

G20 Meet In Kashmir

Home Minister To Review Security Situation Today

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, J&K LG Manoj Sinha; DGP Dilbag Singh To Attend Meeting In New Delhi



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, sources said.

Shah will be given a detailed presentation on the prevailing law and order situation in J-K by security officials of the central government and the union territory administration.

The situation along the Line of Control and International Border, infiltration bids from across the border and attempts to target minority community members are expected to be discussed at the meeting in Delhi, sources said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary

Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh and other senior officials will attend the meeting.

Earlier a crucial meeting for the ongoing preparations for the G20 summit in Kashmir was held at the North Block.

Kashmir is all set to host the G20 meeting from May 22-25 and the administration is busy making foolproof security arrangements for the high-profile event with special forces and anti-drone technology being brought in from New Delhi, according to NDTV.

Delegates from almost all countries of G20, except China, are scheduled to attend the meeting on Working Group of Tourism in Srinagar **More on P10**

J&K Govt Promotes Border Tourism As Peace Prevails On LoC

Kaman Post Along Uri Sector To Be Another Tourist Attraction This Year

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Over two years after guns fell silent along the fragile Line of Control (LoC) dividing the two nuclear countries, the Jammu and Kashmir government is mulling to open more virgin places for tourists in the Union Territory to give a fillip to the border tourism.

After the remote Gurez villages, located along the LoC between India and Pakistan,



the authorities have decided to promote Kaman Post in Uri sector of Baramulla district as a tourist destination. The Kaman Post overlooks the 'Aman Setu, Bridge' spanning the LoC. Half of the bridge is under the control of the Indian army while the half is controlled by Pakistan Rangers.

"Army has been at the forefront in promoting border tourism. We are happy that tourists are exploring these

areas as well. The ball is in the Government's court, they have to ensure necessary infrastructure so that tourists will feel safe," an army official told Kashmir Observer.

The announcement has also brought cheer to locals, who have been constantly bearing the brunt of mortar shelling over the decades.

"The move will surely boost our economy. It will also help generate **More on P10**

Private Schools Face Ire For Issuing 'Tugluk -i-Farman'

School Education Dept Summons Few Pvt Schools For Unilateral Hike Of Annual Charges, Tuition; Transport Fee

Agencies

Srinagar: Following the complaints against some private schools of unilateral and illegal hike in annual charges, monthly and transport fee, School Education Department Wednesday summoned those institutions with evidence.

Joint Director, Central and North Kashmir in this regard has shot a notice to three private educational institutes.

"A large number of complaints have been received through Parents Associations of Private School Kashmir (PAPSK) from time to time against your unilateral and illegal hike of Annual Charges, Monthly fee and Transport fee without the consent and consultation of parents of students studying in

your institution," it reads.

"You dictate them to purchase books from such and such shop with strict instructions to parents to keep one set of book in school and one at home," reads the notice.

The joint director said, "This approach indicates the choking school environment is taking parents for a ride with your 'Tugluk -i-Farman' and has sent shock waves to the teaching fraternity and students and Society at large."

The notice further reads that the illegal command to parents depicts the mind set and aristocratic approach which the society is not going to accept and the unbridled powers used by such institutions under the garb of imparting Education.

"It is a slap on the Society

which is seeking right to education as a fundamental right but your materialistic mind set commercialization of Educational institutes as teaching shops has closed chances of youth and younger generation to reap benefits of higher Education," it reads.

The joint director said that DSEK has received evidence in the shape of undertaking, receipts and documents which serve as a proof for the dictatorial orders which shall be taken back forthwith so that the students and the parents take a sigh of relief.

"You are as such directed to roll back these orders which force us to deposit additional and charge a hike which is as high as 50 percent to 100 percent hike as **More on P10**

Rs 272 Cr Approved For Compensatory Afforestation Scheme For J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: The Centre has approved Rs 272 crore for implementation of compensatory afforestation scheme in Jammu & Kashmir. The National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority has approved Rs 272.65 crore for different activities under the scheme during the ongoing fiscal.

"With reference to the letter no. PCCF/CAMPNAPO-2023-24 /1329/3293-94 dated 28.01.2023 of Government of Jammu and Kashmir on the above-mentioned subject, it is to convey the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Authority, EC has approved an amount of Rs.272.65 crore [Rupees two hundred seventy two crore and sixty five lakhs only]," reads the communiqué sent to J&K Government by CEO National Authority, CAMPA.

After the Centre's approval, the Jammu & Kashmir government has **More on P10**



of Operation of 2023-24 at total outlay of Rs. 274.05 crore (Rupees two hundred seventy four crore and five lakhs only). During 21st meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of the National Authority, EC has approved an amount of Rs.272.65 crore [Rupees two hundred seventy two crore and sixty five lakhs only]," reads the communiqué sent to J&K Government by CEO National Authority, CAMPA.

After the Centre's approval, the Jammu & Kashmir government has **More on P10**



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Model Created Using AI And Tweets To Help Early Detection Of Mental Disorders

Press Trust Of India

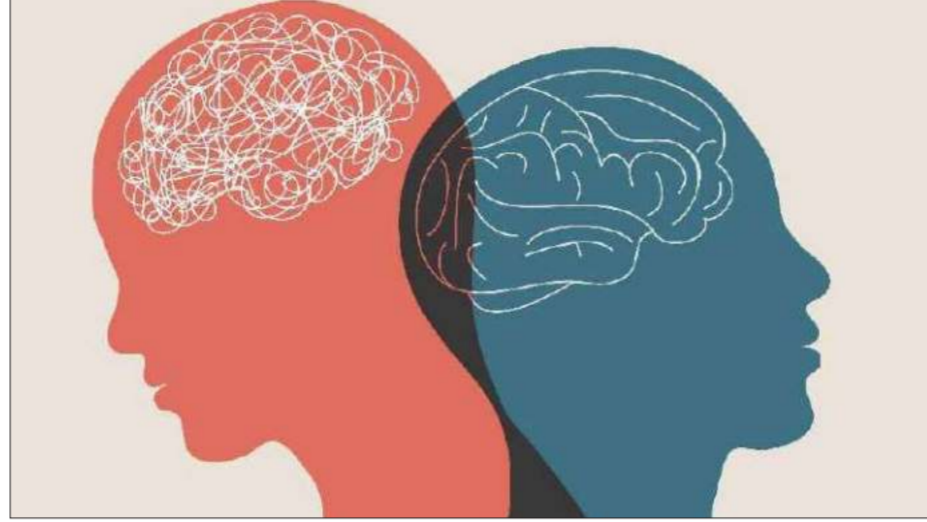
Work is underway to create anxiety and depression prediction models, using artificial intelligence (AI) and Twitter, one of the world's largest social media platforms, that could detect signs of these illnesses before clinical diagnosis, according to researchers.

Researchers at the University of So Paulo (USP) in Brazil said that preliminary findings from the model suggested the possibility of detecting the likelihood of a person developing depression based solely on their social media friends and followers.

The findings are published in the journal Language Resources and Evaluation.

While there are multiple studies involving natural language processing (NLP) focussed on depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder, most of these analysed English texts and did not match Brazilians' profiles, the researchers said.

The first step in this study involved constructing a database, called SetembroBR, of information relating to a corpus of 47 million publicly posted Portuguese texts and the network of connections between 3,900 Twitter users. These users had reportedly been diag-



nosed with or treated for mental health problems before the survey. The tweets were collected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"First, we collected timelines manually, analyzing tweets by some 19,000 users, equivalent to the population of a village or small town.

"We then used two datasets, one for users who reported being diagnosed with a mental health problem and another selected at random for control purposes. We wanted to distinguish between people with depression and the general population," said Ivandere Paraboni, last author of the article and a professor at

USP.

Because people with mental health problems tended to follow certain accounts such as discussion forums, influencers and celebrities who publicly acknowledge their depression, the study also collected tweets from friends and followers.

The second step, still in progress, has provided some preliminary findings, such as the possibility of detecting the likelihood of a person developing depression based solely on their social media friends and followers, without taking their own posts into account.

Following pre-processing of the corpus to maintain original texts by removing non-standard characters, the researchers deployed deep learning (AI), to create four text classifiers and word embeddings (context-dependent mathematical representations of relations between words) using models based on bidirectional encoder representations from transformers (BERT), a machine learning algorithm employed for NLP.

These models correspond to a neural network that learns contexts and meanings by monitoring sequential data relationships, such as words in a sentence. The training input consisted of a sample of 200 tweets selected at random from each user.

The researchers found that among the

models, BERT performed best in terms of predicting depression and anxiety. They said that because the models analysed sequences of words and complete sentences, it was possible to observe that people with depression, for example, tended to write about subjects connected to themselves, using verbs and phrases in the first person, as well as topics such as death, crisis and psychology.

"The signs of depression that can be detected during a visit to the doctor aren't necessarily the same as the ones that appear on social media," Paraboni said.

"For example, use of the first-person singular pronouns I and me was very evident, and in psychology this is considered a classic sign of depression. We also observed frequent use of the heart emoji by depressive users.

"This is widely felt to be a symbol of affection and love, but maybe psychologists haven't yet characterized it as such," Paraboni said.

The researchers are now extending the database, refining their computational techniques and upgrading the models in order to see if they can produce a tool for future use in screening prospective sufferers from mental health problems and helping families and friends of young people at risk from depres-

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Handwara

Rajwar Road Handwara, 193221
 Email: Xenirrigationhandwara@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 e- NIT No:01-IFCD/HND/2023-24 Dated: 10/ 04/2023.

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors register with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government, for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of work	Advertised cost	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head	Cost of Tender document	Tender ID No.
1	Ann maintain of various Irrigation Canals, minors and ST tanks during 2023-24 in ISD HND Ramhall Section. Danganwari, Malik I, Champora Khul and its minors incl. LIS falls under Irr Sec Ramhall ST Tanks.Rajwar Section. All Irr Canals, minors, ST Tanks, LIS.	750000/-	15000/-	Up to 20 th of Sep. 2023	CEE/DEE	2702-M&R	800	2023_IFC_209572_1
2	Ann maintain of various Irr Canals, minors and ST Tanks during 2023-24 in ISD HND. Kandi Section Lal Khul, Nagerwari Khul, Doonwari Khul Kandi section, and its minors incl LIS Falls under Irrigation section Lal Khul etc.	750000/-	15000/-	Up to 20 th of Sep. 2023	CEE/DEE	2702-M&R	800	2023_IFC_209572_2
3	Ann maint of various Irr Canals, dist minors and ST during 2023-24 in ISD Gashi, Budreshi Canal, Lanagte Ganapora, Unisoo Ujroo canal. Khudi, Qalamchakla, Dehgam Canal and their breaches minors. Darbal, Plapora Lukipora, Gangsar STs	1200000/-	24000/-	Up to 20 th of Sep. 2023	BEE/CEE/DEE	2702-M&R	1200	2023_IFC_209572_3

Position of AAA: Sanctioned vide DSE's Accord No. 48/DSE/HH/DB of 2022-23 Dated:- 27-03-2023.

Position of T.S.: under process
 Under Budgetary Provision of Annual Ceiling
 The NIT consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from website www.jktenders.gov.in from:-

Publishing Date	11-04-2023 1600 Hours
Download Date Start	11-04-2023 1600 Hours
Tender Submission date Start	11-04-2023 1600 Hours
Tender Submission date Ends	24-04-2023 1800 Hours
Date of Opening	25-04-2023 1400 Hours

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 I&FC Division Handwara

No:-18/FCDD/CC/122-32
 DIPP-384/23 Dated:- 12/04/2023.

The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation Ltd. Office of General Manager (S&M) Kashmir

Email: jksfcsaleskashmir@gmail.com

AUCTION CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL-2023

The date for auction of timber in the following Sale Depot has been fixed as under:

#	Name of the Depot	Date	Day	Type of auction	Remarks
1	PC	27-04-2023	Thursday	Field Auction	Normal/Reduction

Note: - The auction will start at 10.00 A.M sharp.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- To be eligible for participation in the auction every bidder/ purchaser before start of bidding: -
 a. Shall have to deposit a sum of Rs. 25000/- in the shape of FDR/ CDR pledged to J&K Forest Development Corporation with the General Manager (S&M) Srinagar. b. Shall have to deposit a photocopy of PAN card.
- The rules governing the timber trade and its transportation issued by the Forest Department from time to time shall be binding on all the intending bidders/purchasers.
- For further details refer to the General Auction Notice issued vide this office No. 2501-21/GM(S&M) K dated 31.03.2022, read with addendum issued vide this office No. 398-412/GM/S&M/K dated 18.05.2022 which shall be available in the office of undersigned and on www.jksfc.jk.gov.in.

DIPP-NB-214/23 dated: 12-04-2023

Sd/
 M. Ayub Dar
 General Manager, (S&M) K.

