be the rule and jail the exception, but this principle does not seem to have sunk in among some of the judiciary in the lower courts yet. Had it been otherwise, Indian prisons would not have been crowded with under-trial prisoners, many of whom have neither the money nor the social reach to arrange for bail. The Supreme Court, which reiterated the principle regarding bail many times, reportedly asked high courts to withdraw judicial work from those judges in the lower courts who send the accused to custody without a thought as to whether the cases warrant such action. The effect was double: it sent people unnecessarily to custody and thus forced them into further litigation. In some courts, the accused could be sent off to be locked up as soon as they appeared in response to summons. Such judges should be sent to judicial academies to be 're-oriented' regarding the law of the land.

The order to high courts came in response to a survey that gathered data about compliance with the Supreme Court's July 2022 guidelines regarding arrest and bail. In that set of instructions, the police had been asked not to make arrests routinely if the alleged offence carried a penalty of less than seven years' imprisonment, and judges were asked to apply their minds in deciding custody. Bail should be disposed of within two weeks after application and anticipatory bail in six weeks. Courts in Uttar Pradesh, including the one in Hathras, noticeably lacked compliance with the Supreme Court's order. As the state is not famed for its even-handedness, this was telling. The Supreme Court also required that the Gauhati, Orissa and Madras High Courts be made aware of the non-compliance among their lower judiciary. The latest order underlined the importance of the first stage of the justice process: the number of under-trials and the paucity of bail indicate that the process is failing at some level in spite of repeated instructions. But an understanding of noncompliance would have to include the increasing attempts at political intervention in the justice process and the undermining of institutions, such as the police. The attempts are most obvious at the lower levels of the system. Following the Supreme Court's guidelines strictly would be the single most effective way of countering such interference.

Telegraph India

indicates that there is a lot more needed to be done to make our society free and just for its members. It thus becomes important to know how these atavistic ideas about women spread and where the sustenance to these ideas comes from **It is surprising that although there** is no prominent feminist movement in Kashmir, there is no dearth of outrage against feminism. This repugnance against the idea of feminism and the idea of gender equality should concern us all

ligious arguments in the service of male hegemony. It is surprising that although

It is surprising that although there is no prominent feminist movement in Kashmir, there is no dearth of outrage against feminism. This repugnance against the idea of feminism and the idea of gender equality should concern us all. It indicates that there is a lot more needed to be done to make our society free and just for its members. It thus becomes important to know how these atavistic ideas about women spread and where the sustenance to these ideas comes from.

Besides the easy access to misogynistic and patriarchal ideas and ready-made explanations available online enforce

of conversation right. In order to truly uproot the subordination of women it is necessary to re-think the ways we think and talk about women. Other identities should be used to further the cause of freedom of women rather than to restrict women and our imagination of free and just society. What good is society if it refuses to take the freedom and safety of half of its members seriously unless its conscience is jolted by the gruesome murders like that of Budgam?

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



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MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Reverse the served as World Idli Day. The celebration of the day started some years ago when an enthusiastic idli lover from Chennai decided to dedicate a day to this South India's most popular staple food. The reputation of the humble Idli is really a phenomenon in the

20th century. Steamed, puffy and delectable, idli doused in sambhar and chutney, easily makes one of the nation's much sought after nutrients for breakfast. Idli, for long has been making the South-Indian cuisine proud across the sub-continent. This popular, yet simple food is not oily or greasy, and is considered to be one of the most delicious and intelligent nourishments in the South. Idli is also a 'street food', yet it shares no infamous reputation of being unhealthy or calorie-laden. Idli may have originated elsewhere, but it was in the South that the process of making it from a painstakingly ground fermented batter of urad dal and rice was perfected. For all South Indians, who are common eaters of Idli, this day is the opportunity to commemorate this unassuming and easy-todigest food, as, for ages it has been giving us all the good feelings while eating it.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP | Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K | Editor: Sajjad Haider | RNI Registration No: 69503/98 | Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 | Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705 | Editorial: (0194) 2502327 | Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

In A Rut: How Ali's Agony Has Become Kashmir's Career Problem

An inside story of how young talents are being rendered redundant in Kashmir.

Muskan Yousuf

ays changed, changed seasons, and years changed nonetheless, Ali perched on his room porch-mooning over the Civil Service Examinations (CSE) he appeared for three years back-remains unabated and unchanged.

With the day breaking and the break-in of Ali's erratic slumber, most of the dailies await to be greeted by Ali's stale sighs, suffused with the annotations of what went wrong two years back.

Waking up to the English, Urdu, and Kashmiri greetings of all these dailies is Ali's daily dealing. Yester blotches of blue ink unwashed, slouched on his table, flicking quickly through pages with unsettling haste, Ali yanks on the page with job advertisements — overwriting, underlining, and highlighting all the vacancies and posts as if affirming not to hum and haw at any opportunity coming by.

Routinely puckering with the same concoction of emotions, this affirming attitude was nothing new. Scribbling information on a notepad amassed from all the adverts till midday was a routine task. Sitting out on the iron balustrade of his balcony at noon with eyes peering at the skyline scrabbling for unfound answers in the waving clouds and soaring birds makes the other half of his day.

Critique of Pure Reason, which he was laureled with after winning an essay competition, was his resort to escapism. He would've it by his side—the last of his darlings, or perhaps a relic of his dreams.

Chin wagging with the neighbouring ladies, Ali's mother had aired that every night before hitting the pillow, Ali reads the same book over and over. Perhaps baying the pent-up qualms in the guise of small talk of the fateful morning of lune last year—when she had unintelligibly junked her son's long kindled flambeau of existence lighting glee in the eyes of the ragpicker. Critique of Pure Reason, always tucked away in his closet got saved as a splinter of solace for Ali, hence the last of his darlings, the relic of his dreams. Flustered in a flood of emotions, Ali's first response was to run helter-skelter looking for the ragpicker only to know that his trove of philosophy books was at a far-off factory being read with a new fate. Ali had been away for two days collating an important dossier for a job interview. Returning to the unfurled mishap, Ali confined himself to his room for a week, stifling his family with his silence and leashed anger. Times, when the student populace of Jammu and Kashmir are flocking into the rut of a handful of career avenues, an impertinent question regarding their proclivity arises. How practical and pragmatic does it sound that scholars are exponentially diving into not more than just three or four conventional career paths? Needless to mention of kinds being alluded to. Is there a genuine disposition towards these professional choices, many wonder – or, are they just wrought to plop into the herd adducing the success stories of the formers? What's the framework students stand on to decide about their careers? For a long, it's believed, this has been an unattended lurking shadow, and people are mindlessly turning a blind eye. The fact that Kashmir has been producing only a few select luminaries repeatedly in more or less the same spheres, that too long gaps after should



serve enough food for thought. Philosophy and Ali were like water to the ocean. With an uninhibited spark for philosophy, Ali had read everything from Confucius to Plato to Tao and on and on. Otherwise a timid lad, Ali would be the first one to partake in debates throughout his school and college years. He was the go-to person for anyone wanting to have a striking monologue written for an oration competition, or for a critical analysis of a literary piece. Much of Ali's persona shone with the fountaining light of a philosopher. As much as he wanted to tune into the innate opera of philosophy within him, so much was he drawn

losophy as one of his subjects, Ali had a departure from reading to writing. Ali found himself ardently critiquing several essays, commenting on several philosophists, and drawing parallels between their belief systems. While many would slip away, only a couple of his peers would attend the philosophy class, and at times he would be the only one. Often his professor would not show up. All the things that Ali worked on were largely due to his own interests and in part to his annual project submissions.

While Ali was so invested in philosophy, his parents were busy engineering his future with the machine of ity, and much more, Ali would keep yanking himself out of the musings of the assignment he submitted, the book he has been reading, or his counteractive thoughts to popular beliefs. Toward the end of the day, Ali would be left feeling treacherous. Treacherous toward his time, his parents, his zeal, and of all towards himself.

Ali seemed to lose his sanity to this dire state of affairs, fixed in a disputing state about his existence. Unable to muster together the courage to reveal to his parents, his love affair with philosophy and his strong desire to pursue it further, he was now hatching plans on how to get it across to his parents. He was now in the final year of his degree and, per the script, was supposed to appear for CSE the following year. Knowing that the aspirants of CSE would get dropped or selected by the skin of one's teeth, Ali's parents had decided for him, that if not this year, he shall keep trying and reappear. Reassured that one fine day, Ali shall crack it, and hence was not a big deal for him to reappear as he was young. The craze for civil services in Kashmir is astounding. After doctor and engineer, the pursuit of becoming a civil servant is engaging several students in a grueling coaching every year. But in this blind pursuit driven by "career glorification", many students are losing their proactive calls and are being rendered redundant. Since the rate of absorption in these exams is very limited, many aspirants find themselves at the crossroads after the results. What's further adding to the aspirants' anxieties are the poor results from Kashmir. In the recent CSE results declared by Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission, Kashmir performed poorly. Though the administrative service has historically not attracted Kashmir youth, the latest result is said to be one of the lowest performances of the Kashmir division in recent years. Out of the 187 selected candidates, 90 candidates were selected in Open Merit, while the rest of the successful candidates fall under different reserved categories. Only 31 candidates from Kashmir made it to the finals and Ali wasn't among them.

the plans, having dismissed a number of them already. Quite sure of not making it through, Ali finally decided that he would sit for the exam. In his head, he thought that his parents would be naturally disappointed in him for not faring well and would make peace with the fact that CSE is not his cup of tea. Consequentially, Ali thought of budging with his prospect of philosophy and showing his parents how well he could do in it. He wanted something substantial to present to his parents that could drive them away from the melancholy of CSE.

To Ali's mind, getting a funded research scholarship from a well-ranked university abroad would elate his parents, and they would concede, though he was not too interested in moving so far to pursue his interest. He wanted to fuel his passion for philosophy by living in his homeland and doing some pioneering work in line with his culture and heritage. Nonetheless, his higher motive had now become to appease his parents. It was the day of CSE, and Ali went for the exam after his mother performed all the credulous utopian rituals for abating all that could go wrong. Unscripted, all went wrong. Ali flunked the exams big time. Back home, there was a breeze of anticipation about how good he must have done. The house was reeking of burnt chilies and sacred rue so that any evil eye would choke and ward off, choking Ali as well as he returned. As Ali looked at his parents, whose gaze was fixated on him, waiting to hear the words of glory, he went mute. The shine of hope gleaming in his parent's eyes pained him deeply. Waiting for his parents to understand the circumstances without him having to speak, Ali as if hypnotized kept staring at his parents. Perhaps, he felt that they too would read the language of his eyes. After a short, deep, and screeching silence, all Ali could utter was 'Mmm Hmm' moving his head in negation from side to side. The elicited response of his parents was 'Ah, it's okay ... not at all a problem'. This response was no less than an unprecedented astonishment to Ali. He could not fathom that his parents were not disappointed in him and even if they were, it was not even an iota of what he had imagined. He was curtained about the reason behind such a mild reaction. This was the same day that he was going to get the outcome of the research scholarship test. Deep down, he had been sure he will be getting his hands on the scholarship.

While Ali could not contain the joy of not seeing his parents that disappointed, in the fit of the moment, he decided to brush aside the scenario with the news of his scholarship. He assumed that the stage was set perfectly. Quickly jumping to his feet with excitement surprising his parents, he blurted out that he has a funded research scholarship in Philosophy at a great university abroad. Ali departing from the surprise, sent his parents into one, not necessarily a pleasant one.

Unable to make anything out of his words, Ali's parents had an expression that yearned for details. Things, Ali had never revealed to his parents were now at their disposal. He could not believe the moment, could not believe the moment, could not believe that he can talk about philosophy to his parents, could not believe his dream becoming a voice. Thus, began Ali's tracing of all the anecdotes. He told his parents of his long-found love.

After Ali was done with his long-awaited monologue, he found his parents cloaked in different emotions altogether. Different from what he had imagined. Ali had missed the flashing change of emotions and expressions because he was too lost in his world, delivering a monologue. No sooner Ali had realised the intensity and gravitas of the scene, his parents unleashed.

Ali not faring well in the exam was immediately attributed to his frivolous love of philosophy. He was hurled with jeers for being deceptive. He could no longer keep his calm and let his long-held rant lose. Ali was furious about not knowing what and when his parents decide about the life that he was living. He felt cramped that his parents had made peace with him reappearing for the CSE without even consulting him. After a distasteful and disdainful altercation, Ali's parents asked for his scholarship letter. Enraged Ali, quickly turned to his phone, and opened the mail inbox, only to arrest himself in debilitation. Ali had not gotten the scholarship. His only laxity was the grade of A+. The rotten system of marks, grades, and merit scarred Ali's unsurpassable pool of creativity. He was benumbed while presenting a garland of reassurance to his parents that they were right in engineering his dreams with their eyes. Ali was not able to decide what he should be angry about, it was not his great aspiration to study abroad but was his escape. Ali's parents were proven right but in the wrong way. They were concerned about his future and stability but compromising on his peace and solace. While plunged into himself roving his boat hysterically through the tides of emotions, his parents were busy putting together the bits and pieces of him to sit in the CSE next year. In their mind, that was the only right way to set their son's future right, the future that no one knows, the future that no one has seen, and the present that is slipping away like sand from the fist. Two years have passed, and Ali is still not an officer after two failed attempts. He lost his father to cardiac arrest a month back, but has long forgotten to live. Caught in Kashmir's career problem, Ali has already lost his call.

away by the hum of CSE that had been looming large ever since he was a kid.

Ali was in grade 6 when all three daughters of his uncle got through the much-coveted CSE. Huge pomp and show followed that feat and also followed an unsatiated current of desires. Beguiled, Ali's parents were no exception and fell in the line of desires. Desirous of hosting such glittering gathering when their son also cracks CSE, they drew the curtains of oblivion to what the son desires.

Ali was too young to even know the meaning of CSE but was being fed on the fantasies of a civil officer. While he was being lulled with the lullabies of becoming an officer, his parents called the shots on his part that he would pursue his graduation in Arts and Humanities. Complying with the popular fallacy that 'Arts and Humanities' is a walk in the park and that it would provide ample time for Ali to prepare for the exam and appear for it soon after completing his graduation.