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University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Awadhesh Kumar Yadav
 Paretnage:- Kailash Yadav

Residence:- UP
 Registration No : 163-5KC-2000
 Certificate/s lost:- B. Ed Marks Certificate
 Roll No/s:- 1548
 Session/ Year Oct-Nov 2000

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled
No: F(Duplicate/ KU/23

Assistant Controller
 of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof
 sku

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my Motor Cycle bearing regd no; JK22A 2698 while travelling from Turkanwagam to Shopian. Now I have 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 ARTO Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shamim Ahmad Mir
 S/o Farooq Ahmad Mir
 R/o Dashipora shopian

fko

از دفتر ضلع اسٹنٹ لیبر کمشنر واقع ڈی سی آفس گاندربل (اطلاع عام)

مندرجہ ذیل دئے گئے رجسٹرڈ مزدور صاحبان کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ ان کی کیس فائل (case files) کچھ ایک وجوہات کی وجہ سے دفتر پتائیں رکھی ہوئی ہے، بہت کوشش کے باوجود متعلقہ مزدور صاحبان سے رابطہ نہیں ہو پا رہا ہے، اس لئے متعلقہ مزدور صاحبان کو برائے اس اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ وہ ضلع لیبر دفتر گاندربل واقع ڈی سی آفس گاندربل سے 15 دنوں کے اندر اندر رابطہ قائم کریں۔ مقررہ وقت گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض، درخواست قابل قبول نہ ہوگی

S.No	REG. NO	NAME	PARENTAGE	ADDRESS	REASON OF RETURN CASES
1.	7276	AB KHALIQ LONE	GH AHMAD	HATUBURA GBL	Docs pending
2.	4751	AB MAJEED BHAT	GH MOHD BHAT	SAFAPORA GBL	Submit marks card
3.	1884	GH MOHD ZARGAR	GH AHMAD ZARGAR	DANGHER PORA GBL	Docs pending
4.	3823	FAROOQ AH MIR	GH MOHD	BAKURA ALUSTENG	Bonafide pending
5.	2393	GH AHMAD GANIE	MOHD IBRAHIM GANIE	DAB GBL	Marks card pending
6.	156	ABDUL MAJEED BHAT	MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT	RABITAR GBL	Docs pending
7.	6505	MOHD YOUSUF WANI	GH RASOOL WANI	KACHAN GBL	Bonafide pending
8.	3094	GH RASOOL DAR	AB SALAM DAR	DAB GBL	Bonafide pending
9.	4467	GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH	GH HASSAN SHEIKH	BOBOSIPORA NUNNAR	REJECTED
10.	2904	GULZAR AHMAD WANI	GH MOHD WANI	WATALBAGH GBL	Docs pending
11.	6781	MOHD SHAFI HAROON	GH AH HAROON	KHUN-HARRAN GBL	Docs pending
12.	4279	MOHD SHAFI BHAT	GH RASOOL BHAT	WATLAR GBL	Docs pending
13.	JK-4583	ABDUL GAFAR KUMHAR	GH AHMAD KUMAR	URPASH GANDEBAL	Bonafide pending
14.	2463	GH MOHD RATHER	AB REHMAN RATHER	WASKURA GBL	REJECTED
15.	JK-5860	GH MOHIUDIN MALIK	AB AZIZ MALIK	RAYIL GUND KANGAN	Bonafide pending
16.	2234	GH HASSAN GANIE	ABDUL REHMAN GANIE	ARAHAMA GBL	Docs pending
17.	3172	ABDUL RASHID WANI	GH RASOOL WANI	SI-HUJAMA GBL	Bonafide pending
18.	4419	MOHD SHAFI GANIE	MOHD ISMAEL GANIE	GIRAJ GBL	ORIGINAL DOCS PENDING
19.	4211	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Mohammad Sidiq Dar	Kujjar Ganderbal	Registration
20.	3355	FAYAZ AH RESHI	GH MOHI-UD-DIN	GRATBAL SAFAPORA	DOCS PENDING
21.	1170	MANZOOR AH TANTRAY	AB REHMAN	YOUNGOOCRA LAR	MEDICINE VOUCHERS PENDING

DIPP-372/23 dated: 12-04-2023

Assistant Labour Commissioner
 District Ganderbal

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

با اجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم
 رجزر بر بخش اینڈ ڈپٹی سب جج سرینگر
 ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر (منسل)

Mohammad Shafi
 Pandith F/o Aiman
 Shafi R/o Kuker Mohalla
 Harwan Srinagar

درخواست برادر اندراج کرنے تاریخ پیش آواز
 Aiman Shafi تاریخ پیش آواز
 03-01-2005

اشتبہ برادر آواز گاہی بر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل اسانکے عدالت پتائیں ایک درخواست قبول ملتی ہے
 اندراج کرنے تاریخ فونگی دائری ہے۔ لہذا انعام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ
 نسبت درخواست سائل اسانکے منظور ہونے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت
 میں عدالت میں آکر مورخہ 20-04-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر
 یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 تقریر الص 12-04-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج میونسپل سرینگر

nj

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

با اجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم
 رجزر بر بخش اینڈ ڈپٹی سب جج سرینگر
 ایس۔ ایم۔ سی سرینگر (منسل)

Mohammad Shafi
 Pandith F/o Aiman
 Shafi R/o Kuker Mohalla
 Harwan Srinagar

درخواست برادر اندراج کرنے تاریخ فونگی آواز
 محمد عبداللہ بت تاریخ فونگی
 11-03-1989

اشتبہ برادر آواز گاہی بر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل اسانکے عدالت پتائیں ایک درخواست قبول ملتی ہے
 اندراج کرنے تاریخ فونگی دائری ہے۔ لہذا انعام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ
 نسبت درخواست سائل اسانکے منظور ہونے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت
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 یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 تقریر الص 12-04-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج میونسپل سرینگر

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Government of India



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by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

(Through Video Conferencing)



13 April, 2023



10:30 AM



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29 Of 30 Chief Ministers Crorepatis, Mamata Banerjee Only Exception: Official Data

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Twenty-nine of the 30 incumbent Chief Ministers are crorepatis with Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy having the highest assets totalling ₹510 crore, according to poll affidavits analysed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has the lowest total assets of about ₹15 lakh, the ADR said.

The ADR and Election Watch (NEW) said they have arrived at this conclusion after analysing the self-sworn poll affidavits of all the 30 current chief ministers of states and union territories.

There are 28 state chief ministers and two union territories -- Delhi and Puducherry -- also have chief ministers. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir does not have a chief minister currently.

Out of the 30 chief ministers analysed, 29 (97 per cent) are crorepatis with the average assets being ₹33.96 crore for every chief minister, the ADR said.

According to the ADR report, out of the 30 chief ministers, 13 (43 per cent) have declared



serious criminal cases including those related to murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and criminal intimidation.

Serious criminal cases are non-bailable offences with over five years of imprisonment, the report said.

The top three chief ministers in terms of assets are Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy (over ₹510 crore), Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu (over ₹163 crore) and Odisha's Naveen Pattnaik (over ₹63 crore), according to the ADR.

The three chief ministers with the lowest declared assets are -- West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee (over ₹15 lakh), Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (over ₹1 crore) and Haryana's Manohar Lal (over ₹1 crore), the ADR said.

Both Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal own assets worth over ₹3 crore, the report said.

Maternity Act "Discriminatory" For Adoption? Supreme Court Hearing This Month

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court agreed to hear on April 28 a plea challenging the Constitutional validity of a provision of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 which states that a woman who legally adopts a child below the age of three months would be entitled to maternity leave.

The petition submitted that the purported 12 weeks of maternity benefit to adoptive mothers is not only a "mere lip service but when juxtaposed with the maternity benefit of 26 weeks provided to biological mothers, fails to stand even the basic scrutiny of Part III of the Constitution which is wedded to the concept of non-arbitrariness."

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala took note of the submissions of a lawyer who mentioned the matter seeking urgent hearing.

The top court on October 1, 2021 had issued notices to the Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Women & Child Development while seeking their responses on the PIL, which said Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 was discriminatory and arbitrary.

A woman who legally adopts



a child below the age of three months or a commissioning mother shall be entitled to maternity benefit for a period of twelve weeks from the date the child is handed over to the adopting mother or the commissioning mother, as the case may be.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Karnataka resident Hamsaanandini Nanduri challenging the constitutional validity of Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

"Section 5(4) apart from being discriminatory and arbitrary towards the adoptive mothers, also arbitrarily discriminates against orphaned, abandoned or surrendered children above the age of three months, which is completely incompatible to the object of the Maternity Benefit Act as well as the Juvenile Justice Act," the plea submitted.

Bhatinda Army Camp Shooting: 'Masked' Men Used Axe, Rifle in Attack

Press Trust of India

Four Army jawans were killed in firing inside a military station in Bathinda in Punjab early Wednesday, with the state police registering a case against two unidentified persons.

The four personnel, in their mid 20s, were sleeping when the firing took place around 4.30 am in a barracks near the officers' mess in the artillery unit.

A jawan saw two unidentified men in white kurta-pyjama, their faces and heads covered, coming out of the barracks after the firing. One of them was carrying an INSAS rifle and the other an axe, the jawan said, according to the police FIR.

Subsequently, two Army officers went inside the barracks and found Sagar Banne (25) and Yogesh Kumar J (24) in a pool of blood. In another room, the bodies of Santosh M Nagal (25) and Kamallesh R (24), were found. The bodies bore bullet marks, according to the FIR.

Two of the slain jawans hailed from Karnataka and the other two from Tamil Nadu.

The Bathinda military station is one of the largest Army bases in the country and it comprises a significant number of operational units of the force.

"It has been ascertained that in the unfortunate incident, four army jawans of an artillery unit succumbed to gunshot injuries sustained during the incident. No other injuries to personnel or loss/damage to property have been reported," the Army's South Western command said in a statement.

It is suspected that an INSAS rifle, which was reported missing along with 28 rounds two days ago, was used in the firing incident. The Army said on Wednesday that the INSAS rifle has been found.

The two suspected attack-



ers, who were of medium height, went towards a forested area near the barracks on seeing the jawan, who later reported the matter to the police.

After the firing incident, the Army deployed quick reaction teams and cordoned off the area.

It said the area remained sealed off and joint investigations with the Punjab Police are being coordinated to establish the facts of the case.

All aspects, including the possible case of involvement of the missing INSAS rifle, are being ascertained, it said.

The Army said no individual has yet been detained or apprehended for the killing.

Bathinda Superintendent of Police (Detective) Ajay Gandhi, who headed the police investigation, told reporters that 19 empty shells of an INSAS rifle were found from the spot.

According to the Army statement, "Army and police joint teams will now be undertaking forensic analysis of the weapon for ascertaining further details. The balance number of rounds in the weapon will only be available after forensic analysis."

"The joint investigation with Punjab police is in progress. All possible assistance is being provided," it added.

PoK PM Sacked by Court for Contempt, Can't Hold Public Office for 2 Years

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas was disqualified from holding any public office for two years by a court on Tuesday in a contempt case, the court order said.

Ilyas, a businessman, comes from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has been locked in political wrangling with the government that succeeded him in Islamabad.

The PTI leader was tried over a speech he made last week criticising the courts for what he said was interference in his government's affairs, a court official said.

Chief Justice of the Muzaf-



farabad High Court Sadaqat Hussain Raja, who headed a panel of four judges, said Ilyas was found guilty of the contempt of court charges, and wrote in his order: "He stands disqualified from being elected or chosen or from being a member of the legislative assembly or to hold any public office for two years from today."

He has the right to appeal to the Supreme Court against the sentence, which his legal team said it would file on Wednesday. The court showed a video of Ilyas's speech and asked him to verify whether it was him speaking and whether he wanted to contest the content of the speech, as per reports.

Ilyas did not contest and instead tendered an apology, which the court rejected.

The Himalayan region of Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan. Pakistani-occupied Kashmir is a semi-autonomous region with its own regional government, but is largely run by the authorities in Islamabad. -- Reuters



Iran, Saudi Relations Major Blow To 'Israel' Hopes Of Anti-Iran Axis

Agencies

The Israeli occupation entity considers that the restoration of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia is deeply concerning and is a major blow to the plans of the entity and the United States, Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth said on Thursday.

"Tel Aviv and Washington in the past years hoped to exploit the rivalry between Riyadh and Tehran in order to establish an Israeli-Arab axis against Iran's efforts to create a nuclear weapon" and considered that "the announcement of the agreement, which was achieved with the mediation of China, dealt a severe blow to these hopes."

According to analysts as quoted by the Israeli newspaper, "Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is working to change the dynamic in the Middle East, unlike in the past recent years when his kingdom came close to a con-

frontation with Iran."

On March 10, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to restore diplomatic relations and reopen missions in respective countries after a series of talks brokered in Beijing, China, under the auspices of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Earlier today, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud sealed these efforts by a meeting between the two countries' diplomats in Beijing for the first time in seven years.

During the meeting, both officials exchanged views on issues related to bilateral matters, in addition to discussing steps to reopen embassies and pursue the official restoration of mutual relations.

The foreign ministers concluded the meeting by signing a joint statement that affirms that both countries will coordinate efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing agreement.

Fact-Check Provision In New IT Rules Is Press Censorship: Newspapers Body

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Newspaper Society on Wednesday urged the Centre to withdraw the amendments to the IT Rules 2021, saying the provision allowing the government to set up a fact-check body to label contents related to it "fake" or "misleading" is tantamount to "censorship" and violates freedom of expression.

As per the newly notified rules, the INS noted, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will enjoy the power to constitute a fact-check unit, which will have sweeping powers to determine what is "fake or false or misleading" with respect to "any business of the Central Government".

The said unit will also have the power to issue instructions to intermediaries, including social media platforms, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other service providers, to not host such content and take it down if already published, the INS said.

"The Indian Newspaper Society is deeply disturbed by the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital

Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023 (IT Amendment Rules, 2023), issued by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology on April 6, 2023," the media body said in a statement.

The INS is "constrained" to state that this would have the effect of the government or its designated agency enjoying "absolute power" to determine what is fake in respect of its own work, and order it to be taken down, the media body said.

"Such power is seen to be arbitrary, as it is exercised without hearing the parties, and thus a violation of all principles of natural justice and has the effect of the complainant acting as the Judge," it added.

It is also to be noted that the so-called fact-check unit can be constituted by the ministry through a simple notification published in the Official Gazette, the INS said.

"The notified rules do not specify as to what would be the governing mechanism for such a fact-check unit, what sort of judicial oversight would be available in the exercise of its powers, whether there would be the right to appeal and so on," it said.

NEWS MAKERS

BJP's Sambit Patra Walks On Hot Coals To Apease Goddess



Press Trust of India

BHUBANESWAR: BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra was seen walking on burning coals as a mark of obeisance at the ongoing Jhamu Jatra in Puri district of Odisha.

He walked around 10 metres on a burning coal bed on Tuesday.

Later, Mr Patra tweeted, "Today, I participated in the pilgrimage of Rebati Raman village of Samang panchayat in Puri district, worshipped my mother by walking on fire and took her blessings and wished the villagers happiness and prosperity."

"In this pilgrimage, I am feeling blessed by walking on the fire and receiving the blessings of the Moth-

er (Goddess Dulan)," Mr Patra said. Speaking to reporters, the BJP leader said he had performed the task of walking on fire for the welfare of the people and peace in the area.

Mr Patra also attached a video showing him walking on the fire bed surrounded by villagers who chanted "Hail Maa Dulan" and beat cymbals.

Mr Patra had contested from Puri Lok Sabha constituency in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls but he lost to Binaki Mishra of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) by 10,000 votes.

According to tradition, Jhamu Jatra is a penance and devotees inflict pain on themselves by walking on fire or piercing nails their bodies to appease the Mother Goddess Dulan for the fulfilment of desires.