Growing up, Ali came to realize his calling to philosophy and could not stop stoking the embers inside of him. Oval square face with pronounced profound eyes, Ali's peculiar persona holds one's sight either tenaciously or goes completely unnoticed. The uncanny placid expression and the slow fast gait make Ali look like a calm soul in a restless body. Throughout his time in school, he downed like an elixir, a plethora of books diverse in themes and content. More philosophical than anything. Wrung the nectar out of those books and soaked himself in.

Getting to college and exultant thinking about having phitheir own dreams. Perhaps, his dreams with the machine of their own eyes. But Ali had found such a realm in the firmament of philosophy, that he was riding on the moon, rubbing against the stars.

While Ali was all aware of what he had fed on ever since he was in grade 6, he found himself in an atrocious dilemma. He lulled himself to sleep every night with the reverberations of the hum his parents harped on at dinner. He knew how his parents were so swayed by this customary routine of reminding their son of what the future shall hold for him. He consumed more reaffirmations, more unattuned knowledge, and tasted more of others' success stories. At times, he would also see his father sneering about him spending more time reading books that were aberrated for him.

Ali knew it all and also knew the drive of philosophy that enraptured every bit of his existence. Whenever faced with prolonged spells of anxiety about the same, he would set himself right by writing down his favorite excerpts of all the books he had read – a defense mechanism that he would escape into.

Going by the roadmap designed by his parents for preparing for CSE throughout the term of his graduation, Ali was at the helm of hopes, aspirations and dreams that were not his own. He knew his parents were diminutive of the degree he was pursuing and they had asked him to enroll just for the sake of it and were unaware of Ali's smoldering amour. Whenever at the study with a scatter of current affairs, general knowledge, history, pol-

Unaware of his parents' planning, Ali was still busy hatching

News

KASHMIR OBSERVER® SRINAGAR | THURSDAY | 30.03.2023

Dulloo Asks For Priority Movement Of Fertilizers, Fruit Laden Trucks In, Out Of Kashmir

Observer News Service

Jammu: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo on Wednesday asked the officers for prioritizing movement of fertilizers and fruit laden trucks in and outside the Kashmir valley during a meeting held here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in Agriculture Production Department, Inspector General of Police Traffic J&K, Special Secretary APD, Directors of Horticulture Jammu/Kashmir, Directors of Jammu/Kashmir, Agriculture Director of Horticulture P&M, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir/Jammu, SSP National Highway, Chairman of Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Union, President of Fruit Mandi Sopore, President of CA Stores, President of Fruit Association Anantnag, and representatives of fertilizer companies including



CCFCL, IFFCO, IPL and NFL while Kashmir based officers and participants participated online.

During the meeting, ACS directed for priority movement of fertilizer trucks to and fro from Kashmir and Jammu. He also instructed that fruit-laden trucks from CA stores going outside Kashmir be given priority to reach their destinations.

He added that with the arrival of vegetable season, trucks carrying vegetables and other perishable items will also be given priority on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

IGP Traffic J&K assured that all the fruit-laden and vegetableladen trucks would be given priority. He urged upon the fruit associations to provide registration numbers and paste sticks so that they may be given priority during

the movement on highway. The meeting also discussed stock availability of fertilizers in the Kashmir valley.

ACS urged upon the fertilizer companies to transport fertilizers to Kashmir in sufficient numbers to avoid any shortage during the peak season. **New Delhi:** The government on Wednesday launched the seventh round of commercial coal auctions in a bid to increase the availability of the dry fuel in the country

A total of 106 coal mines were put on the block in the latest round of auctions. Of the total mines offered, 61 blocks are partially explored and 45 mines are fully explored.

As many as 95 non-coking coal mines, 10 lignite mines and one coking coal mine are being offered in the latest round of auction.

The government amended the mineral laws to open up the coal sector to provide a level-playing field to the public and private sector players and to permit the auction of coal mines without any restriction on end use. Coal from these mines can be utilised towards own consumption, sale or any other purpose.

The seventh round of commercial coal auction was launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the national capital in presence of Union Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi and Minister of State (MoS) Coal and Mines Raosaheb Patil Danve.

Govt Launches 7th Tranche Of Coal Mine Auctions To Boost Availability Of Dry Fuel

> In his address, Singh said coal is considered black gold, which plays an important role in strengthening the economy of the country. Coal has contributed in a major way to strengthening the economy of the country. The successful auction of the 106 mines will further strengthen the economy.

> Coal fulfils a major need of India's energy demand. Not just availability, but utilisation of resources is necessary for the growth of the country.

> "Our energy consumption has grown in the last few years and will continue to grow. And to meet this need, we will have to start taking efforts from today," he said.

The ongoing auctions of coal blocks are a step towards energy security, Singh said. Details of the mines, auction

terms, timelines etc. can be

accessed on the MSTC auction platform. The auction will be held online through a transparent two-stage process on the basis of percentage revenue share, as per the coal ministry. Coal and Mines Minister

Pralhad Joshi said that to provide

ease of doing business, the gov-

ernment is also "giving incentives for early production. A 50 per

cent rebate will be given to the

mine owner in the revenue share

paid to the state. Further, entry

"There are no eligibility condi-

tions, only upfront payment with

a ceiling. Now, there is no restric-

tion on the sale or utilisation

of coal. There is now a revenue

sharing mechanism instead of a

in use for the next 40-50 years

and the government will contin-

ue to undertake major capacity

expansion projects to further in-

crease its production and offtake.

has witnessed a boost, along

with large-scale employment

Domestic coal production

He also noted that coal will be

regime of fixed rupee/tonne."

norms have been liberalised".

ties for investment in the coal sector. Today we have turned around the coal story to make it India's growth story, Joshi noted. The minister said that in six

generation and huge opportuni-

rounds of auction held so far, 87 coal mines have been auctioned in three years, which after becoming operational and will generate an estimated revenue of Rs 33,200 crore and provide three lakh employment opportunities. These mines have a PRC of 220 MT.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Coal signed agreements for 28 coal mines auctioned under the sixth round of auction.

The cumulative PRC (peak rated capacity) of the 28 coal mines auctioned under the previous round is 74 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), and these mines are expected to generate annual revenue of Rs 14,497 crore calculated at PRC of these coal mines. Upon operationalisation, these mines are expected to generate employment for 1 lakh people.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Elevated Metro

women. It will speed up development in cities and villages. Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented change," he said.

Listing the number of achievements of his administration, the LG said that last year J&K has witnessed economic growth of 14.64% and tax revenue has shown growth of 31%.

"The law and order situation has improved appreciably in J&K and this year the highest number of 1.88 crore tourists visited J&K," he said, adding " Even at late night, you can see people dining in restaurants or enjoying Shikara rides in the Dal Lakes. Cinema halls too are running normally,"

The LG said that night transport has been resumed in Kashmir after a gap of 30-long years brining much sought relief to the common masses.

Speaking about his government's investment pitch, Sinha said that J&K received the highest ever investment of Rs 1547.87 crore during the last 10 months of the year. He said 500 startups have also come up during the last 3 years in the Union Territory.

"Unemployment rate is marginally reduced; 33426 Posts have been referred to recruiting agencies.25450 selections have been made including 2436 selections of J&K Bank Limited. Around 2, 02,749 youth have been covered under various self-employment schemes and the target is to cover 2, 37,000 by the end of current year. Next year around 3 lakh will be covered under all the self-employment schemes," he said.

The LG said that J&K has been ranked among top performers in the country for implementation of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Amrit Sarovar, SVAMITVA Scheme, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsay Nasha Mukt Abhiyan and Renewable Energy Development. Most of the social security schemes have been saturated in J&K. "In 2021-22, 50627 works have been completed and this year we expect 70,000 works to be completed. This is the paradigm shift in the pace of development in J&K over the last three to four years," Sinha said, adding that road construction has nearly doubled to 3200 kilometres against 1500-1600 Km in 2018. Giving details of the new ideas of his administration, the LG said that seven new e-Governance initiatives are also been taken. including e-office to be extended in all offices, creation of online census management system, intelligent ticketing management system by JKRTC, creation of e-invoice system of GST, GST Data Triangulation and transition of GST IN into GST PRIME, linking of e-way bill to FASTag and VAHAN, creation of single unique helpline in J&K and e-bill system on PWOMAS to be extended to other Department. His administration, the LG said, has laid focus of the budget on nine areas, including Good Governance, Strengthening Grass-root Democracy, Promoting Sustainable Agriculture, Facilitating Investment & Industrial Growth, Generation, Employment Accelerating Development & Inclusive Growth, Women Empowerment, and Social Inclusion and doubling GDP in next five years

Ghars, 40,000 new houses for houseless families under PMAY-G, 18934 dwelling units to be completed under PMAY-U, and accomplishment of Sewage Management of Dal Lake.

"New townships and housing colonies to be established for economically weaker sections groups at Jammu and Srinagar. Ladies HAAT and ladies exclusive markets in Jammu, Srinagar and other major towns will also be established," he said.

On the education front, he said, National Education Policy (NEP) will be fully implemented, while 2000 Kindergartens are proposed to be established during 2023-24 for providing quality pre-primary education, Drinking water facility and gender based toilet facility in all the Schools.

Besides, he said, Yoga training for all the students to be introduced as part of co-curricular activities, 188 virtual reality labs and 40 robotic labs will be set-up, 10 residential schools will be established with preference to tribal students and students from weaker sections and 1000 smart class rooms with LCD and high speed internet connectivity will also be established.

His administration, the LG said, will also start 29 new projects for development of industrial estates during 2023-24.

The LG said women only bus drivers and conductors will also be introduced, while buses and pink taxis will also roll on the roads for the fairer gender.

"Rs 400 crore provided for construction of transit accommodations for Kashmiri Migrant employees to be provided. Further 1984 transit accommodations to be completed in 2023-24," he said.

He added that remaining posts of 355 out 6000 posts under PM Package for Kashmiri Migrants will also be filled while cash assistance and food grains for Kashmiri/ Jammu Migrants will continue and an amount of Rs 393 crore has been allocated for the same. On the employment generation, Sinha said that vacant posts to be filled on a fast track basis, while a target has been set to cover 3 lakh youth under various self-employment schemes in 2023-24. in favour of the lessor for renovation of existing hotel building and construction of new building and the term loan was eventually classified (January 2020) as Non-Performing Asset as the lessor could not service the account," the report further states.

In its reply, the management of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank stated in March 2022, owing to sluggish market patterns and slow growth in overall banking sector, it decided to implement various measures to bring down the cost to income ratio and one of the measure was to vacate the premises in order to cut the costs on account of rental.

"However, the fact remains that the Bank hired the premises without taking cognizance of the fact that the decision to open HNI branch at Barzulla, Srinagar was already taken by the Management. Further, the limited business opportunity with regard to forex business in Srinagar was in the knowledge of the Bank as most of the customers were already dealing with it," the CAG pointed out. (KNO)

Red Flags HR

in toto. The Comptroller and Auditor General also recommended the introduction of the Subordinate Accounts Course (SAC) part-I and II to ensure efficiency and quality in the accounts wing of both the Jammu and Kashmir chapter of the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST).

"The HR function of the universities was far from satisfactory and was plagued by irregular appointments, favoritism and inadmissible financial up-gradations. Relaxing the minimum standards for appointments and promotions of teachers compromised the quality of teaching and research in the universities," the CAG said in its latest report on compliance audit for the year ended March 31, 2021. adding similarly, the shortage of manpower in SKUAST-K ranged between 22 and 33 per cent under the teaching category and 29 and 32 per cent under non-teaching category during 2016-21.

Whereas SKUAST-J made only seven appointments in respect of the teaching cadre and 59 for the non-teaching cadre, SKUAST-K made 173 and 193 appointments in teaching and non-teaching cadres respectively during the period 2016-21, it said.

The report said the audit noticed that the agriculture universities had neither reviewed recruitment rules since their creation, nor put in place any mechanism for periodic assessment of vacancies, review of sanctioned strength and fixing of time frame within which vacant posts were to be filled which paved way for appointments in excess of sanctioned strength, ad hocism in governance and misutilisation of vacant posts.

As of March 2022, the agriculture universities had not implemented the reservation policy for direct appointment of teachers from reserved categories in accordance with the UGC guidelines of August 2006, it said.

The Universities had also not carried out restructuring of the non-teaching cadre which resulted in avoidable litigations and the continuation of redundant posts. In violation of UGC regulations which stipulated the appointment of Assistant Professors only through direct recruitment, the Agriculture Universities notified (1994, 2012 and 2018) Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for technical posts stipulating the promotion of non-teaching technical employees to teaching positions.

Accordingly, the CAG said the universities irregularly upgraded (between July 1994 and December 2013) 10 senior technical assistants in SKUAST-J and 45 STAs in SKUAST-K, to entrylevel UGC pay scales of assistant professors. forged and manufactured some documents including some visiting cards on the basis of which he has defrauded not only a single or group of person but "extremely elevated class of the society including high officials of the civil administration and police authorities." At the end of the day, the police said, Patel succeeded in getting Z Category Security, bullet proof vehicle and enjoyed five star protocol "brazenly" for a considerable period of time.

"The documents, visiting cards and cell phone of the accused person have been sent for FSL examination, on the basis of which alleged Crime has been commuted, however the FSL examination report has not been received by the investigating agency," the police had said in a report to court.

The police further said that investigation conducted so far has suggested that the accused has visited most "sensitive locations and areas of Kashmir Valley" which are highly protected and extremely sensitive as far as present security scenario of Kashmir is concerned. Hence, the police said, this aspect of the matter has necessarily to be probed thoroughly by the investigating machinery as to how and with what motive and object the accused visited these locations and areas.

"There is enough material available on the file, suggestive of the fact that while meeting different and variety of people and conducting meeting with highly elevated officials of civil administration and police the accused may have received hefty amount for different purpose which areas seem not to have been investigated so far," the police had said, adding, "further no recoveries have been made by the investigating agency so far, hence a detailed and thorough investigating is also required to be conducted as far as this area of the matter is concerned."