Modi Surname Remark: Patna Court Summons Rahul Gandhi On April 25

Press Trust of India

PATNA: A court in the Bihar capital has asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to appear before it on April 25 in a defamation suit filed over his purported remark on Modi surname.

The defamation case in the MP/MLA court in Patna was lodged by BJP's Rajya Sabha MP and former Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi.

The MP/MLA court of Special Judicial Magistrate Aadi Dev had passed an order on March 18 asking Gandhi to appear before it on April 12.

However, during hearing on Wednesday, the defence counsel sought another date stating that the entire team was busy with the Surat case, in which Gandhi was sentenced to two years in prison and disqualified from the Lok Sabha.

To this, the judge asked Rahul Gandhi's counsel to ensure his physical appearance before the court on the next date of hearing in the case on April 25.

Prosecution lawyer Priya Gupta told reporters that statements from the complainant's side have been recorded and all evidence submitted to the court and now only the statement of Rahul Gandhi is to be recorded.

A Surat court had recently convicted Rahul Gandhi over the alleged remark and he was later disqualified as an MP from Lok Sabha.



"Am Reduced To Dust, Spare My Family": Jailed UP Gangster Atiq Ahmed

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: "I am totally reduced to dust, but please don't trouble the women and children of my family now," gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad told reporters from inside a police van on Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "mafiaaon ko mitti me mila denge" warning probably playing on his mind.

The 60-year-old former Samajwadi Party MLA, who faces more than 100 cases in Uttar Pradesh, was taken from the Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad to a prison in Prayagraj, more than 1000 kms away, by road in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case.

The police convoy taking Ahmad to Prayagraj left the Sabarmati Jail on Tuesday evening and entered into the Uttar Pradesh border from Jhansi at around 8.45 am. The convoy reached the Naini Central Jail in Prayagraj around 6 pm.

While he was on the way, he spoke to the mediapersons from inside the police van. He pleaded the government to spare his family members, who



are co-accused in several cases.

"Hum aapke jariye government se kehna chahte hain, bulkul mitti me mil gaye hain ab hamari auraton aur bachchon ko pareshan na karein. (I want to tell the government through you (the media) that I am totally reduced to dust, but please don't trouble the women and children of my family now," Ahmad told a news channel from inside his police van between Jhansi and Prayagraj.

He will be produced before a court in Prayagraj on Thursday in the Umesh Pal murder case.

After Umesh Pal, a key witness in the 2005 murder of former BSP MLA Raju Pal in which Ahmad is an accused, was shot dead outside his residence in Prayagraj on February 24 this year Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath had said "mafiaaon ko mitti me mila denge (will reduce the mafia to dust)".

"Mafiagiri toh pahle hi samapth ho gayi, ab toh ragada ja raha hai. Mafia-giri has already ended, now I am being hounded," Ahmad said, when asked about his criminal acts.

Ahmad last month moved the Supreme Court for protection, claiming he and his family have been falsely implicated as accused in the Umesh Pal murder case in Prayagraj and he may be killed in a fake encounter by the Uttar Pradesh Police.

Asked about his son Asad, who is also wanted in the Umesh Pal murder case, Ahmad said, "How would I know, I am in jail." Earlier, when his convoy was in Madhya Pradesh, Ahmad claimed he was being harassed in the Sabarmati Central Jail in Gujarat.

"My family is ruined. I am safe because of you," he told the member of the press.

"I have not telephoned anyone from there (inside the jail) as jammers were installed there. I have not hatched any conspiracy and am behind bars for the last six years," he said.

90% Houseboats Awaits Permission For Repairs In Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ninety percent of the houseboats need immediate repair, but owners are struggling to get permission for the same from authorities.

With the result, the houseboat builders are staring at joblessness in the face of High Court guidelines prohibiting any further construction of houseboats in Dal and Nigeen lakes.

Abdul Khaliq Najar, a well-known craftsman said that he has made over 50 houseboats but for the last few years, he is facing almost no or little work. He cited non-availability of timber for constructing new houseboats and lack of permission for repairs for dwindling of his livelihood.

Najar said his forefathers have been doing the woodwork but it is for the first time he is fac-

ing such a situation. "There will be no houseboats in coming years if repairs are not being carried out in the existing boats. Ninety percent of houseboats are in dire need of repairs," he said.

According to Najar, timber required for making houseboats is not easily available and is expensive.

"I have built at least 50 houseboats so far. Currently, I am repairing a few houseboats which were damaged in a fire last year," he said.

A houseboat stay is a major attraction of Kashmir tourism but due to losses in the last one decade most of the houseboat craftsmen have moved to other means of livelihood.

Houseboat owners said that drastic measures are needed to preserve the rich heritage of houseboats.



Imam-Hi (head priest) displays holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) at Dargah Hazratbal shrine on the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Ali (A.S) on Wednesday, KO Photo Abid Bhat (1)

Ensure Adequate Bus Facility On Jummat-Ul-Vida: RTO To Transporters

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to ensure smooth and hassle-free transport service for devotees on the occasion of Jummat-ul-Vida (the last Friday of Ramadan), the regional transport authorities on Wednesday directed all the transport associations and unions of the Kashmir division to ensure adequate number of big, medium and mini buses on the occasion.

Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir has directed all the transport associations and unions to ensure the availability of bus service from Parimpora and district routes towards Hazratbal, Jinab Sahib Saura, Kalashpora and Jamia Masjid Srinagar for the convenience of the general public and devotees.

Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, in a statement said that apart from the service from Parimpora to Hazratbal, Lal Chowk to Hazratbal via Rajouri Kadal, Brain/Nishat/Shalimar to Hazrat-

bal and Buchpora, Saura to Hazratbal, transport unions have been directed to ensure additional transport arrangements for the day. "For smooth and hassle-free celebration of Jummat-ul-Vida on 14-04-2023, all the Transport Associations/ Unions of Kashmir Division are hereby directed to ensure availability of the adequate number of Big Buses/ Medium Buses/ Mini Buses from Parimpora and District routes falling in western areas towards Hazratbal, Jinab Sahib Saura, Kalashpora, Jamia Masjid Srinagar, for the convenience of general public/ devotees."

availability of the adequate number of Big Buses/ Medium Buses/ Mini Buses from Parimpora and District routes falling in western areas towards Hazratbal, Jinab Sahib Saura, Kalashpora, Jamia Masjid Srinagar, for the convenience of general public/ devotees," it reads.

According to the order, Jammu Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has also been asked to adequately operate its fleet as per the past practice for the convenience of devotees and to ensure the availability of buses inter-alia from Lal Chowk to Hazratbal, Jinab Sahib Saura, Jamia Masjid, and to all important places witnessing large congregation.

The RTO Kashmir through the order has urged all the Assistant Regional Transport Officers - Anantnag, Baramulla, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Shopian - to ensure the availability of adequate transport arrangements for the general public on the eve of the Jummat-ul-Vida.

Construction Works Of Sub Regional Science Centre, Lal Mandi Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, today inspected ongoing construction works being executed on the upcoming Sub Regional Science Centre at Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

JK Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Department of Science and Technology, is establishing the Sub Regional Science Centre at Lal Mandi, Srinagar, in collaboration with National Council for Science Museums (NCSM),

Union Ministry of Culture, with an estimated cost of Rs 20.00 crore. The main objective of the Centre is to provide an activity based learning environment to inculcate a spirit of inquisitiveness, foster creative talent and create scientific temper in the community as a whole. The Centre is categorized by its two channels of communication, exhibits and activities.

Saurabh Bhagat inspected the site of the Centre and took stock of construction work at the site.

DC Srinagar Inspects Progress Of Under-Construction Flyovers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday undertook a whirlwind tour of different city areas to oversee progress of works being carried out on several major developmental projects including construction of flyovers on NH-44 (Jammu-Srinagar highway) at Lasjan, Sanat Nagar, Nowgam and Bemina Junctions.

The DC also took onsite appraisal of ongoing works on construction of Noor Jehan Bridge being constructed over River Jhelum at Qamarwari at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore.

At Lasjan, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of works on 560-meter span Flyover/ Grade Separator being executed by NHAI at an estimated cost of Rs. 70 crore, the DC was informed by Project Manager NHAI that over 80 percent of the work on the project has

been completed and work is going on in full swing.

He was also informed that the work on the trumpet adjacent to the flyover is also nearing completion as 95 percent of the work stands completed.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to speed up the work by deploying additional men and machinery to complete the project within the set timeline of May 15, 2023 so that movement of traffic is improved on the corridor of Nation Highway.

While reviewing the ongoing work on flyover at Nowgam crossing, the DC took stock of the work on 0.85 km span flyover being carried out at a cost of Rs 36.90 crore for which completion timeline has already been set to June 2023 as per terms of the contract.

The DC was apprised that over 40 percent of work has been completed including piling work and work of pile cap and pier cap is under progress.

Similarly, the DC also inspected the construction site of Rs 37 crore project of Sanat Nagar Flyover. The DC was informed that the tendering and allotment process has been completed and physical work shall be taken up on the ground next week.

Later, the DC inspected the pace and progress of ongoing work on construction of flyover at busy junction of Bemina bypass being executed at a cost of Rs 31.49 crore by PWD.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to accelerate the pace of work by employing further men and machinery to complete the prestigious project in set timelines.

The DC was apprised that over 45 percent of works on flyover at Bemina junction stands completed so far and by June end the project will be completed in full.

FCS&CA Imposes Rs 10k Fine On 17 Erring Traders For Violating ECA-1955

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement squad of this Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department today launched a massive drive within the vicinity of Srinagar City i.e., Habba Kadal, Rainawari, Now-

shera, Zadibal, Botshah Mohalla, Saraibala, Bemina, Shalteng, Budshah Nagar and Nowgam areas.

During the course of action as many as 92 establishments were inspected, out of which 17 erring traders were penalized with a sum of Rs.10100 for violating Es-

sential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955.

The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well & whosoever found violating the norms will be brought to justice. In case of any complaint, people may contact the toll free number 18001807011.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION SOPORE
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh E-NIT No. 07/JJM/SDS of 04/2023, Dated: -12-04-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore**, invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders / Firms / Companies/ relevant classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of **PHE Division Sopore** of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. **Cover I** consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover 2** consisting of Financial Bid on over all percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore**.
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

S. No	Particular of the work	Estimate Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion Of work(days)
01.	Fresh To S No. 03 of Fresh E-NIT 30/JJM/SDS OF 09/2022, Dated:- 21-09-2022 Retrofitting of WSS. Khoie by way of laying and fitting of pipes, distribution network, Construction Sludge chamber including connecting of plant of washout water with washout system, balance work of filtration plant and other allied works under JJM.	36.34	500/-	02% of Adv. Cost	120 Days	90 days

Critical Dates

- Publish Date 12-04-2023
- Document Download start Date 12-04-2023
- Bid submission start date 12-04-2023
- Bid submission end date 19-04-2023
- Date of Bid opening 20-04-2023

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

2. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer. Bids must be accompanied by bid security or Bid Securing Declaration and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table.

a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore (Tender Inviting Authority)

b. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/E-challan, bid securing declaration or Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of financial cover.

3. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid securing declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.

4. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

5. Queries by email if any should be made at phe.sopore@gmail.com

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore
No.495-506
DIPK-387/23 Dated:12-04-2023

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

22 RAMAZAN
1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4 :36
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5: 10
Magrib	7:03
ISHA	8: 28

This Day In History

- 989- Battle at Abydos: Byzantine emperor Basilios II beats Bardas Phocas
- 1204 - Crusaders occupy Constantinople
- 1367 - Battle at Nájera Spain: Castile & England beat Aragon & France
- 1517- Ottoman army occupies Cairo
- 1759- French beat European Allies in Battle of Bergen
- 1796- First elephant arrives in US from India
- 1796- Battle at Millesimo Italy: Napoleon beats Austrians
- 1849 - Hungarian Republic proclaimed
- 1868- Abyssinian War ends as British and Indian troops capture Magdala and Ethiopian Emperor commits suicide
- 1869- Steam power brake patented (George Westinghouse)
- 1904- Battle at Oviumbo Africa: Hereros chase away German army
- 1904 - A squadron of the Russian fleet is decoyed out of Port Arthur by Japanese maneuvers, when they realize they are sailing into a trap; their battleship Petropavlovsk hits a mine and sinks, with a loss of 700 men
- 1919 - British troops open fire on demonstrators in Amritsar, India, killing 350
- 1940 - 2nd battle of Narvik; 8 German destroyers destroyed
- 1941 - Pact of neutrality between the USSR and Japan is signed.
- 1944 - Diplomatic relations are established between New Zealand and the Soviet Union.
- 1959 - USAF launches Discoverer II into polar orbit
- 1959 - Vanguard SLV-5 launched for Earth orbit (failed)
- 1960 - France becomes 4th nuclear nation exploding an A-Bomb in Sahara
- 1981 - Pulitzer prize awarded to Beth Henley for "Crimes of the Heart"
- 1981 Wash Post Janet Cooke wins Pulitzer Prize (later admits story a hoax)
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1984 - 11th Space Shuttle Mission (41C)-Challenger 5-returns to Earth
- 1984 - India beat Pak by 58 runs to win 1st Asia Cricket Cup in Sharjah
- 1985 - "TASS" denounces US boycott of Moscow Olympics
- 1985 - Space Shuttle Atlantis ferried to Kennedy Space Center via Ellington AFB, Texas

From KO Archives

Gone Are The Days When We Would Be Dismissed: Farooq

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah today ridiculed threats of dismissing his government saying the National Conference was governing the state with massive support of the people who were the real fountain of power. Nobody can; dismiss us, gone are such days, Dr. Abdullah declared at a largely attended rally organised to felicitate the newly elected member to Rajya Sabha, Mirza Abdul Rashid at Zanana Park here this afternoon.

Without naming Mufti Sayed's People's Democratic Party, the chief minister said some parties were roaming in villages saying that their stand on holding talks with militants has been vindicated. Truth is that decision of releasing Hurriyat Conference leaders was taken after consultations between the state and central governments". He said he was not against holding talks with anybody provided these are held within the constitution.

(Kashmir Observer 13 April, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 13-04-2023

Lesson From Saudi-Iran Detente

The recent rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia represents a significant step towards stability in the Middle East. For years, the two countries have been locked in a bitter rivalry, backing opposing sides in conflicts across the region. The resumption of diplomatic ties could help to defuse tensions and pave the way for a more peaceful future.