For Agriculture & Allied Sectors, the LG said an amount of Rs 3156 crore has been earmarked to benefit 13 lakh farmers of the Union Territory

"A Holistic Agriculture Development plan to be rolled out, with 29 proposed projects at an outlay of Rs 5012 crore over a period of next 5-years. Creation additional job opportunities to 2,87,910 people in agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors. 18,861 new business enterprises will be created over the period of next five years," he said.

He further said that milk production will reach 45 Lakh MTs from 25 Lakh MTs over next 5 years, while Honey Production will also triple during the same period.

He said that over Rs 400 crore has been allocated to strengthen road connectivity and 6000 kilometers of black-topping of road length has been targeted for 2023-24. Besides it, he said, 353 new projects under NABARD, completion of 60 new bridges, Safety audit of bridges having completed 10 years, and development of Key roads as part of G20 summit meetings will also be taken up.

The budget, he said, will also lay emphasis on creation of 10,000 more self-help groups (SHGs), establishment of 1500 new Panchayat Besides it, he said, Skill Hubs will be created and Skill loans will be provided to aspiring candidates by J&K Bank.

"CCTV Surveillance system to be completed in all police stations and police posts. CCTV cameras with command and control systems will also be installed at public places," he added.

Snow Predicted

14.7°C on the previous night. It was 1.1°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 5.0°C (below normal by 1.5°C), Batote 7.7°C (below normal by 0.8°C), Katra 12.6°C (1.2°C below normal) and Bhadarwah 4.5°C (0.9°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 3.2°C and minus 1.0°C respectively. (GNS)

CAG Raps J&K

decided (January 2020) to de-hire the premises on the ground that shifting of IBD would not translate into phenomenal growth of foreign exchange business as the forex business in Srinagar was limited. Further, the yearly rental outflow was considered very high vis-à-vis the business opportunities in the opening of HNI branch due to prevailing situation in Kashmir region," the report states.

"By the time the Bank de-hired (June 2020) premises, it had incurred expenditure of Rs 3.78 crore towards rent and Rs 2.43 crore on the development of the premises. Out of Rs 2.43 crore, an amount of Rs 1.47 crore was spent on civil interior, furniture items that either could not be dismantled or were dismantled with substantial/ major damages. The dismantlement work was carried out (August 2020) at a cost of Rs 2.99 lakh." it further states.

The CAG has questioned why the Bank hired space in the hotel despite the fact that it had hired already premises for the opening of it at Barzulla, Srinagar and was operating IBD at Air Cargo Complex, Srinagar having sufficient space at the monthly rate of 75 per sq. ft. and 85 per sq. ft., respectively.

"Moreover, the decision to open HNI branch and shift IBD at Hotel Broadway may be viewed in light of the fact that the Bank sanctioned (September 2016) a term loan of Rs 48.98 crore It said the audit, conducted to ascertain the effectiveness of human resource management in the two universities, found deficiencies in manpower planning, appointments, career advancements and entitlements.

"The Universities violated UGC norms for direct appointment of teachers and filled these posts through lateral entry. The mandatory criteria for appointment and career advancement of teachers was diluted," the report said.

"Pre-mature promotions, inadmissible benefit of Career Advancement Scheme, incorrect pay fixations, inadmissible allowances and entitlements, resulted in extra financial burden to the Government exchequer," it added.

The report, which was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday, said the lateral entry to teaching positions from lower technical positions deprived the university of availing the benefits of recruiting meritorious teachers through open advertisements.

"Extension of undue benefits due to excess drawl of pay, allowances and entitlements led to financial strain on the state coffers," it said. The SKUAST was established on April 1, 1982 by an Act of the Jammu and Kashmir state legislature with the objective of catering to the requirement of agricultural research, education and extension education.

Following an amendment in the Act in 1999, the farm university was bifurcated into two universities namely SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir.

The report said a compliance audit on human resources management covering the period 2016-17 to 2020-21 was conducted to assess whether the Agriculture Universities had complied with guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and statutes of the agriculture universities regarding recruitment of employees, in service career advancements, pension payments and entitlements.

"The audit covering the period 2016-17 to 2020-21 was conducted between August 2021 and February 2022, by a test check of records at the offices of Registrar, deans of various faculties and Comptroller of SKUAST-J and SKUAST-K," CAG said.

Service records of 7391 personnel (30 per cent) of the total persons-in-position (2,462), as on March 2021, were selected on the basis of simple random sampling without replacement, for detailed scrutiny," it added.

In SKUAST-J, the shortfall ranged between 26 and 33 per cent under the teaching category and 19 and 26 per cent under the non-teaching category during the period, it said,

In its recommendations to the universities, the CAG called for an urgent review of sanctioned strength to weed out redundant posts and a process for filling up management positions through direct recruitment.

"The universities should adopt UGC regulations in toto and avoid lateral entry of technical cadres to teaching positions to maintain the minimum standards prescribed for appointment of teachers," it said.

"The CAG also urged revisiting the career advancement scheme of teaching positions in consonance with UGC regulations and also suggested the immediate introduction of SAC Part-I and II for ensuring efficiency and quality in the accounts wing," the report added.

There is Vacuum

recommendation of the poll panel, there are four qualifying dates or cut-off dates – January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 - to enrol as voters. Earlier, January 1 was the only cut-off date.

Recently, Kumar had said that assembly polls in J&K will be held keeping in mind various factors, including weather and security concerns. He had noted that the delimitation process in the UT was completed and so was the special summary revision or revision of electoral roll. The CEC had said returning officers and additional electoral registration officers had also been appointed in the rearranged and new constituencies.

New Excuses

the contrary they manage to find new excuses to delay polls," Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

He was referring to the comments made by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar at a presser in New Delhi called to announce the Karnataka poll dates.

Responding to a question on the fresh special summary revision of electoral rolls in the Union territory, the CEC said, "But nonetheless, it does not disturb the scheduled part, the conduct part that depends on various other factors which we will come back to you. We are aware that there is a vacuum that needs to be filled."

Abdullah said it has been eight years since the last assembly elections were conducted in J-K, and five years since it had an elected government.

"It's plainly obvious the BJP in J&K is terrified of facing the people but it isn't the job of the Election Commission to give the BJP a shield to cower behind," the former chief minister said.

Govt Orders Probe

As per the police report, Patel has prima facie

is concerned.

Furthermore, the police had said, the meticulous and careful perusal of case diary file and material available on record reflects that during this all period some more persons have remained closely connected with the accused person whose nexus with the accused person requires proper investigation. 5.

As far as "sophisticated and well planned criminal activities of the accused (Patel) are concerned", the police said, a well knit network of the accused cannot be ruled out in terms of investigation so far conducted.

"More surprisingly the accused has posed to be Additional Director (Strategy and Campaign) PMO, New Delhi which in normal course has not to be taken lightly. Hence again a thorough investigation is required to be conducted as to what could be the other possible connection of the accused which can be checked, scanned and controlled at the initial stage, so that an ugly situation is not again erupted," the police had said.

'Doctor' Faces

medical professionals are allowed to provide medical services.

SIU Files Charge

by terrorist Raqeeb-ul-lah, a resident of Pakistan and linked to proscribed terror outfit LeT, and slain terrorist Uzair Ashraf of Melhora Shopian, a police spokesperson said.

Bhat and Nanda were apprehended last year. From their possession, incriminating materials, arms, ammunition and cash were seized, he said.

During further investigation, Lateef, Digoo and Dar were arrested, the spokesman said.

It was also found that the arrested persons were working as terrorist associates on the instance of Pakistan-based active terrorist Raqeeb-ul-lah of the LeT, he said.

The investigation conducted revealed the accused persons had developed links with the active terrorists and were providing them all kinds of support. They were active supporters of the LeT, the spokesman said.

The SIU Shopian will continue the investigation on other parts of the case, the official added.

CRPF Man

regard have been taken up–(KNO) SIA Conducts

Notably, Sanjay Sharma (40), who was working as a bank ATM guard, was killed by militants on February 26.

STATE

Police Seeks Dismissal Of Iltija's Writ Petition For Issuance Of Passport

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Seeking dismissal of the writ petition filed by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter for issuance of a passport, the criminal investigation department wing of police has informed the High Court here that her final verification report was forwarded to the concerned department last month.

Iltija,35, sought the intervention of the High Court in February, wherein she stated that her passport was due to expire on January 2 and therefore she had applied for a fresh one in advance on June 8, last year.

"The Passport as per the instruction manual is expected to be dispatched within approximately 30 days the inaction is discriminatory in nature and unconstitutional," she said in her writ petition before the court.

She said the passport is required immediately by her as she intends to apply for obtaining a master's degree in sustainable development from outside the country.

In his response through the counsel, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), headquarters, CID J&K informed the court that the final passport verification report in respect of the petitioner has been forwarded to the Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar on February 16.

"That the petitioner has no ground to approach the Court against the answering respondent because none of the right, whether fundamental or legal, has been infringed by the answering respondent," the officer said in his reply.

He said the petitioner has wrongly impleaded the department as party respondent in the instant matter as the CID has a mere informative role in the passport proceedings and neither any relief has been or could be sought from it.

"The answering respondents department (CID) primarily is an intelligence wing of the gov-

ernment of J&K and has a limited role to the extent of discreetly verifying the character/ Antecedents of persons on the recommendations of the competent authorities. The role of CID ends as soon as the report is forwarded," he said.

The SSP informed the court that the CID has no prerogative of deciding whether or not to issue the passport, which is the sole domain of passport authorities concerned having a statutory mandate to that extent.

"The passport Authorities as quasi-judicial authorities, decide the applications after conducting inquiry wherein reports are sought from different agencies, including Police, CID etc. The report of the CID has only an assistive and not decisive role in such instances. It is the discretion of the Passport Authority to rely or not to rely on the report of the CID based on its subjective satisfaction," the officer said.

He said "the contentions or grounds taken by the petitioner do not hold any merit so far as the answering respondent has not committed any discrimination or arbitrariness in order to infringe the rights of the petitioner. The present writ petition is bereft of merit and deserved to be dismissed with costs."

Earlier, in March 2021, Me-hbooba and her 80-year-old mother Gulshan Nazir were refused a passport after J&K police opposed citing an "adverse report" against her.

Mehbooba's passport expired on May 31, 2019 and she applied for a fresh passport on December 11, the next year, whereas her mother, the wife of former chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed applied for the same in 2020to undertake a religious pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

Mehbooba's passport application is still pending but the authorities released the passport of her mother in early February on the directions of J&K High Court.

Power Grid Corp Holds Workshop On Waste Management

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With an aim to create awareness about dry waste, wet waste and single use plastic the Power Grid Corporation of India on Wednesday organised a workshop for its em vees at its substation

the scientific waste management programme can be taken up under Corporate Social Responsibility programme (CSR). In his welcome address Akhlaq

Ameen Assistant Manager Powe

some villages around their stations

in Wagoora and Wanpoh where



BLACKSMITHS SHARPEN KNIVES inside their shop in the old city of Srinagar on the seventh day of the holy month of Ramazan on Wednesday.. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

CAG Highlights Lack Of Adequate Response Of Govt Depts To Audit In J&K

Recommends Procedure To Be Put In Place For Action Against Officials Failing To Send Replies To IRs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has highlighted lack of adequate response of the government departments to audit in Jammu and Kashmir. "Principal Accountant Gen-

eral (Audit), Jammu & Kashmir, conducts audit of Government Departments to check for compliance to rules and regulations in transactions and to verify the regularity in maintenance of important accounting and other records as per the prescribed rules and procedures," the CAG said in its latest report.

After these audits, the CAG said, Inspection Reports (IRs) are issued to the Heads of Offices inspected with copies to the next higher authorities. irregularities "Important

and other points detected during inspection, which are not settled on the spot, find place in IRs. Serious irregularities are brought to the notice of the Government by the Office of the PAG (Principal Accountant



लोकहितार्थ सत्यनिष्ठा Dedicated to Truth in Public Interes

General)," the audit body said. For speedy settlement of audit observations and inspection reports, the Jammu & Kashmir Budget manual provides for prompt response by the Executive to IRs issued by the Principal Accountant General (Audit) to ensure remedial and rectification action.

The auditee offices and their Administrative controlling Departments are required to comply with the observations contained in the IRs and rectify the defects and report their compliance to the Principal Accountant General (Audit). "The pendency of large num-

ber of paragraphs indicates lack of adequate response of dit Committee every quarter. (GNS)the Government Departments

Cong Must Act As 'Elder Brother'

MoU Signed For Development Of Facilities At Shiv Khori

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: An agreement was signed for the development and restoration of facilities at the famous Shiv Khori shrine in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesman said on Wednesday.

Commissioner Divisional lammu and Chairman of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB), Ramesh Kumar signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JSW foundation, a charitable trust incorporated under the Indian Trust Act 1882 with its registered office in New Delhi, the spokesman said.

He said major works to be undertaken include refurbishment of food kiosks and resting shelters, installation of a sound system along pathways, provision of rain shelter branches and dustbins along pass ways,

refurbishment of existing Ghats, beautification, development of four meditation centres, construction of a reception centre with refreshment facilities, installation of signages, IT intervention (online registration, WiFi zones) and other required development works.

The spokesman said the government has invited the foundation to restore, improve and upgrade facilities in and around the shrine.

"The foundation will provide necessary funds under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) corpus for the development of facilities and support the Shiv Khori Shrine Board in ensuring public convenience," the spokesman said.

Kumar said work on the project has already started and will be completed in a time-bound manner

DC Kupwara Holds Meet With Hoteliers, Tour Operators



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Deputy commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray on Wednesday held an interactive session with hoteliers, transporters and leading Travel and Tour Operators to take stock of accommodation, transport facilities and exploring of off-beat tourist destinations of Kupwara district for upcoming tourism

season in Kupwara district. A detailed power point presentation (PPT) showcasing unseen Kashmir -Bungas, Keran, Teetwal, Lolab and Kupwara was presented.

The PPT showed availability of accommodation facilities, cleanliness, Hygiene at different locations of Kupwara district.

The interactive session was attended by Travel Operators which included Zelam Amit Chaubal; Chairperson, Keseri Tours & Travels, Pune, Vandana Shailesh, Abhimanya Nawal, Farooq Ahmad, Executive Engineer Lolab-Bungas, Drangyadi Development Authority(LBDDA)

while highlighting the prospects of tourist season in Rupwara district said that the divine beauty and enticing sceneries of different off-beat destinations in Kupwara district will surely make everyone to fall in love with these tourist destinations.