It is encouraging to see that both sides are willing to engage in dialogue and take concrete steps towards reconciliation. The visits by technical delegations and the invitation of Iran's president to Saudi Arabia signal a commitment to the process. While there are undoubtedly many challenges ahead, this represents a positive development.

The involvement of China in brokering the announcement is also noteworthy. As an emerging rival to the US, China's role in the region is becoming increasingly important. The fact that the US has cautiously welcomed the rapprochement despite this underscores the significance of the move.

Crucially, one key area where the two countries have started working together is in Yemen. Saudi Arabia's military intervention in 2015 aimed at dislodging Houthi rebels has led to a protracted conflict that has caused immense human suffering. By negotiating with the rebels and working towards a political solution, Saudi Arabia could help to bring an end to the war and begin the process of rebuilding the country.

Of course, there are still many obstacles to be overcome. However, the fact that both sides are willing to engage in dialogue is a cause for cautious optimism. The resumption of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a positive development that could help to bring stability to the Gulf region. As the two countries take tentative steps towards reconciliation, the international community should support them in their efforts. Only through dialogue and cooperation can the region move towards a more peaceful future.

That said, how much one wants that ongoing reconciliation moves between Iran and Saudi Arabia serve as an inspiration for India and Pakistan. True, Indo-Pak animosity is much more entrenched and is in many ways structural, going back to Partition and a deep divergence in the political and ideological outlook of the leadership of the two communities at the time. This led to around two million deaths soon after independence. But ever since, no community has suffered more than Kashmiris because of the rivalry between the two nations. So, more than anyone else, Kashmiris desperately look forward to a time when India and Pakistan will come together. And this may give people in Kashmir a chance to finally live in peace after over 75 years of Partition.

OTHER OPINION

NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial

The universe is a pretty big place. If it is just us, seems like an awful waste of space" – this oft-quoted remark, attributed to Carl Sagan, has been one of the most forceful, and hopeful, arguments in favour of the existence of life beyond Earth. Essentially, it is a statistical argument.

Even if there was only one in a billion chance for life-supporting conditions to all come together, the fact that there are many trillions of potential places in the universe where life can evolve means that there is a very real chance that we are not alone in this universe.

A European space mission, imaginatively called Juice (for Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer), which is getting ready to begin its journey to three such potential places in our neighbourhood, is expectedly creating a lot of excitement. Venus and Mars, our closest neighbours, have not offered very encouraging signs of supporting life forms, and scientists have now turned the gaze towards the outer planets in the solar system. Juice is supposed to make detailed observations of Jupiter and three of its ocean-bearing moons – Ganymede, Callisto and Europa. It is these moons which are seen as potential habitats for evolution of life.

Ice-covered planetary objects probably are not the best starting points to begin the search for life but the likelihood of presence of water on these places is keeping the possibilities open. The excitement would need to be tempered a bit, however.

The possibility of another object within the solar system hosting life forms would, statistically speaking, mean that extra-terrestrial life is extremely common in the universe, not rare. Our solar system, after all, is little more than a tiny speck of sand on a sprawling beach.

Indian Express

Are Muslims Intellectually Prepared For The Next Pandemic?

Salina Khan

While the pandemic may be over, the world's globocrats predict another calamitous emergency may be on the horizon. If powerful climate change gurus announce that planet earth and its inhabitants won't survive unless we immediately reduce the world's population growth, how will our Muslim leadership react?

If their fervent compliance with the Covid narrative and protocols is any indication, Muslim scholars, imams and organizations would immediately jump on the anti-natalist bandwagon as the next spectre of mass deaths scares them out of their minds. Population Control Task Forces would be quickly created and filled with local Muslims with environmental degrees.

Friday Jumu'ah khutbahs would emphasize our responsibility to practice strict birth control to save life on earth, complete with Qur'anic verses like "and do not traverse lands in a roguish manner causing a diffusion of corruption" (2:60).

Billboards would go up with the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) such as: "A time will come to people, in which the best of people will be... those of less children." If the elites mandated a one-child policy or sterilization injections as the way out of climate disaster, those, too, would be enthusiastically pushed by mosques, even setting up clinics in their parking lots.

What became glaringly obvious during Covid is that most Muslim scholars and imams aren't leaders but rather followers. They follow the taghuti power structure and direct their congregants to do the same in the name of Islam, such as adhering to the (now-debunked) rule of standing six feet apart during congregational prayers to stop the spread of the Corona virus. Instead of analyzing world events—like the declaration of a pandemic and its restrictions—through the lens of the Qur'an, they interpret and quote Islamic scriptures and traditions in light of the demands of taghut.

Now that the Covid narrative is unraveling—for example, a recent study from Johns Hopkins University's Institute for Applied Economics revealed that the lockdowns of businesses, schools, and mosques not only didn't save lives but came at a heavy economic, educational, social, and psychological cost—many Muslims have lost trust in leaders who pushed them to submit to Covid rules as religious obligation and mocked those refusing as "conspiracy theorists."

True, the John Hopkins study was immediately attacked on the pretext that it was not "peer-reviewed". The problem is that the "peers" are the very same people that pushed the Covid narrative and lockdowns. They also made tons of money, together with the pharmaceutical industry that raked in billions of dollars during the pandemic. There are other studies that have also pointed out that the lockdown did not save lives. Even Antony Fauci, the main architect of the lockdown policy, admitted that we have to get on with life and can't allow the pandemic to disrupt it!

As far as the Muslim leaders are concerned, to reclaim their true position in society, "You are indeed the best community that has ever been brought forth for humanity [for its well-being]: you require [and authorize] the doing of the common good and you disallow the common wrong, and you are committed to Allah." (3:110), Muslim leaders need to seriously re-educate and reinvent themselves.

As the great Muslim thinker and poet Al-lama Muhammad Iqbal said:

*"Sabaq phir parh sadaqat ka, adalat ka, shujaat ka
Liya jaye ga tujh se kaam dunya ki imamat ka"*
"Read again the lesson of truth, of justice and valor!"

You will be asked to do the work of taking on responsibility (imamate) for the world"

Those lessons on best leadership practices are found in the Qur'an, where Allah outlines the strategies of His most obedient and excellent servants, those who outmaneuvered taghuti forces and guided their communities to success and prosperity. One of the best examples is the wise Prophet Suleiman (as), who established and maintained a magnificent "kingdom such

shall not belong to any after me" (38:35).

His name is mentioned 17 times in the Qur'an, and a common theme in his chronicles is his frequent consultation with assemblies of experts—similar to modern-day think tanks—during his decision-making process. These weren't impromptu task forces that popped up to respond to crises but rather permanent councils that continuously surveyed developments in the

Queen Bilqis to Islam. He instructs Hoopoe to fly the letter and deliver it in her lap.

Lesson 3: Think tanks are more like think-and-act tanks. Experts carry out projects in line with their research.

The powerful Queen Bilqis has her own assembly of experts. When she reads the letter, she asks her confidants their opinion. They say they



“In order to lead and not be led, mosques and other Muslim organizations need to create their own think tanks so that they can make enlightened decisions, during good times and bad. We can distill five main features of Qur'an-inspired think tanks by studying the story of Prophet Suleiman (as)

are ready to fight to defend their kingdom, but she opts for a more peaceful route.

Lesson 4: Think tank experts have to be confident, brave, and have the courage to speak the truth, even if that means sacrificing wealth, position, and possibly life.

Queen Bilqis dispatches gifts to Prophet Suleiman (as) to determine whether he is targeting her kingdom's riches and using religion only as a front.

Lesson 5: Think tank experts cannot be self-serving and out for personal gains, whether power, position, or money. In the same way, they must evaluate other people and institutions for bias and opportunism before trusting them.

When Prophet Suleiman returned the Queen's gifts, she decides to visit him. Before she arrives, Prophet Suleiman asked who could bring her mighty throne to him the quickest? Even faster than a jinn in his council was a religious man steeped in divine knowledge who fetched it before the twinkle of an eye.

Lesson 6: Think tanks must include Islamic scholars with deep knowledge of the Qur'an to provide overall guidance.

At end of the story, Queen Bilqis realizes she had been deceived by her own thoughts into worshipping the sun and admits her mistakes, submitting to Allah and His Prophet.

The taghuti forces in the world use lies and manipulations to maintain their power and riches and can trick people into following their ways, including Muslims if they stray from Qur'anic wisdom. Those Muslim leaders who followed "perverted transgressors" instead of leading during the Covid crisis need to admit their mistake and start the process of redemption to regain public trust. One way is by allocating resources towards creating think tanks that can research, report, and take actions that benefit all of humanity—whether regarding viruses, climate change or any other issues in society.

The Qur'an states: "You are indeed the best community that has ever been brought forth for humanity [for its well-being]: you require [and authorize] the doing of the common good and you disallow [and interdict] the common wrong, and you are committed to Allah. Now if the followers of earlier revelation had attained to [this kind of] divine commitment, it would have been for their own good; [but only few] among them are such committed believers, while most of them are degenerate [in character]" (3:110).

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

world, reported on them, and proactively took action to maintain a healthy society for all.

In order to lead and not be led, mosques and other Muslim organizations need to create their own think tanks so that they can make enlightened decisions, during good times and bad. We can distill five main features of Qur'an-inspired think tanks by studying the story of Prophet Suleiman (as).

At the beginning of one of Prophet Sulaiman's assemblies, his expert on water exploration, the Hoopoe bird, is missing. The hoopoe soon returns and reports on discovering the prosperous kingdom of Sheba ruled by the Queen Bilqis, a sun worshipper who possesses a beautiful throne.

Lesson 1: Think tanks should be comprised of experts who are constantly gaining knowledge about new developments around the world in their fields and sharing that information with the leadership.

Prophet Suleiman (as) had become very upset at the Hoopoe's initial absence and threatened to severely punish the bird unless it came back with a valid excuse. To confirm the Hoopoe's story, Prophet Suleiman (as) verifies "whether you are telling the truth or lying" by writing a letter to Queen Bilqis.

Lesson 2: Think tank members must have discipline, be trustworthy, and remain under constant scrutiny. Those displaying poor character should be removed.

In his missive, Prophet Suleiman (as) invites



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MAIL

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

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Project Tiger

Prime Minister Narendra Modi releasing the latest tiger census data, marking the 50 years of 'Project Tiger' in Mysuru brings back the focus on tigers' population in India. Tigers in India have a history of their own, often serving as the poster animal for saving our forests. From being constantly hunted during the colonial era, to being brought back from the brink of obliteration in early '70s, and from threats through poaching in '90s

to establishing the National Tiger Conservation Authority, tiger numbers in India have shown a steady growth. With Indian tigers accounting for more than 50 per cent of the world tiger population, restructuring the growing tiger population in a proper manner assumes greater importance. Gratifyingly enough, there are a bunch of passionate wildlife enthusiasts, who are trying their best to make the planet more habitable for the tigers. Less consumption of for-

est material, less interference in forest areas, and healthy preservation of our wildlife ecology are of vital importance in protecting our forests and the wildlife they accommodate.

Though issues like poaching are being strongly dealt with, the modern Indian tiger faces the other biggest threat of the human-animal conflict. But with coexistence being the only way forward, one immediate solution to the conflict is perhaps compensating locals who have been moved or

faced loss of life. Also, as a short-term measure these locals can be provided with jobs by integrating them in the fully-fledged industry, which is tiger-tourism. We must be reminded of the benefits of forest and wildlife cover which cannot be measured monetarily. When tigers thrive in an ecosystem, it indicates that their ecosystem too is thriving along.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Aitikaaf

A Spiritual Retreat for Purification and Blessings

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

"The one who secludes himself for worship in the mosque during Ramadan with sincere faith and hope for a reward from Allah, all of his previous sins will be forgiven."

Sahih Bukhari

As the holy month of Ramadan draws to a close, Muslims around the world engage in various forms of worship to seek the blessings and forgiveness of Allah. One of the most profound practices during the last ten days of Ramadan is Aitikaaf, which involves seclusion and staying in a mosque for a specific period with the intention of performing acts of worship. The purpose of Aitikaaf is to seek closeness to Allah, increase in spirituality, and obtain a greater understanding of Islam.

The word Aitikaaf is derived from the Arabic word "i'tikaf," which means to remain in a particular place with dedication and commitment. During Aitikaaf, a person secludes himself from the worldly affairs and devotes himself entirely to the worship of Allah.

Aitikaaf is highly recommended during the last ten days of Ramadan, which are considered the most blessed and spiritually charged days of the month. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to observe Aitikaaf every year during the last ten days of Ramadan, and it is recommended for Muslims to follow beloved Prophet's Sunnah (way of life).

Benefits and Rewards of Aitikaaf

The rewards of Aitikaaf are immense and numerous, as indicated by several Ahadees. The following are some of the benefits and rewards of Aitikaaf:

- Closeness to Allah: Aitikaaf is a way to seek the closeness of Allah and increase



“ATIKAAF IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED during the last ten days of Ramadan, which are considered the most blessed and spiritually charged days of the month.”

one's devotion and sincerity in worship. It is a time to detach oneself from the distractions of the world and focus entirely on spiritual and religious activities.

- Forgiveness of Sins: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Whoever performs Aitikaaf for the last ten days

of Ramadan, with faith and seeking reward, all his previous sins shall be forgiven" (Muslim). Aitikaaf is a way to seek forgiveness and repent for one's sins.

- Blessings and Rewards: Aitikaaf is a highly rewarded act of worship in Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

said, "The person who observes Aitikaaf, Allah grants him such reward as He gives to those who do good deeds" (Bukhari). The angels also send blessings upon those who observe Aitikaaf in the mosque (Tirmidhi).

- Increased Understanding of Quran and Hadith: Aitikaaf is a time to focus on the

study and contemplation of the Quran and Hadith. It is a time to deepen one's understanding of the teachings of Islam and gain spiritual insights.

- Purification of Heart and Mind: Aitikaaf is a time for introspection and self-reflection. It is a time to purify one's heart and mind and seek the pleasure of Allah.

Guidelines for Aitikaaf

To observe Aitikaaf, a person should follow the following guidelines:

- Intention: Aitikaaf should be performed with the intention of seeking the pleasure of Allah and gaining His blessings.

- Duration: Aitikaaf can be observed for any period, but it is recommended to observe it for the last ten days of Ramadan.

- Location: Aitikaaf should be observed in a mosque or a designated prayer area. It is not permissible to observe Aitikaaf at home.

- Activities: Aitikaaf is a time for performing acts of worship, such as recitation of Quran, supplication, and remembrance of Allah. It is also recommended to engage in voluntary prayers, especially during the night.

- Etiquette: Aitikaaf requires observing proper etiquette and manners, such as maintaining cleanliness, avoiding idle talk, and refraining from harming

Aitikaaf is a time when Muslims retreat to the mosque to focus on worship and spiritual activities, seeking the blessings and forgiveness of Allah. It is a time when Muslims are encouraged to make dua for themselves and for the entire Ummah. During this period, Muslims can recite duas for the well-being, unity, and prosperity of the entire Ummah.

The person who observes Aitikaaf remains in the remembrance of Allah and is surrounded by angels, while the Mercy of Allah descends upon him." Mufti Taqi Usmani

4 ways that AI can help students

Jo Adetunji

As artificial intelligence systems play a bigger role in everyday life, they're changing the world of education, too.

OpenAI's ChatGPT, Microsoft's Bing and Google's Bard all come with both risks and opportunities.

I am a literacy educator and researcher, and here are four ways I believe these kinds of systems can be used to help students learn.

1. Differentiated instruction

Teachers are taught to identify the learning goals of all students in a class and adapt instruction for the specific needs of individual students. But with 20 or more students in a classroom, fully customized lessons aren't always realistic. Everyone learns differently.

An AI system can observe how a student proceeds through an assigned task, how much time they take and whether they are successful. If the student is struggling, the system can offer help; if the student is succeeding, the system can present more difficult tasks to keep the activity challenging.

This type of real-time feedback is often difficult for an educator or school to do for a single student, let alone an entire class or campus. AI adaptive learning tools have been shown to quickly and dynamically make changes to the learning environment, content, and tasks to help individuals learn more and quickly improve.

For instance, researchers at the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University taught a system how to solve a math problem. The system can follow instructions from a human supervisor to understand mathematical rules and adapt its approach to problems it has never seen before. The system can also identify areas where it had to make multiple attempts before arriving at the correct answer, flag those for teachers as places human students may get confused, and highlight methods the system used to more efficiently arrive at the right answer.

2. Intelligent textbooks

Researchers at Stanford have been developing and testing a prototype of what's

called an "intelligent textbook," titled "Inquire." It is an iPad app that monitors students' focus and attention while they read by paying attention to how students interact with the app. The interactive text includes definitions of key words accessible by touch or click and allows students to highlight and annotate while reading.

The textbook can also suggest questions about the content and areas for future inquiry that are customized for each

individual. It can change the reading level of the text and also include supplemental photos, videos and materials to help students understand what they're studying.

3. Improved assessment

Educational assessment focuses on how an educator knows whether a student is learning what is being taught. Traditional assessments – essays, multiple-choice tests, short-answer questions – are little changed from a century ago.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to change that by identifying patterns in learning that may not be apparent to individual teachers or administrators.

For instance, the language-learning company Duolingo uses AI and machine learning to create and score tests of English proficiency for universities, companies and government agencies. The tests start with a series of standard questions, but based on how the student does with

those, the system will select harder or easier questions to more quickly identify a student's exact abilities and weaknesses.

Another assessment project, Reach Every Reader, staffed by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, MIT and Florida State University, creates educational games for parents to play with their children while teaching them to read. Some of the games have adults and children role-play as characters based on real-life scenarios.

These games can help parents and teachers efficiently determine whether children are reading at their appropriate grade level and get them on track if they are not.

4. Personalized learning

Personalized learning occurs when the students' interests and goals guide learning. The teacher is more of a facilitator, while the what, why and how of learning are mostly dictated by the student. Artificial intelligence systems can provide individualized instruction tailored to each student's individual interests.

AI adaptive learning systems can quickly identify when a student is struggling and then provide more or different support to help them succeed. As the student shows that they have mastered the content or skill, the AI tool provides more difficult tasks and materials to further challenge the learner.

Chatbots have been used to respond to typed or spoken input. Many individuals interact with a chatbot when they ask Alexa or Siri a question. In education, chatbots with artificial intelligence systems can guide students with personalized, just-in-time feedback or assistance. These chatbots can answer questions about course content or structure. This helps students keep track of their own learning while keeping them motivated and engaged.

Much like an automated playlist of musical or video recommendations, an AI-powered recommender system can generate tailored assessment questions, detect misunderstandings and suggest new areas for a learner to explore. These AI technologies have the potential to help learners today and in the future.

By arrangements with The Conversation



Over-Emphasis On Safety Means Kids Are Becoming More Anxious And Less Resilient

The conversation

We are facing a mental health crisis. Teenagers and young adults are more depressed, suicidal, anxious and lonely than ever before. Depression rates among teens have been increasing since the early 2000s. A 2018 national survey found that 13.3 per cent of U.S. adolescents experienced a major depressive episode in the last year. But it's not just teens young adults are suffering too. A 2016 international survey of university counselling centres revealed 50 per cent of university students sought help for feelings of anxiety and 41 per cent for depression. Suicide rates are also increasing. The number of teenage girls in the U.S. who died by suicide nearly doubled be-

tween 2000 and 2015.

The mental health statistics for Canadian youth are similarly grim. In 2003, 24 per cent of Canadians aged 15-30 self-reported that their mental health was either fair or poor (compared to very good or excellent). By 2019, that number had risen to 40 per cent.

The COVID-19 pandemic worsened the mental health of Canadian youths. In 2020, 58 per cent of Canadians aged 15-24 reported fair or poor mental health and nearly one in four hospitalizations for children and youth aged 5-24 were due to mental health conditions.

What has changed in the last decade to explain this rise in poor mental health among youth? Some psychologists point to the recent cultural emphasis on safety as a contributor.

Shift in children's safety

In previous decades, American and Canadian children enjoyed more freedom, even though there were rising crime rates. The crime wave in Canada rose steeply from the 60s through the 80s until it peaked in the early 1990s. Cable TV became widespread during the same period, meaning that news of crimes spread farther and quicker than ever before.

This surge spurred safety initiatives like sharing pictures of missing children on milk cartons and crime shows like America's Most Wanted. It's no wonder parents became increasingly fearful and protective.

Crime rates began to come down in the 1990s, but fear among parents remained. This is where the problem of being over cautious begins. The concept of safety started to extend beyond children's

physical safety to emotional and psychological comfort. This denied children experiences they needed to learn and grow.

Parental overprotection has been shown to foster unhealthy coping mechanisms in children. Over-protected children are more likely to both internalize problems (as in anxiety and depression) and externalize them (as in delinquency, defiance or substance abuse).

Some psychologists propose that overprotection can morph into what they call safetyism, which teaches kids negative thought patterns similar to those experienced by the anxious and depressed. Safetyism can over-prioritize a young person's safety to the exclusion of other practical and moral concerns.

It is natural to want to avoid problems, but avoiding things that bring us discomfort can reinforce a

belief that we cannot handle certain issues and, over time, make us less capable.

Unhelpful thought patterns Here are three unhealthy thought patterns to monitor in yourself and your children:

Identify negative filtering. Do not underestimate the positives of experiences like unsupervised play (joy, independence, problem-solving, risk-assessment, resilience) when considering the potential negative consequences.

Be aware of dichotomous thinking. Do not fall into the good or bad trap. There's a world of possibility between one or the other. Considering people, ideas, places or situations as either good or evil (but never both or somewhere in between) fosters a polarizing us vs. them attitude and eliminates nuance.

Recognise emotional reason-

ing. Feeling unsafe (uncomfortable or anxious), does not mean you are actually physically unsafe. If you avoid all stress, you will never learn to overcome stressors or understand your full potential. Avoiding hurdles can make us think we are more weak or fragile than we are.

Painting the world as a place with dangers at every turn has created anxious youths who avoid activities they previously would have experimented with. Rising rates of loneliness and anxiety mean some youth are delaying getting a job, driving a car, having sex, drinking alcohol and dating. Research supports that overprotective parenting (such as helicopter parenting) decreases adolescents' well-being, motivation, independence and ability to deal with problems in a healthy way.

Light Pollution May Extend Mosquitoes' Biting Season: Study

Press Trust Of India

Urban light pollution may delay the winter dormancy period for mosquitoes, and as a result they can bite humans and animals longer into the fall, a study suggests.

The researchers noted that the disease-carrying pests may not survive the winter if their plans to fatten up are foiled due to the disruption.

However, their dormancy period, known as diapause, may simply be delayed - meaning they're biting longer into the fall.

"If you have mosquitoes postponing or delaying diapause and continuing to be active longer in the year, that's at a time when the mosquitoes are most likely to be infected with West Nile virus and people could be



said Meuti, who conducted the study with first author Matthew Wolkoff and Lydia Fyie, both Ph.D. candidates at Ohio State.

Diapause for female Northern house mosquitoes (Culex pipiens) is not quite a winter slumber, but rather a period of dormancy when the insects live in caves, culverts, sheds and other semi-protected locations.

Prior to winter's arrival, mosquitoes convert sugary sources, such as plant nectar, into fat, the researchers said.

As days get longer, females begin foraging for blood meals to enable egg production. Some get infected with West Nile virus by feeding on infected birds, and later transmit the virus when they feed on people, horses and other mammals.

at greatest risk of contracting it," said Megan Meuti, senior author of the study and an assistant professor at The Ohio State University, US.

The study, published recently in the journal Insects, is among the first to show that arti-

ficial light at night could have a significant impact on mosquito behavior, including effects that are not necessarily predictable.

"We're finding that the same urban light at night can have very different effects under different seasonal contexts,"

Office Of The Addl. Deputy Commissioner Awantipora (Collector Land Acquisition Awantipora)

E. Mail Id, adcwantipora@gmail.com

Phone/Fax, 01933 247047

Preliminary Notification under Section-11(1)

Notification No. 10 of 2023 Dated, 10/4/2023

Sub., Preliminary Notification under Section-11(1) of "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013" for acquisition of land measuring 01 kanal 04 marla 05 sirsai required for: erection of 04 tower foundations at village Ladhoo and land measuring 02 Kanal 0 Marla 0 Sirsai 1062.5 Sft required for the erection of 06 tower foundations at village Lethpora of Tehsil Pampore for diversion of 220 KV D/C Alustnrg- Mirbazar Transmission Line.

Ref.- District Collector Pulwama's communication vide No. DCP/LA/2023/490-91 dated 16/02/2023.

Whereas, the Chief Engineer JK Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. Kashnii has placed an Indent before the District Collector Pulwama and the same was forwarded to this Collectorate vide No.DCP/LA/2021/413-415 dated 31/08/2021 for acquisition of land measuring 03 Kanal 05 Marla 05 Sirsai 3.75 Sft falling at two villages viz. Ladhoo (01 Kanal 04 Marla 06 Sirsai) and at village Lethpora (02 Kanal 03 Marla 08 Sirsai 3.75 Sft) required for public purpose, namely diversion of 220 KV D/C Alustnrg- Mirbazar Transmission Line for tower foundations in villages Ladhoo and Lethpora Tehsil Pampore District Pulwama.

Whereas, in accordance with the Sub-Section 1 of Rule 4 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, the Committee of officers for conduct of field inspection stands already constituted by the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama vide his office order No. DCP/LA/2020/GIO-630 dated 25/05/2020. Accordingly, the Committee was directed by this collectorate vide office letter Nos. ADC/AWP/LA/21-22/512-20 dated 01/10/2021 and ADC/AWP/LV/21-22/521-29 dated 01/10/2021 to conduct a field inspection for two locations viz villages Lethpora and Ladhoo respectively.

Whereas, members of the constituted Committee submitted their report through Tchsildar Pampore vide his office letter No. TP-OQ/1264 Dated 12/09/2022. The summary of the Social Impact Assessment Report /preliminary investigation reveals as under:-

1. That the proposed acquisition of land serves the public purpose.
 2. The DPR of the department was perused and found feasible.
 3. The transmission line had earlier been fixed from the land which was acquired by the CRFF for the establishment of Group Centre and J&K Police for the establishment of Commando Training Institute in view of the objections raised by the security agencies vide their letter (No.O.B-V-1/2010-II GC BLDG Dated 07/02/2011) a decision was taken by indenting department for identifying alternate route for the transmission line in coordination with the line departments and consultant hired for the project The J&K PCL, (PDD) has now opted for an alternate route which was found feasible by the committee members.
 4. No utilized land which has been previously acquired exists in the area is not available.
 5. No such land has been earlier acquired/still unutilized in the village.
- The committee unanimously recommends that the scheme serves/will serve the public purpose, hence be considered for the compensation under rules and be made functional at an earliest.
- Whereas, no commercial/ residential / agricultural structure is coining under the alignment as such no family is likely to be displaced due to land acquisition
- Now, therefore, it is notified that for the above said project land measuring 03 kanal 08 marla 05 Sirsai 3.75 sft is required for the erection of 10 towers tailing in two villages viz Ladhoo & Lethpora, Tehsil Pampore District Pulwama. The description of the land is as under:-

S. No	Name of village	Survey No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area under Acquisition (in Acres)	Name and address of a person interested	Boundaries			
							N	S	E	W
01	Ladhoo	4489 min	Proprietary	Zafrani	07 marla-03 sirsai.					
02		4368 min	Proprietary	Zafrani	02 marla-06 sirsai.					
03		4515 min	Shamlat Deh (Maqboza Malikan)	Gair Mumkin Pahad	14 marla-06 sirsai.					
04	Lethpora	5470 min	Proprietary	Zafrani	07 marla-164.5 sft.					
05		5258 min	Proprietary	Maidani	02 marla-170 sft.					
06		5261 min	Proprietary	Maidani	33 sft.					
07		5259 min	Proprietary	Maidani	03 marla-37 sft.					
08		5030 min	Shamlat Deh (Mehfooz Kahcharaic)	Gair Mumkin	01 kanal 10 marla-03 Sirsai 22.75 sft.					
Total Land					03 Kanal-08 Marla-05 Sirsai 3.75 Sft. (0.4285 Acres)					

Trees		Structures	
Variety	Number	Type	Plinth area
Variety	Nil	Nil	Nil

The notification is made under the provisions of Section-11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013), to all whom it may concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of District Collector and Collector Land Acquisition/ Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora on any working day during the working hours. The Government is pleased to authorize Tehsil Dar/ Revenue staff, indenting department, their consultant and their staff to enter upon and survey land, lake levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil and do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act. Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e sale/ purchase, etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval or the Collector. Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 13 of the Act before the District Collector Pulwama and Collector Land Acquisition/ Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora.