The DC said that various new and innovative schemes are being implemented to boost the tourism sector in the district and hoped that in coming time Kupwara district would be best tourist destination where not only local but national and international tourists also visit.

On the ocasion, Executive engineer LBDDA told Tour &Travel operators that different tourist destinations of Kupwara district not only offer amazing views but people can enjoy their holidays with families and friends by indulging in Trekking, fishing, hiking, boating, Zorbing, camping, snow-biking. Executive officer said that Bungas valley, Lolab, Satburn, Chandigam, Drangyadi, Sadna Top, Karnah, Teetwal, Rishwadi Machil and Keran has really interesting ecological areas surrounded by green grasslands, green meadows and springs, rolling mountain peaks. the occasion, Zelam On Amit Chaubal: Chairperson Keseri Tours and travels said that due care should be taken to preserve ecosystem, natural habitat while planning the tourism activities in off- beat tourist destinations of Kupwara district. She said while adding that tourists from different states of country look for proper accommodation, good food and trained guide facilities and to give flip to tourism activities these facilities should be increased.

in Wagoora Budgam.

The workshop was conducted by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, noted social activist, who has been writing and researching on waste management for the last many years. In addition to employees of power grid, the officers of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) also participated in the workshop.

Dr Raja Muzaffar urged upon the participants to start segregating the waste at the household level & gave practical demonstration on composting of kitchen waste. He urged upon the Power Grid Corporation of India to adopt

Grid Corporation Wagoora substation spoke about the importance of waste management and swachhta programme launched by Govt of India.

Senior General Management Power Grid Corporation of India Arshad Hussain Khan during his address appreciated the Prime Minister's seriousness about waste management and Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. He said that such awareness programmes would continue in future as well. He thanked Dr Raja Muzaffar for giving a detailed and insightful talk on management of waste at household level.

POWERGRID Acquires 3 SPVs For Transmission System Projects



Observer News Service

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) – a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power has acquired three Project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for various Transmission System Projects after competing with various private sector players and emerging as successful bidder in the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding process (TBCB) conducted by PFC Consulting Limited as per the Guidelines notified by Government of India.

These Project SPVs are: 1. Bhadla Sikar Transmission Limited2. Dharamjaigarh Transmission Limited3. Raipur Pool Dhamtari Transmission Limited Bhadla Sikar Transmission Limited shall implement a Transmission System Project comprising of establishment of a approx. 650ckm 765kV D/C Bhadla - Sikar Transmission Line along with Bay extensions and associated work for evacuation of Power from the various Solar Energy Zones (8.1 GW) in Rajasthan into the National Grid.

This Project will augment the transmission infrastructure to evacuate Green Energy thereby reducing dependency on fossil fuels, in line with Government of India's vision of achieving 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030.Dharamjaigarh Transmission Limited and Raipur Pool Dhamtari Transmission Limited shall implement Transmission System Projects for EHV transmission system strengthening in Western Region Grid.

The elements shall include 400kV D/C Transmission Line, Creation of 220 kV level and Bays extension works at various substations in Western Region with a Transformation Capacity of 2500 MVA.These Transmission System Projects will cater the requirement of transmission of electrical energy to industries, households and businesses and they will be boosting the economic development of the country at large.

For Oppn Parties: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday asked Congress to act like an "elder brother" and create space for opposition parties in their fight for democracy. 'Congress will have to be-

have like an elder brother. It should not choke space, it should create space for other opposition parties, which have been its alliance partners in the past, to save the democracy in the country," Mufti told reporters at PDP office here.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said



the current struggle was not only about disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha but for the very survival of democracy in the country.

The country is passing through a critical situation and it is a do to die situation. It is not just about the surviv-

al of Rahul Gandhi, it is about the survival of democracy, she said.

to Audit," the CAG said, adding,

"The Government may look

into this matter and revamp

the system to ensure proper

response to the audit observa-

tions from the Departments in

Three Audit Committee Meetings (ACMs) were held

in Revenue Sector settling six

Inspection Reports and 83 out-

standing paragraphs with a

money value of Rs 6.60 crore.

Similarly, during the period

2020-21, four Audit Commit-

tee meetings were held in

Social, General and Economic

Sectors in which 101 Audit pa-

Government should ensure

that a procedure is put in place

for action against officials fail-

ing to send replies to IRs/ para-

graphs as per the prescribed

time schedule and recovery of

losses/ outstanding advances/

bound manner" The CAG has

also recommended holding at

least one meeting of each Au-

overpayments, etc., in a time-

"It is recommended that

ras were settled.

a time-bound manner."

"Be it judiciary, media or executive, all the pillars of democracy are shaken," she said.

The PDP president said the assault on democracy started in 2018 when opposition parties -- NC, Peoples Democratic Party, and Congress -- were not allowed to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir despite having a majority.

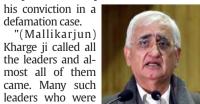
"That time the fax machine was made the scapegoat. But the other opposition parties did not react to it the way they should have," Mufti added.

Don't Want To Play Role Of Big **Brother To Any Party: Salman**

SRINAGAR: Amid unity efforts in the opposition ranks, Congress leader Salman Khurshid Wednesday said the party does not want to play the role of a "big brother" to any party and called for a collective fight against the "big challenge." Addressing a press confer-

ence at Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) head office here, Khurshid said it is for the collective leadership of the opposition parties to decide who will get what responsibility.

"We do not want to play the role of a big brother to anyone. A collective effort should be made, all should come together and all leaders should decide who will get what responsibility or rights," Khurshid told reporters during the press meet, held on the issue of Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Parliament following



not saying anything before have openly supported ers, others will welcome us,' Rahul ji over this episode. So, we hope this will be taken forward soon and all of us will decide together," he said.

The former Union External Affairs minister said the opposition parties were of one mind over the need for unity and the Congress is hopeful that the efforts will fructify.

"Everyone will see the ground reality and know how much one is worth. This can be discussed when all of us sit together There is a unanimity that all of us have to unite to fight this big challenge. We are

hopeful there will be unity.

"When Rahul's yatra reached here (J-K), he was welcomed by other parties. That is what we want, we will welcome oth-

he said. In another press conference

here earlier in the day, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti asked Congress to act like an "elder brother" and create space for opposition parties in their fight for democracy.

"Congress will have to behave like an elder brother. It should not choke space, it should create space for other opposition parties, which have been its alliance partners in the past, to save the democracy in the country," Mufti told reporters at PDP office here.

Shamim Ahmad Pir; President Hotel Owners Association Kupwara, Showkat Ahmad Mir; President Sumo-stand Kupwara and other travel and tourism representatives.

During the interactive session, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara welcomed the representatives of Keseri Tours and Travels for showing interest in sending tourists to off-beat tourist destinations of Kupwara district.

The Deputy Commissioner apprised the travel trade representatives about the steps taken by the District administration Kupwara for a comfortable and safe stay of tourists in Kupwara district.