Zaffar Husson Shawl KAS
Additional Deputy Commissioner Collector
Land Acquisition Awantipora

DIPK-337/23

Date: 12 /4/2023

No. ADC/Awp/LA/23-24/13-21

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Man Arrested For Killing Son, Injuring Wife; Daughter

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A family head was arrested on allegations of attacking and killing his son even as injuring his wife and daughter in Samba district on Wednesday afternoon.

Quoting an official, news agency GNS reported that one Kulbir Singh was arrested by police soon after a news of him spread for allegedly attacking and killing his son Jatan Singh and also injuring his wife Poo-

nam Devi and daughter with some sharp-edged weapon at their residence in Rakhi Sum area in Samba district.

Confirming the incident, a police official said that soon after receiving information a police team rushed to the spot and apprehended the accused within no time. "We have registered a case into the incident and the accused being questioned regarding the unfortunate incident", the official said.

In Poonch, J&K Bank Commissions CRM At Mandi; ATM At Loran

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Extending instant banking services to remote areas of Poonch district, J&K Bank today commissioned a Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) at Mandi and an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) at Loran.

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Inder Jeet (KAS) inaugurated the ATM at Loran in presence of Bank's Zonal Head (Rajouri) Satish Kumar amid a gathering of valuable customers, public representatives and officials of the Bank. Thanking the Bank on the occasion, DDC Poonch said that "The commissioning of new ATM at Loran affirms the Bank's commitment of providing latest banking facilities to people irrespective of their location and status."

Meanwhile, Bank's Zonal Head (Rajouri) Satish Kumar inaugurated the CRM at Mandi in presence of Cluster Head (Poonch) Aneet Kanwal Singh amid a gathering of valuable customers, local residents and other Bank officials. "The Self Service terminal accepts and dispenses cash thereby easing the rush at the adjacent branches besides facilitating the customers with instant cash beyond banking hours and on holidays", he said while urging the people to avail the facility as per their own convenience.

Hailing the Bank's efforts, the customers present at both the occasions expressed their gratitude to the Bank's management for providing them with hi-tech banking facilities at their nearest possible destinations.

Ex-DG Planning Among 2 Appointed As PSC Members

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday appointed Tariq Ahmad Khan, former director general, Planning department and Sanjeev Gupta, district and sessions judge (retired) as members of Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission.

In a notification, the General Administration Department said that the LG has appointed Tariq Ahmad Khan, director general (expenditure division), Planning and Sanjeev Gupta, District and Sessions Judge as members of Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission.

A gold medalist from Kashmir University, Khan did his post-graduation in Commerce

and MPhil in Management Accounting. He joined Planning & Statistics Service in 1993 and superannuated in April 2022.

Khan, who has an impeccable service record, held key postings in different departments and played a significant role in infrastructure development in Jammu & Kashmir.

In his illustrious career of 36 years, he worked in various capacities in the Health and Medical Education Department, Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Public Works Department, Power Development and Finance Department.

In 2020, Jammu & Kashmir government conferred him with the UT award for meritorious public services—(KNO)

DC Anantnag Inspects Yatra Transit Camps

Directs Officers For Smooth Conduct Of Yatra-2023



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Wednesday made an extensive tour to Yatra Transit Camps FCI Godown Mir Bazaar and Walnut Factory Qazigund and took comprehensive stock of arrangements and facilities to be made available for pilgrims of Yatra-2023.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned officers to work out modalities to augment the capacity to accommodate more pilgrims at Mir Bazaar Transit Camp.

He also directed for provision of good quality toilets in requisite numbers and parking areas with proper lighting facilities at all places.

To ensure proper drainage of water, he asked the concerned R&B officers to install an efficient drainage system besides repairing the paths.

He called for creation of additional assets in tune with the

landscape and surroundings.

The DC directed officers of line departments to augment the services and ensure every facility committed will be provided to the pilgrims. He further directed the SE Hydraulic to ensure the proper supply of water to the langars, toilets etc besides the drinking water to the transit camps.

He also directed the SE KPDCL to ensure the uninterrupted supply of electricity. EO MC Qazigund was directed to ensure the sanitation, hygiene of transit camps.

Later, the DC visited the tehsil office Qazigund and briefly reviewed its functioning besides taking the status of the ongoing works of the tehsil office Qazigund.

The DC was accompanied by ADC (A) Anantnag, SDM Dooru, SE Hydraulic, SE R&B, SE KPDCL along with Ex. Engineers, CMO Anantnag, ACR, AD Food, CEO MC Anantnag, E.O MC Qazigund and other concerned civil and police officers.

Majalis, Processions Mark Martyrdom Anniversary Of Imam Ali



Devotees raise their hands in supplication as the unseen cleric of Hazratbal Shrine displays a relic believed to be from beard of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS), here on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: Thousands of fasting Muslims thronged shrines and Imambargahs on Wednesday to mark the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS), one of the most revered icons of Islam.

Every year, on the 21st day of Ramadan, devout Muslims gather in mosques and religious centers across the Kashmir valley mourning the martyrdom of first Imam and fourth Rightly Guided Caliph of Muslims.

It was on the 19th of Ramadan 40 AH (27 January AD 661), Imam Ali was struck on the head with a poison-coated sword by Ibn e Muljim during the morning prayers in Mosque of Kufa. He passed away two days later.

The biggest gathering is witnessed in Najaf al Ashraf, martyr Imam's final resting place in Southern Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the globe converge in Najaf to pay their respects to Imam Ali who was declared as Babul Ilim or gateway of knowledge by the Prophet of Islam (Pbuh)

In Kashmir major functions on

the occasion were held at Dar-gah Hazratbal, Zadihal and Hasanabad in Srinagar, Mirgund in Baramulla and in Budgam town.

Thousands of people joined the congregation prayers at Hazratbal Shrine where holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was displayed after every prayer to the faithful.

In north Kashmir, thousands thronged Imambargah Abol Fazil Abbas (a.s.) at Mirgund, Pattan.

Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari addressed the gathering ahead of the procession, eulogizing the great personality and highlighting the importance of Imam Ali's teachings for the present era.

"Besides, being honest, dedicated and extremely intelligent, Imam Ali was extraordinarily brave on the battlefield" Maulana Masroor said.

Masroor further said that Imam Ali was guardian of orphans and friends of the poor and needy.

"The need of the hour for our youth is to follow Imam Ali's footsteps for a successful life," he said.

Peoples Conference leader and President Shia Associa-

tion Imran Raza Ansari also addressed a gathering at Zadihal Imambargah. "Imam Ali was the sea of patience and tolerance," Ansari said.

"Even after being hit by a poisonous sword by his killer, he asked Imam Hassan (a.s) to be gentle with him to quench his thirst. That is the kind of person Ameerul Momineen was" Imran Reza said.

Similarly, mourning congregations were held at Budgam by Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiayan led by Agha Syed Hassan al Musawi. Agha Syed Hassan addressed the mourning congregation at Budgam while Agha Mujtaba led the mourning service at Hassanabad.

However, due to the recent crescent sighting controversy, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ali will be observed in the twin districts of Ladakh's Leh and Kargil on Thursday. Similarly, a mourning congregation is planned at Bemina Imambargah as a faction of Anjuman-e-Shari Shiayan led by Agha Syed Hadi will be observing 21st Ramadan on Thursday. Night long congregations were also held to mark Shab-e-Qadr which is observed in the last 5 odd nights of the holy month.

Weather Likely To Remain Dry Till April 15 In J&K: MeT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: No significant change in weather is expected and it is likely to be mainly dry, the meteorological department said even as the minimum temperature recorded an increase at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

"Mainly dry weather is expected during the next 24 hours," a meteorological department official said, adding, "no significant change is expected and it is likely to be mainly dry for subsequent two days."

Regarding the temperature, the MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 7.4°C

against 7.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 4.4°C against 4.8°C on the previous night while the tourist resort of Pahalgam in South Kashmir recorded a low of 2.5°C against 3.0°C on the previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of 7.5°C against 7.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 3.6°C against 3.5°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C above normal for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's

Baramulla district, he said.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 5.8°C against 5.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 17.9°C against 17.4°C on the previous night. It was 1.3°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

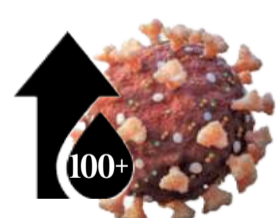
Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 6.9°C (below normal by 1.3°C), Batote 12.0°C (above normal by 1.5°C), Katra 16.7°C (0.2°C below normal) and Bhandarwah 7.7°C (0.7°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 1.8°C and 1.4°C respectively, he added. (GNS)

Two Senior Police Officers Transferred

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday transferred two senior police officers with immediate effect, besides re-designating the post of Additional Superintendent of police (ASP) Baramulla as Superintendent of police headquarters Baramulla.

According to an order issued here by the Home department, Diya D, IPS, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Baramulla. "The post of Addl. Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, is re-designated as Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Baramulla, till held by the said officer," reads the order issued by Financial Commissioner Raj Kumar Goyal.

Goyal, who is also the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) has also ordered transfer of Rakesh Kumar Parihar, Addl. Superintendent of Police, Baramulla and posted him as Dy. Commandant IR- 16th Battalion, against an available vacancy.



Corona Cases Cross 100 Mark In J&K

SRINAGAR: After a gap of over seven months, the daily Coronavirus cases breached 100-mark in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, as 122 people tested positive for Covid-19 across the Union Territory.

Kashmir Valley, the officials said, reported 70 new cases of coronavirus, while 52 were detected in Jammu region, taking the total number of active positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 531.

Moreover, the officials said, 62 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 12 from Jammu Division and 50 from Kashmir Division.

The officials further said that in the last 24 hours, 4,137 Covid tests have also been conducted across the UT.

Teenager Dies After Bike Skids Off Road



SRINAGAR: A teenager was killed and another injured on Wednesday after their motorbike met with an accident in Chadura area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

The accident, reports said, occurred in Borwah village of Chadura on Wednesday afternoon when a bike driven by Moomin Altaf Sheikh skidded off the road and injured the rider as well as the pillion rider Imran Farooq Lone, aged 15. Both the boys from Yarikalan village of Chadura, reports said, were removed to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for treatment. However, Lone succumbed to his injuries during the treatment.

The condition of the injured biker is said to be life threatening.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident and registered a case under relevant sections of law.

BJP Won't Allow Elections In J&K: Bukhari

Says Situation Has Improved, People Don't Raise Anti-India Slogans Anymore

Majid Nahi

SRINAGAR: Apni Party president, Syed Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in order to stay in power without any accountability, would not allow assembly elections to be held in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Apni Party leader claimed that there is considerable improvement in the overall situation in J&K, and that the people are largely at peace.

Bukhari also appealed to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to announce an Assembly election in J&K soon so that the people are able to elect representatives of their choice.

Responding to a media query on the delay in holding Assembly elections in J&K, Bukhari said BJP does not want elections to be held as the saffron party wants to stay in power without being held accountable.

"BJP does not want elections to be held in J&K as it wants to remain in power with its unaccountable administration in place. Otherwise the situation in the UT has improved to the extent," he said.

"People did not protest when their houses were bulldozed during the demolition drive

recently. They don't even raise anti-India slogans anymore," he told reporters on the sidelines of a party function here.

Replying to a separate query that a group of prominent politicians are likely to join a new political party in the future, he said "I won't comment on this as I am not going to join any political party"

Regarding security agencies' reluctance to allow Eid prayers at historic Eidgah in the wake of possible law and order situation, he said, Apni Party is not part of the government and that it is good if major congregational Eid prayers are held.

"We are not part of this government but it's good if a big congregation is held on Eid or else people offer Eid prayers at local mosques. Allah will accept their prayers as he only knows what sort of complexity people face at the moment," he added.

When asked that some politicians went to Delhi recently to press for early Assembly elections in J&K, Bukhari said "I cannot say as to who went to Delhi and for what purpose, otherwise they had promised that they will not contest election, but now they have accepted the ground reality."

15 Undertrial Prisoners From Burma Lodged In Srinagar's Central Jail

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As many as 15 under-trial prisoners from Burma are currently lodged in Srinagar's Central Jail, officials said Wednesday.

The officials shared these details during the visit of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority accompanied by Member Secretary, J&K LSA, Joint Registrar (Judicial) Srinagar and Secretary DLSA Srinagar to the Central Jail Srinagar here on Wednesday.

On his arrival, the officials said, Justice Tashi Rabstan was received Daljit Singh, Superintendent, Central Jail Srinagar alongwith Deputy Superintendent and other jail staff including Medical Officer.

"The Executive Chairman, J&K LSA enquired about the number of convicts serving their sentences and also the Undertrial Prisoners belonging to UT of J&K as well as other States and foreign nationals upon which the Justice Tashi Rabstan was informed that 15 UTPs of Burma were lodged in the said jail," they said.

Thereafter, the officials said, Justice Tashi Rabstan visited the male as well as female blocks and interacted with the inmates to enquire about the medical and other facilities provided to them. Subsequently, Justice Tashi also visited the V.C facility available in the jail and witnessed the court proceedings that were going on through virtual mode in which the jail inmate was appearing.

Justice Tashi also appreciated the new initiatives introduced like installation of Prison Inmate Calling System for prisoners so that prisoners can contact their family and lawyers at any time. He also inspected the kitchen, vocational centers,

barbar shop, wet Canteen run by jail inmates, gymnasium, emulak center and Legal Aid Clinic also manned by a Jail Inmate (PLV).

Justice Tashi appreciated the efforts made by the Govt. in general and Dept. of Prisons in particular for maintaining the standard of living in jail and providing all the basic necessary facilities like hygienic food, medical facilities and skill training etc to the inmates.

Later, Justice Tashi Rabstan visited Juvenile Observation Home Harwan to take stock of the present status of the said Home. Sameena Mir, Superintendent alongwith Home-father, Probation cum Child Welfare Officer and Para Legal Volunteers received Justice Tashi and accompanied him to the rooms of the juvenile staying in the observation home and showed other facilities available there like dispensary, recreation hall, library and the room meant for offering prayers.

Justice Tashi also visited the kitchen where the evening meal was being prepared. Where he was informed that for every inmate of the Observation Home, Rs 100 per day is being provided by the concerned department for food and other basic needs and the said amount has not been revised since 2011.

The Superintendent of the said Home also informed the Executive Chairman that no teacher on regular basis is available for the Observation Home and in this regard a communication has been already sent to the higher authorities.

Justice Tashi directed the Superintendent of the Observation Home to ensure that the Counsellor appointed for the said Home is present on the day when he next visits the said Home.

JMC Confiscates Pit Bull On Complaint Of Attack

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu Municipal Corporation on Wednesday confiscated a pet dog (Pit Bull) following a complaint of attack.

"The complaint was received in the Veterinary section of JMC regarding attack by the dog to the neighbor and consequently a team of JMC headed by senior officials conducted a site visit and seized the dog", the JMC authorities said. Also a penalty of Rs 3000 has been imposed on the dog owner for not registering their dog with JMC.

As it is mandatory for the pet dog owners and keepers to register their pet dog with JMC in accordance with the Animal Birth

Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023 and Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 and for that JMC has also issued public notice for the awareness of the general public.

MVO, JMC Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma disclosed that such drives shall continue to be conducted in future also to check the registration of the pet dogs and fines/ penalties up-to Rs 5000 shall be imposed on the defaulters residing within JMC limits.

For registration of pet dogs, owners can avail this service through online mode at jansugam.jk.gov.in and for any query regarding registration, pet owners may contact MVO section of JMC (Ph. No. 8716946717/ 9858022175) or e-mail at mvajmc@gmail.com.

Army launches cleanliness initiative in Kashmir ahead of G-20 event



Srinagar: The Army on Wednesday launched a 'save environment, save earth' campaign to foster the spirit of a clean nation in the hearts and minds of the youth of the Kashmir valley, officials said.

As part of the campaign, a mini-marathon, a walkathon and a plogathon were organised at Old Airfield, Military Station, here.

The event witnessed a display of military equipment (as part of know your Army) and handicraft items by government approved vendors.

The event also saw tree plantation drive at Old Airfield Station, and a poster-making competition.

It was held to spread awareness about saving environment and preserving earth for the future generations.

"The Army has taken an initiative in Kashmir, especially in Budgam district, which has been named as 'plogathon 2023'.

Students of four schools, along with the children of local army jawans, and families of army personnel have participated in this plogathon to clean the area of plastics," Brigadier Tarun Narula, Commander Chinar AD Brigade, told reporters.

He said the Army will be conducting cleanliness drives

in Kashmir as part of preparations for G-20 event.

"Kashmir is changing, a G-20 event is taking place here, there is so much development of infrastructure. So, we, the residents, should start a cleanliness initiative with pride. We are undertaking a cleanliness initiative in Budgam district, removing plastic and not doing anything which will make Srinagar and Kashmir dirty. This is our initiative, our theme," Brigadier Narula said.

He said a display of equipment is also taking place and "we are trying to motivate the youth to join Army".

Another Army officer, Lt Col Alok Kumar Gupta, said several equipment has been displayed at the event.

"We are displaying air defence equipment which is deployed on the Line of Control (LoC). These help us in early warning of enemy aircraft, track them so that we can fire on them," he said.

A school student, Salva, said such events should take place more often.

"We felt good. We saw weapons on display here. We checked them, took photos as well. This is a good initiative and such events should take place more often," she said.

SSR Of Electoral Rolls-2023 Reviewed At Kupwara

DC Emphasises On Speeding Up Process, Extensive SVEEP Awareness Programs



Observer News Service

Kupwara: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) on Wednesday convened a meeting of EROs and AEROs of the district to review Special Summary Revision (SSR) of Electoral Rolls-2023 at DC office complex, here.

The DC took a detailed review of the progress achieved under updation of votes in all assembly segments of Kupwara district.

He directed concerned EROs and AEROs to register all eligible electorates in all Assembly segments of the Kupwara district so that no eligible voter is left out unregistered.

On the occasion, DC was given a detailed overview about the exercise and it was given out that the Special Summary Revision (SSR)-2023 was continuing smoothly according to

the action plan. Dr Sagar stressed upon the concerned to achieve the target within the stipulated time frame.

He emphasized on conducting extensive SVEEP awareness programmes in all the Assembly Constituencies of the district to maximise registration of all eligible electorates and asked the concerned to display the banners at important places.

The DC said that the prime objective of SSR-2023 is to keep the Electoral Roll updated and to provide an opportunity to get fresh enrolment of young eligible voters having attained the age of 18 or more as on qualifying date and to give opportunities for correction in particulars of electors besides inviting objections against any wrong inclusion in the Electoral Roll.

He instructed all the EROs/AEROs to speed up the process of SSR and supervise the

process with focused attention to ensure 100% registration of all eligible voters and ensure no elector is left unregistered keeping in view the limited time period.

The DC directed the concerned Officers to conduct revision strictly in accordance with the ECI guidelines as per schedule.

He also stressed on conducting analysis of Electoral Rolls to identify the areas and polling parts where some voters have remained unregistered in the Electoral.

DC asked the concerned Officers to call the meeting of BLOs of the entire district so that desired progress is achieved.

ADDC Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan; ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir; Dy. District Election Officer, Mehraj Din Wani; ACR Kupwara, SDMs and all Tehsildars of the district, officials from District Election Authority Kupwara and other concerned were present in the meeting.

Bovine Smuggler Detained Under PSA In Rajouri



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police said on Wednesday that they have detained an alleged bovine smuggler under the Public Safety Act in Rajouri district.

The police said in a statement that Bari Shah, a resident of Kalakote tehsil, was involved in multiple cases of bovine smuggling and his activities

were prejudicial to the maintenance of public order.

The accused used to smuggle cattle to Kashmir Valley via Mughal Road, they said. Under 'Operation Kamdhenu', police have launched a special drive against the bovine smugglers in Rajouri. SSP Rajouri Amritpal Singh said the police department is fully committed to maintain peace in the district.

Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-E-Qadar, Eid Arrangements Reviewed At Bandipora



Observer News Service

Bandipora: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit on Wednesday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for upcoming auspicious occasions of Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadar and Eid-ul-Fitr.

The meeting discussed various arrangements being put in place by the District Administration for the convenience of people across the district particularly at Ahm-e-Sharief shrine where a huge gathering of devotees is expected.

The ADC, on the occasion,

directed the concerned officers to ensure availability of essentials besides uninterrupted power/ water supply, transport arrangements, cleanliness in and around mosques, streets and Eidgahs, medicare facilities and repairs of roads wherever necessary.

He also asked the concerned officers to conduct intensive market checking to curb the overpricing and illegal profiteering.

The meeting was attended by ACR Bandipora Shabir Ahmad Wani, AD FCS&CA Bilal Ahmad, ARTO Bandipora Bilal Ahmad and other concerned.

J&K Begins Cultivation Of Medicinal, Aromatic Plants In Nurseries

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs used in the treatment and management of several diseases, including diabetes mellitus, and heart and neurological disorders, has begun in Jammu and Kashmir.

This is being done as a part of a pioneering Rs 750 crore project envisaging total transformation in the 625 hectares of the landscape of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) cultivation in the Union Territory.

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) has recently set up a medicinal and aromatic plant nursery in the Talab Tillo area of Jammu, where over 40 types of medicinal and aromatic plants are being grown for distribution among the urban population and farmers for commercial farming.

"We have begun farming medicinal plants here. We have grown 40 medicinal and aromatic plants in the Nursery. It is mother stock. These are being grown by farmers. Sets of ten to

twenty plants are being given to urban farmers. They are growing them in their homes. These are used daily. We want everyone to grow it in their homes," Head of the Nursery, Ambica told PTI.

The nursery is bustling with medicinal plants and herbs of Sweet leaf, Clove basil, Anantnag carvomint, Orange mint, Spearmint, Corn mint, Lemon grass, Brahmi, Kapoor Tulsii and other aromatic plants used in various treatment of diseases as per Ayurveda.

"After the Corona period,

people have understood that they have come back to Ayurveda from allopathic systems of medicines. The Department of Agriculture is now focusing on farming medicines and aromatics. We used to get medicinal plants from IIM and the university. We want farmers to grow medicinal plants and double their income," he added.

The government believes that the farmers of the state should cultivate other things besides traditional crops so that their income can increase.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (DAP), Atal Dulloo told PTI, "We are starting farming of aromatic and medicinal plants for the first time (in Jammu and Kashmir). We have identified 9 medicinal plants and are setting up 28 clusters".

He further said that the government has started the farming of medicinal and aromatic plants on an area of 5,000 kanals. "The project cost will be Rs 62 crore. We will set up a centre of excellence for it.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Home Minister

on May 23, official sources said. The G20 delegates will reach Srinagar on May 22 and the meeting of the group will be held on May 23.

The delegates will be taken to major tourist places for sightseeing on May 24 in Srinagar including Dal Lake where they will go for a Shikara ride, Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary and some other significant places followed by a visit to north Kashmir's ski-resort Gulmarg. They will return to New Delhi on May 25, the report added.

J&K Govt Promotes

employment for the jobless youth," said Lal Din Khatna, a resident of Uri.

The promotion of Kaman Post as a tourist spot, he said, will also give a sense of peace to the people of the remote border areas, who were the worst hit by cross border shelling.

An official from the tourism department told

Kashmir Observer that they are gearing-up to make several arrangements in anticipation of an overwhelming tourist footfall this year.

"The people in the border areas are cooperating in the home-staying idea—which has fetched them good revenue. The department is also planning to build the necessary infrastructure," he said.

Pertinently, in September 2021, Minister of State (MoS) for Defence and Tourism, Ajay Bhatt, announced that the border areas will be developed as tourist places.

The border districts of Kashmir, especially Bandipora and Kupwara have huge tourism potential, an official from the Tourism department said.

Abdul Rashid, a resident from Macchil in Kupwara told Kashmir Observer that the area has witnessed a number of visitors from the last few years and locals are happy about it.

"We are expecting more tourists this year. It is helping local youth to generate employment,"

Rashid said.

Notably, a large number of locals as well as tourists from other states went to Macchil last year on a trip—which was facilitated by the Army and J&K forest department.

Before the ceasefire these areas were restricted for any civilian movement without prior necessary permissions. However, the administration has made it very easy for travelers now.

"You can apply for the e-permission online on the district administration website and get it within no time," said an official from Kupwara district administration.

In August 2021, the department organised a tourism festival at the Bangus Valley in Kupwara district in order to promote tourism.

On the occasion, LG Manoj Sinha said that the tourism department and the Army will make efforts to facilitate visits to such remote places.

Similarly in the Gurez sector of Bandipora,

the tourists' arrival has remained at an all time high from the last two years of the ceasefire.

Every year, the district administration organizes a three-day festival in Gurez in a bid to boost tourism in the border area.

Lately, home-stays and tented accommodations are becoming popular in these areas with LG administration making efforts to promote tent stays at scenic locations that will deliver rapid growth to the tourism industry.

Private Schools

compared to previous year," it reads.

The joint director put on notice to respond to the complaint and attend this DSEK along with the fee structure of the last three years whereby a 50 percent hike given by your school Management has been reported year wise and explain the reasons of such hike which is more than 50 percent for a particular head.

"You are directed to attend DSEK April-27-2023 at with documentary evidence

without fail," it reads—(KNO)

Rs 272 Cr Approved

asked different implementing agencies to take immediate action for execution of works approved in the annual plan of operations.

It has also set a timeline for implementing agencies. In a communique, the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has directed implementing agencies that administrative approval/technical sanction for all works in the APOs shall be done by the competent authority by April 30, 2023.

It has set May 15 and June 15 as deadlines for floating of tenders and evaluation of bids & award of contract, respectively.

The office of PCCF has further directed them that infrastructure works shall be completed by end of February 2024. "Efforts shall be made to get these completed by end of December 2023," the communique further states—(KNO)

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

KASHMIR
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KO PODCAST

IPL 2023: GT To Face Punjab Kings

Press Trust of India

MOHALI: Defending champions Gujarat Titans, smarting from Rinku Singh's last-over blitzkrieg, would like to forget that nightmarish night and get back to winning ways when they take on gritty Punjab Kings in an Indian Premier League match here on Thursday.

GT had several heroes on that electrifying night, including young Sai Sudarshan, Vijay Shankar and the hat-trick man from Afghanistan Rashid Khan, who led the side in place of unwell Hardik Pandya.

But Rinku had other ideas. When the match looked as good as over, the Uttar Pradesh batter pulled the rabbit out of the hat for Kolkata Knight Riders, smashing five maximums in the last over to stun the home team.

That last-ball defeat will hurt GT for years to come but, in the immediate, they would like to forget it and get on with the next game.

GT, currently fourth on the table with four points from three games, still have a great chance to top the chart, but for that they will have to collectively come together against PBKS, who are fast emerging as one of the most difficult sides to

surmount.

Going by their current form, PBKS' eight-wicket loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad could just be an aberration, given the form of their captain Shikhar Dhawan and young left-arm bowler Arshdeep Singh.

Dhawan's innings in Hyderabad on April 9 was a testament to the stalwarts' resilience and his ability to stay composed as wickets fell like ninepins at the other end.

His 99 in a losing cause was far bigger and better than playing a winning hand in the match against Rajasthan Royals with an unbeaten 86, or a stroke-filled 40 against KKR.

GT would be wary of Dhawan's form and Hardik would know all too well how the veteran Delhi cricketer would be itching to once again prove himself. This could well be a contest of one-upmanship between Dhawan and Shubman Gill, with the former still wanting to prove himself and be in contention for a place in the India squad for the ODI World Cup at home later this year.

The way Dhawan and young opening partner Prabhsimran Singh have blasted off in powerplays gives an indication that they are unlikely to alter their strategy against GT,



who have bowlers of the calibre of Mohammed Shami, Hardik and Rashid, to name a few.

Lower down, PBKS have the most expensive buy in IPL history, all-rounder Sam Curran besides Liam Livingstone and Jitesh Sharma, while in the bowling department Arshdeep and Nathan Ellis have

created quite a few problems for the rivals.

GT though have their own firepower, boasting of the likes of Gill, top-order batter Sudarshan and Shankar — late bloomer at 32 —, who struck an unbeaten 24-ball 63 to guide the side to a 200-plus total in their game against KKR.

Had it not been for Rinku's breathtaking last-over mayhem, Vijay could well have been patting his back for the wonderful effort. Unfortunately, that was not to be and things turned upside-down in the last over bowled by Yash Dayal.

GT would perhaps take a second look at their bowling combination

and see how they can rotate their bowlers more efficiently.

With four premier bowlers in Shami, Josh Little, Alzarri Joseph and Rashid in their team, they shouldn't have lost the game after posting 204. But, then, this is IPL and there are one Rinku too many itching to prove themselves.

Teams (from):

Punjab Kings: Shikhar Dhawan (c), Arshdeep Singh, Baltej Singh, Rahul Chahar, Sam Curran, Rishi Dhawan, Nathan Ellis, Gurnoor Brar, Harpreet Brar, Harpreet Singh, Vidvath Kaverappa, Liam Livingstone, Mohit Rathee, Prabhsimran Singh, Kagiso Rabada, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, M Shahrux Khan, Jitesh Sharma, Shivam Singh, Matthew Short, Sikandar Raza, Atharva Taide.

Gujarat Titans: Hardik Pandya (c), Srikanth Bharat, Alzarri Joseph, Josh Little, Abhinav Manohar, David Miller, Mohammed Shami, Darshan Nalkande, Noor Ahmad, Urvil Patel, Rashid Khan, Wriddhiman Saha, R Sai Kishore, Sai Sudharsan, Pradeep Sangwan, Dasun Shanaka, Vijay Shankar, Mohit Sharma, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Odean Smith, Rahul Tewatia, Matthew Wade, Jayant Yadav, Yash Dayal.

Downtown Heroes Register 2-0 Win In I-League 2

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC defeated Mumbai City FC (Reserves) 2-0 on Wednesday in an I-League 2 matchup played at Cooperage Stadium in Mumbai.

The Heroes scored both their goals in the dying moments of the first half. Ateeb Ahmed Dar found the back of the net in 44th minute, while Rinreithan Shaiza doubled the score in added time of the first half. Downtown Heroes went into the break 2-0 up.

The Srinagar-based football club then saw off the second

Bhuiya was named player of the match.

Led by head coach Hilal Rasool Parray, Downtown Heroes have now taken 10 points from 6 matches in Group A and are level on points with group leaders Jagat Singh Palahi FC, who have played two games less.

Breathing down the Heroes' neck is Delhi Football Club, who have 9 points from 5 matches.

Downtown Heroes will now host Jagat Singh Palahi at Synthetic Turf TRC on Thursday, April 20.

Only the top two teams from



half of the match expertly to register their third win of the I-League 2 group stages. Downtown Heroes' attacker Parvaj

each group can make it to next round of the competition. The winners of I-League 2 are promoted to I-League.

Cycle Rally Held As Part of SVEEP Activities In Hajin



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: As part of Systematic Voter Education Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, the District Administration Bandipora in collaboration with District Election Office Bandipora on Wednesday conducted a cycle rally at Hajin to raise awareness regarding various voting related activities.

The rally was jointly flagged-off by Nodal Officer Coordination Mohammad Ashraf Hakak and Chairman MC Hajin Irshad Ahmad.

The event was also attended by Principal Govt Degree College Hajin, Tehsildar Hajin, SHO Hajin, and other concerned besides youth of the area and general public.

The cycle rally started from the Government Degree College Hajin and concluded at Dak Banglow Sumbal. The event witnessed overwhelming participation of lo-

icals, including youth, as the event was first of its kind in the area to generate awareness among local youth and ensure maximum participation of eligible voters.

Speaking on the occasion, M. A. Hakak said the District Administration is conducting such events across the district to ensure registration of all eligible voters during the ongoing special summary revision of photo electoral rolls.

Hakak urged all the eligible persons to get enrolled and become part of strengthening democratic values of the nation.

The rally was received by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora/District Election Officer Bandipora Dr. Owais Ahmed in the presence of SSP Bandipora Lakshay Sharma, SDM Sumbal Amir Choudhary, and other officers at Dak Banglow Sumbal. Later, the Deputy Commissioner also distributed participation certificates among the participants.

SKY No. 1 In ICC T20I Rankings; Babar Up To Third



Agencies

DUBAI: The battle for the top spot of the ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings continues to heat up as Suryakumar Yadav maintained his no. 1 position and Pakistan skipper improving one place to third on the Indian batter at the head of proceedings.

While Suryakumar currently holds a commanding lead at the top of the T20I rankings for batters with 906 rating points, Rizwan placed second with 811 rating points.

Babar moved one spot up to third with 755 points, followed by South African Aiden Markram and New Zealand's Devon Conway in the fourth and fifth positions respectively on the rankings that were updated by the ICC on

Wednesday.

Both Babar and Rizwan sat out Pakistan's most recent T20I series against Bangladesh. It was Devon Conway's absence from New Zealand's series against Sri Lanka that led to the Pakistan skipper improving one place to third on the latest set of rankings.

The duo will get a further opportunity to make inroads on Suryakumar when Pakistan commence their five-game T20I series against New Zealand on Saturday.

A host of New Zealand and Sri Lanka players that featured in the recently completed T20I series were rewarded for their performances.

Sri Lankan Kusal Mendis (up 11 spots to equal 25th) and New Zealand right-hander Tim Seifert (from outside the top 100 to 36th) were the oth-

er big winners on the latest set of T20I rankings for batters.

Young spinner Maheesh Theekshana, who was the match-winner for Sri Lanka in the first match of the series, is the biggest eye-catcher as the 22-year-old rose to a career-high rating and equal fifth place on the rankings for bowlers.

His teammate Wanindu Hasaranga was expensive during the series and duly dropped two places to fourth on the T20I bowler rankings, with Afghanistan pacer Fazalqah Farooqi (second) and Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood (third) both rising a place as a result.

Afghanistan holds the top two spots on the T20I bowler rankings, with spinner Rashid Khan leading Farooqi in what is a tight ongoing race for the top spot.

ICC Reveals Men's Player Of The Month For March 2023

Agencies

DUBAI: Bangladeshi veteran all-rounder cricketer, Shakib Al Hasan, has been rewarded with the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his stellar performances in March 2023.

Shakib overcame tough competition from Kane Williamson of New Zealand and Asif Khan of UAE to walk away with the coveted prize.

In the past few months Bangladesh has become a force to be reckoned with at home and a lot of it has been down to the all-round exploits of the experienced all-rounder.

Shakib was one of the few bright spots for Bangladesh during the three-match ODI



series against England, finishing both as the highest run-scorer and wicket-taker for the Tigers. In Bangladesh's only win of the series, Shakib starred with a 71-ball 75 and followed it up with a four-for to take home the Player of the Match in the hosts' 50-run win.



Agencies

MUNICH: Bayern Munich condemned racial abuse targeting defender Dayot Upamecano on social media on Wednesday following the team's Champions League loss to Manchester City.

Abusive messages were

left as comments underneath a recent post on Upamecano's Instagram account after he made a crucial mistake leading to a goal.

"All of us at FC Bayern condemn racism in the strongest possible terms! The entire club stands behind you, Upa!" Bayern's club account

posted in the comments.

Upamecano faced the abuse following the 3-0 loss in the first leg of Bayern's quarterfinal against Man City on Tuesday, in which he lost possession before City's second goal. The 24-year-old Upamecano has played for Bayern as a central defender

since 2021 and has played 14 times for the French national team.

Last week, Leipzig defender Benjamin Henrichs published threatening and racist messages he had received after his team beat Borussia Dortmund in the German Cup. (AP)



Inter-School Girls' Chess Tourney Concludes In Uttarsoo

Observer News Service

UTTARSOO: Inter-School Zonal-Level Chess Tourney for Under-14 and Under-17 girls concluded on Wednesday at Uttarsoo, Zone Shangus in Anantnag.

The fourth and final day of the competition was held at Govt. Higher Secondary School Uttarsoo under the supervision

of ZPEO Shangus.

At the closing ceremony Principal HSS Uttarsoo added grace to the occasion and distributed medals among winners and runner-ups.

A total of 124 girls participated in the U-14 chess tourney, while 53 competed in the U-17 category.

Man United's Marcus Rashford Out For 'A Few Games'



Agencies

MANCHESTER: With Marcus Rashford out of action, Manchester United needs to look elsewhere for goals at a pivotal stage of the season.

The club's leading scorer will be sidelined for a "few games" with a muscle injury United said Wednesday, placing doubts over his availability for the FA Cup semifinal against Brighton on April 23.

He will miss the first leg of the Europa League quarterfinal against Sevilla on Thursday but manager Erik ten Hag would not say how long the forward was expected to be out as his team remains in contention to win two more trophies this season and is challenging for Champions League qualification.

United already lifted the League Cup in February, with Rashford scoring in the 2-0 win against Newcastle at Wembley and no player has done more than him to fill the void left by Cristiano Ronaldo's departure in

November.

He has scored a career-best 28 goals this season, with 20 of those coming in 28 games since he returned from the World Cup.

The problem for United has been finding consistent goals from elsewhere in the team.

Bruno Fernandes is the second-highest scorer this season with 10, meaning Ten Hag will have to hope other players can fill in while Rashford recovers.

The over-reliance on Rashford has underlined the need for more firepower if Ten Hag is to lead the 20-time Premier League champions back to the summit of English soccer.

A top-class center forward is a priority during the summer transfer window, with Tottenham's Harry Kane and Napoli's Victor Osimhen both linked. Striker Wout Weghorst has been a short-term fix on a loan from Burnley, but the Netherlands international has looked short of the required quality with only two goals in 20 games since joining in January. (AP)

Search For Alien Life Extends To Jupiter's Icy Moons

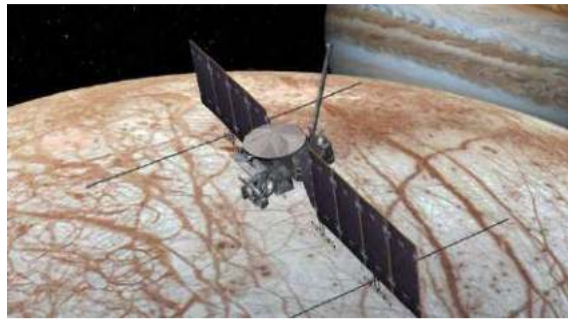
Kourou, France: Could vast, long-hidden oceans be teeming with alien life in our very own Solar System?

A new chapter in humanity's search for extraterrestrial life opens on Thursday as Europe's JUICE spacecraft blasts off on a mission to investigate the icy moons of Jupiter.

First discovered by Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei more than 400 years ago, these ice-covered moons are so far from the Sun that they were long dismissed as possible candidates to host life in our backyard.

Until recently, the Solar System's habitable zone was thought to "end at Mars", French astrophysicist Athena Coustenis, one of the scientific leads of the European Space Agency (ESA)'s JUICE mission, told AFP.

But NASA's Galileo probe to Jupiter in 1995 and the more recent Cassini spacecraft's trip to Saturn caused scientists to broaden their horizons.



The gas giant planets themselves were correctly ruled out, but their icy moons -- particularly Jupiter's Europa and Ganymede, and Saturn's Enceladus and Titan -- offered fresh hope of nearby life.

Under their icy surfaces are thought to be huge oceans of liquid water -- a crucial ingredient for life as we know it.

Nicolas Altobelli, a JUICE project scientist at ESA, said it would be "the first time that we explore habitats beyond the frost line" between Mars and Jupiter.

Beyond that line, temper-

atures plummet and "liquid water can no longer exist on the surface", Altobelli told AFP earlier this year.

'Gigantic' ocean The Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) mission launches from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana on Thursday on an eight-year odyssey through space.

By July 2031 it will have entered Jupiter's orbit, from which it will probe Ganymede, Europa and fellow icy moon Callisto.

Then, in 2034, JUICE will enter the orbit of Ganymede, the first time a space-

craft has done so around a moon other than our own.

As well as being the largest moon in the Solar System, Ganymede is also the only one that has its own magnetic field, which protects it from dangerous radiation.

This is just one of several signs that Ganymede's hidden ocean could provide a stable environment for life.

Unlike similar missions to Mars, which focus on finding signs of ancient life long since extinguished, scientists hope Jupiter's icy moons will still be home to living organisms, even if only tiny or single-celled.

Such habitability requires a power source. Lacking energy from the Sun, the moons could instead take advantage of the gravity that Jupiter exerts on its satellites.

The force creates a process called tidal heating, which warms the interior of the moons and keeps their water liquid.

Find Bugs And Get Up To...: OpenAI's Thousands Of Dollars Offer To Users

San Francisco: OpenAI, the firm behind chatbot sensation ChatGPT, said on Tuesday that it would offer up to \$20,000 to users reporting vulnerabilities in its artificial intelligence systems.

OpenAI Bug Bounty program, which went live on Tuesday, will offer rewards to people based on the severity of the bugs they report, with rewards starting from \$200 per vulnerability.

Technology companies often use bug bounty programs to encourage programmers and ethical hackers to report bugs in their software systems.

According to details on bug bounty platform Bugcrowd, OpenAI has invited researchers to review certain functionality of ChatGPT and the framework of



how OpenAI systems communicate and share data with third-party applications.

The program does not include use of malicious content produced by OpenAI systems.

The move comes days after ChatGPT was banned in Italy for a suspected breach of privacy rules, prompting regulators in other European countries to study generative AI services more closely.

PM Modi Flags Off Ajmer-Delhi Vande Bharat Train, Travel Time Just Over 5 Hours

Jaipur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today flagged off Rajasthan's first and the country's 15th Vande Bharat Express train via video conferencing. Addressing the launch event, PM Modi said the Vande Bharat Express enriches the spirit of 'India First, Always First'.

"It has become synonymous with development, modernity, self-reliance and stability. The Vande Bharat Express will immensely benefit the tourism industry of Rajasthan," he said.

"Fortunate to flag off the sixth Vande Bharat Express in the last two months," PM Modi added. The Prime Minister further said that "selfish and mean politics" had always overshadowed the modernisation of the railways in the past.

"Unfortunately, selfish and mean politics had always overshadowed the modernisation of the railways. Large-scale corruption neither let development happen in the railways nor did it let the railways' selection process be transparent," he said.

"Fortunate to flag off the sixth Vande Bharat Express in the last two months," PM Modi added. The Prime Minister further said that "selfish and mean politics" had always overshadowed the modernisation of the railways in the past.

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