The Deputy Commissioner

Jal Shakti, Agriculture Dept Join Hands To Start Irrigation Season In Kashmir

Observer News Service

PAMPORE: Jal Shakti (Irrigation and Flood Control) Department, Kashmir in association with the Department of Agriculture, Kashmir organized a programme marking the commencement of the irrigation season in Kashmir valley on Wednesday.

The event was organized at-Marwal lift irrigation scheme Pulwama falling under the jurisdiction of Irrigation Construction Division, Pamporeand was presided over by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (Irrigation and Flood Control) Department, Kashmir, Er. Naresh Kumar in presence of Director Agriculture, Kashmir Chowdhary Mohammad Igbal.

On the occasion, the Marwal irrigation canal was charged that will assure irrigation supplies to the connected villages of the area formally marking the start of the upcoming irrigation sea-

son in the Kashmir Valley.

Speaking on the occasion Er.Naresh Kumar said that the occasion marks a very important beginning and the department will ensure the irrigation facilities throughout the region. He emphasized upon the judicious use of the facility to ensure better outcome for all.

Director Agriculture, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal impressed upon the adherence of the irrigation scheduling framed for the UT of J&K.He also stressed upon a focused collective campaign in future to ensure the smooth delivery of irrigation facility.

Engineer, Superintending GhulamRasoolLaharwal, Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama, Mohammad Iqbal, Executive Engineer MID Srinagar Harminder Singh, Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore Sajid Pandit among other officers, were present on the occasion.

SPORTS

Indonesia Stripped

Rights: FIFA

Agencies

Indonesia has been stripped

of the right to host the un-

der-20 soccer World Cup, global

governing body FIFA said on

Wednesday. The decision to re-

move Indonesia as host of the

May 20-June 11 tournament was

taken after its football federa-

tion (PSSI) said it had cancelled

the draw after the governor of

the largely Hindu island of Bali

rent circumstances, to remove In-

donesia as the host of the FIFA U-20

World Cup 2023," a FIFA statement

said. "A new host will be announced

as soon as possible, with the dates of

the tournament currently remaining unchanged. Potential sanctions

against the PSSI may also be decided

FIFA added that the deci-

at a later stage.

"FIFA has decided, due to the cur-

refused to host Israel's team.

Of U-20 WC Hosting



J&K Women Lose 5-0 In **Senior National Opener**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior women's football team suffered a 5-0 drubbing at the hands of Football Delhi (Delhi Soccer Association) on Wednesday in their opening game of the 27th Senior Women's National Football Championship 2022-23.

The match was played at Pant Stadium in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh and saw the Delhi side take the lead in the 18th minute. The Delhi women then doubled their Ladakh lost 4-0 to Jharkhand.

ute. The fourth goal was scored in the 85th minute, while the fifth came in added time of 90+4 minute. Led by Head Coach Fayaz Ah-mad Shah, the J&K women's

lead in the 50th minute, before

adding the third in 55th min-

team would rue their second half performance which saw them concede four goals. J&K will next play hosts Chhattisgarh on April 1 at the Pant Stadium. In another match, debutants

Kremlin Calls IOC Rules On Russian Participation 'Discriminatory'

Agencies

The Kremlin said on Wednesday that the International Olympic Committee's guidelines that allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete in international competitions as neutrals contain "elements of discrimination".

Athletes from Russia and Belarus, Moscow's ally, were banned from most international competitions last year over the Ukraine war, but guidelines issued by the Lausanne-based IOC on Tuesday seek to allow for their gradual return to world sport.

The guidelines have infuriated Russian authorities, however, who say any move to deprive athletes of their national symbols is discriminatory.

"Such



were characterized as containing elements of discrimination, which is unacceptable," Kremlin

spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call. 'We will continue to defend

the interests of our athletes in every possible way." IOC President Thomas Bach said on Tuesday that it would be up to international sports federations to decide which athletes from Russia and Belarus can compete as neutrals, meaning without their national flag or recommendations country's anthem.

No Formal Discussions On Pakistan Playing 2023 WC **Games In Bangladesh: ICC**



Bangladesh instead of India due to the political tension between the two countries, terming it a 'figment of imagination''.

developments told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

The source did point out that as a feasible solution.

procurement of visas was an issue that was discussed and, contrary to conjectures made from the PCB's part, the Indian cricket board has assured of all assistance

"The BCCI has categorically said that there will be no problems with procurement of visas. One of the main points for a host country is that all parports that discussions were ticipating nations will be given visas on time. From ICC's part, board meeting in Dubai about Bangladesh is not even in its scheme of things as a co-host as of now," the source said.

"Suppose Pakistan reach the finals, do they expect the matches to be played in Banabsurd happening," the board

The top brass in BCCI circles will play in Bangladesh," an understands that this is a pres-ICC board source privy to the sure put by the PCB to host the entire Asia Cup in Pakistan, which isn't being looked upon

"We understand that this is a kind of pressure tactic applied by PCB because of the Asia Cup issue. But let me tell you, ultimately, Asia Cup will also be played in UAE or Qatar and probably Pakistan will also have to play its matches in one of these countries," a BCCI source said.

Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman and BCCI secretary Jay Shah has already made it clear that India is not travelling to Pakistan for the Asia Cup and that it will be held at a neutral venue.

"As far as Pakistan playing its Asia Cup games in Pakistan is concerned, the budget for the tournament is passed by the Asian Cricket Council. If ACC says that it's not a commercially viable proposition to hold Asia Cup in two countries, how can Pakistan play its games at home. ACC, for all you know, might not pass the budget," a board source said.

cer governing body's President FIFA said in the statement. Gianni Infantino and PSSI Chairman Erick Thohir. PSSI officials did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

Earlier this month, protesters marched in the capital Jakarta waving Indonesian and Palestin-

Indonesia in the coming months and will provide the required assion had been taken following a sistance to the PSSI, under the meeting between the world soc- leadership of President Thohir,"

not be allowed to participate. Indonesia's population is pre-

dominantly Muslim. Most Indo-

nesian Muslims practice a mod-

erate version of Islam, but there

has been a rise in religious con-

servatism in recent years that

Earlier this week, the PSSI

said losing hosting rights would

harm Indonesian football teams'

chances of taking part in other

FIFA tournaments, while the

economic losses would amount

to "trillions of rupiah". On Wednesday, FIFA said that it was

committed to aiding the PSSI fol-

lowing a deadly stampede last

year that led to the deaths of 135

spectators at a stadium in East

will continue to be present in

"Members of the FIFA team

Java in October.

has crept into politics.



"A new meeting between the FIFA President and the PSSI President for further discussions will be scheduled shortly."

As host, Indonesia automatically qualified for the Under-20 World Cup, but it has not played ian flags and demanding Israel in the tournament since 1979.



Press Trust of India NEW DELHI: ICC sources on Wednesday dismissed speculations about Pakistan playing their World Cup matches in

The rebuttal came after re-

held during the recent ICC Pakistan possibly playing their

league games in Bangladesh. 'No one knows if PCB chief Mr Najam Sethi has had any in- the semi-finals or win to play formal discussion with his Bangladeshi counterpart Najmul Hasan Papon but this can be gladesh. This is not a theatre of said with a degree of certainty that no such discussions hap- member added. pened officially that Pakistan

♥ JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR