

Article-370 Abrogation

Industrialists See Investment Opportunity In J&K: LG

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has said that J&K is emerging as a vibrant, fast-growing and most attractive investment destination and renowned companies from across the country and abroad are looking forward to investing in the Union Territory.

Sinha shared key initiatives of J&K administration to facilitate the MSMEs in the Union Territory at the two-day Laghu Udyog Bharati's North Zone MSME conclave and investors' meet.

"Today, the world is recognizing the all-round transformation taking place in Jammu and Kashmir. Renowned companies from across the country and abroad are looking forward to investing here", he said.

Speaking at the same event, Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal asked potential investors to take advantage of the business-friendly environment developed for the industries.

"After abrogation of Article 370, a lot of people (investors)



came here. In this investors' summit, several have shown their interests. It will create a good atmosphere," Meghwal said.

Several industrialists also maintained that there is change in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of article 370.

"After abrogation of Article 370, people have found a way

years," Nagpur-based Industrialist Sheshi Bushan Vaid said.

Echoing similar sentiments, another businessman Vijay Singh said, "we are getting the land and will set up a unit here. Article 370 was creating insecurity among people from trade and industry in terms of doing business here. Now it is a better situation".

J&K Lughu Udyog Bharati President Parveen Gupta Pargal said that the conference will carry a message through these investors to the entire country about investment opportunities, benefits and also about new industrial policy here.

Since the launch of Udyam Registration portal in 2020, two lakh Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) units have been registered in J&K. As many as 38,000 MSME are run by women, LG said.

"In the last financial year, 18,000 women-owned enterprises were provided assistance of more than Rs 500 crore under the credit guarantee scheme", he said.

LG said that Under the Prime Minister's **More on P6**

Kashmir Receives Fresh Splash Of Rain

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Valley on Tuesday received a fresh splash of rain, even as the meteorological department predicted intermittent rain in plains and light snowfall in the higher reaches of the Union Territory from Wednesday.

"From April 26-28, weather is expected to be generally cloudy with possibility of intermittent light rain with thunder/lightning (light snowfall over higher reaches of Central and North, Northwestern parts of Kashmir) at many places with peak intensity on April 27," a MeT department official said, adding, that a few places will receive moderate intensity rainfall. **More on P6**

2 'Anti-Nationals' Booked Under PSA In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Two men allegedly involved in "anti-national" activities were booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said on Tuesday.

Mohd Rafi of Poochal and Ghulam Qadir of Dachhan were arrested and lodged in Kathua district jail to ensure they do not "support terrorism" anymore, Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

He said that both men were involved in "anti-national" activities earlier too and were booked under **More on P6**

Y20 Pre-Summit Today With Focus On Health, Climate Change



Press Trust Of India

Leh: More than 100 delegates from 30 countries will participate in the Y20 Pre-Summit starting Wednesday to discuss pressing issues confronting the world's youth and try to evolve a consensus on issues such as health, climate change and sports, among others.

With India presiding over the G20 -- an inter-governmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union, which works to address major issues related to the global economy -- this year, the onus is on the country to come up with innovative ideas to make the world a better place.

The theme of 2023 Y20 pre-summit -- One earth, one family, one future -- is intertwined with the tenets of G20 and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the organisers of the event, hope the event here will become the engine that will drive the world into the future.

Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur will meet the delegates on April 28 -- the last day of the three-day pre-summit -- and discuss with them ideas and outcome of the exercise.

The event here is a precursor to the "Main Y20 Summit" to be held in Varanasi from August 17-20. "The Y20 is an engagement group of **More on P6**

Don't Be A Yes Man: LG Tells Officers

Asking the officers of his administration to follow their conscience and not to be a 'yes man', the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that the transparent selection procedure in the Union Territory was enabling his government to recruit the best and transform the work culture. "You don't have to be a Yes Man but do what your conscience tells you

and keep the interest of the public above everything. Remember, behind every file on your table, there are hopes & dreams of thousands of people. Think about the last person in queue while formulating policies," Sinha said. He made these remarks after handing over appointment orders to newly inducted recruits of J&K Administrative Service, J&K Police Service and J&K Accounts Service, at Convention **More on P6**

Banihal Bypass Likely To Complete By Year End: Officials

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The construction work on the Banihal bypass along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway is in full swing and likely to be completed by the end of this year, officials said on Tuesday.

The completion of the Rs 224 crore four-lane Banihal bypass project will come as a major relief to the commuters as well as the residents of the congested highway town where massive traffic snarls are an everyday issue.

"The work is in full swing and we are hopeful of completing the project within the set

timeline (January 2024). Out of 53 foundations (for the viaduct), only a dozen are now left (at Kharpora)," the project manager of RABCC, Sujay Pal told PTI.

MG Contractors Pvt Ltd took over the project from RAMKY Infrastructure Pvt Ltd in 2019 but the work only started in 2021 after the court settled the issue of compensation of land-owners in Kharpora section of Banihal bypass.

RAMKY had got the contract in 2010 but it failed to start the work and later NHAI black-listed the company in 2017 and tendered Banihal bypass afresh.

"Every project is a challenge for us. The work **More on P6**

DSEK Seeks Details Of Schools Run On State Land

Directs Private Schools To Provide Free Education To Children From Weaker, Disadvantaged Sections

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant move, the Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) on Tuesday directed all the private schools functioning on state land to 'compulsorily' admit 25 percent of students from weaker sections of their catchment areas by properly publicizing the admission.

The department also sought a list of all private schools running their operations from government land.

In a communiqué to Chief Education Officers (CEOs), the DSEK has asked them to implement free and compulsory education to children from weaker and disadvantaged sections by private unaided schools under section 12 (1) C of RTE Act 2009.

DSEK said that RTE, Act Section 12 (1) C envisages that all private unaided schools have the responsibility to disburse and provide free education to children from weaker



and disadvantaged sections and admit at least one-fourth that is 25 percent of the total strength of class-I or pre-school education.

"All those private schools which are functioning on state land shall compulsorily admit the 25 percent of students from weaker section of their catchment area by properly publicizing the admission," reads the communiqué. Besides it, the Director has

also requested all the CEOs to immediately furnish the list of all private schools functioning on the state land immediately.

Pertinently, the section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act, 2009 fixes the responsibility of private unaided schools to provide free and compulsory education to children from weaker and disadvantaged sections by admitting at least one-fourth of the total strength of class I or pre-school education.

Day 5 Of Poonch Attack

Special Forces, NSG Intensify Hot Pursuit Of Militants

Press Trust of India

Jammu: Around 50 people, including 14 over ground workers, have been detained for questioning so far as a massive operation to track down the militants involved in the deadly attack on an Army truck in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district entered the fifth day on Tuesday.

Five Army personnel were killed and another was

seriously injured after their vehicle caught fire following the militant attack in Poonch on Thursday.

The massive search and combing operation is going on in Bhata Dhurian-Tota Gali and neighbouring areas to hunt down the militants involved in the attack.

The special forces and NSG are also engaged in the operation in the dense forest areas, official sources **More on P6**

ALL THOSE PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHICH ARE FUNCTIONING ON STATE LAND shall compulsorily admit the 25 percent of students from weaker section of their catchment area by properly publicizing the admission."

JKP Corners Conman

Printing Press Owner Arrested In Kiran Patel Case

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Intensifying its ongoing probe against conman Kiran Patel, the Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested an owner of a printing press from Gujarat on charges of preparing fake visiting cards for the main accused.

The printing press owner Piyush Bhai of Ahmedabad, Gujarat has been brought to Srinagar by police for further investigation, two days after he was formally arrested in his hometown by a Jammu and Kashmir police team in connection with the case registered at the police station Nishat here last month.

Piyush Bhai, sources said,

has been detained at the Nishat Police Station and is being investigated for his role in the high profile case that rattled the entire administration.

"He had printed fake visiting cards for the conman, which was disclosed by him during the investigation," sources said.

Meanwhile, Kiran Patel on Tuesday was sent to Srinagar Central Jail and will be presented before the court soon. He was brought back to Srinagar from Gujarat by a five member police team on Monday evening.

It may be in place to mention that police team led by Superintendent of Police (SP) east and Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Nehru Park following inputs by **More on P6**

SRK In Kashmir For 'Dunki' Shoot

Press Trust Of India

Sonamarg : Superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Tuesday began a three-day shoot for his upcoming film "Dunki" in the Kashmir Valley.

The shoot started with a song sequence at a picturesque tourist resort in Sonamarg, sources familiar with the production said.

The movie, which was announced in April 2022, marks Khan's first collaboration with director Rajkumar Hirani as well as actor

Taapsee Pannu.

"Khan arrived in Kashmir on Monday and straightaway went to Sonamarg. The shooting for a song sequence began in Thajwas area of Sonamarg this morning. The song is being choreographed by ace choreographer Ganesh Acharya," the source said.

According to the insiders, Hirani and his team scouted the locations at the tourist resort in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district last week.

They said the Sonamarg leg of the shoot **More on P6**

SHORT TAKES

CRPF Man Dies Of Heart Attack

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Tuesday died after suffering a heart attack in Kulgam district of South Kashmir. Raj Kishore posted with CRPF 120 battalion fell unconscious inside his camp in Nilow village of the district on Tuesday, reports said. His colleagues removed him to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead. Heart attack, reports said, is believed to be the **More on P6**

11 Bovine 'Smugglers' Arrested

Eleven alleged bovine smugglers were arrested and 54 animals were rescued in separate incidents in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. Police teams intercepted five trucks at Ghagwal, Mansar, Supwal, Rakh Amb and Rajpura areas in the district, they said. The trucks have been seized and FIRs lodged against the smugglers, they said, adding that two women were also among the arrested. Those arrested have been identified as **More on P6**

Chargesheet Filed Against 5 In Militancy Case

The Special Investigation Unit of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday filed a charge sheet before an NIA court here against five accused, including two militants, in a militancy-related case. A police spokesperson said, "SIU-I, Srinagar, presented a charge sheet before the Court of NIA (National Investigation Agency), Srinagar, in case FIR No. 69/2022 of Chanapora police station against five accused, including three militant associates and two militants," **More on P6**

NC Expels Ex-MLA From Party For 6 Yrs

National Conference (NC) Tuesday expelled former legislator Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar from the party for six years for indulging in anti-party activities. Jabbar who was an MLA from the Ganderbal Assembly segment from 2014 till it was dissolved in 2018, was also the party's district president for Ganderbal in central Kashmir. In a tweet, the party said the order to remove Jabbar was issued by NC's general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar. **More on P6**

Soldier Dies After Firework Stunt Goes Wrong

A 35-year-old Army personnel died after he tried to launch a firework from his mouth at a wedding in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday night at Jalokhya village under Amjhara police station limits, some 20 km from the district headquarters, an official said. Nirbhay Singh Singar, posted with the Army in Jammu & Kashmir, had come to the village on a month-long leave to attend the wedding. Amjhara police station **More on P6**

Punt Guns Seized In Bandipora

Forest Protection Force (FPF) on Tuesday seized punt guns used by hunters to kill wetland birds near banks of Wular Lake in north Kashmir's Bandipora. Deputy Director, FPF Ejaz Ahmad told a local news agency KNS that based on a tip off regarding the use of punt guns in Wular, anti-poaching teams raided several locations in the area during which punt guns were seized, however poachers fled from the spot. Providing details, the officer said during the ongoing year, the FPF have seized **More on P6**

3 Held For Assaulting 2 Youth In Eidgah: Police

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested three persons for severely beating and injuring two youth at Eidgah Park in the old city.

Police identified the trio as Ahrar Sidiq Najar, Atif Zaffar Wani and Haseeb Ahmad Mir of Wanganpora Eidgah and a formal case was registered at police station Safa Kadal in this regard.

Srinagar police in a tweet said that two youth were roughed up by three persons in Eidgah Park and all the three accused have been arrested.

Weapon of offense, which was used during the commission of crime has also been recovered by the police and investigation set into motion.

"02 boys in Eidgah Park were severely beaten & injured by some persons today, 03 accused persons namely 1. Ahrar Sidiq Najar 2. Atif Zaffar Wani 3. Haseeb Ahmad Mir, all from Wanganpora are arrested by police teams. FIR registered in Safakadal PS, weapon of offence also recovered," Srinagar Police said in a tweet.

Police Solves Hit-And-Run Case, 3 Held

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday arrested all the three youth in a hit-and-run case in which a lady was hit and critically injured at Hazratbal area in Srinagar.

Police said the accused were arrested after hectic efforts in which the CCTV footage of the incident played a pivotal role.

The trio was arrested by the Nigeen police station on the basis of information provided by citizens after the accused badly hit and injured a lady. Bike, police said, has also been seized and further investigation into the case is on.

"On the basis of information provided by vigilant citizen, All the 3 boys involved in hit and run case in hazratbal area arrested by Nigeen PS. Bike that caused accident also seized. They had badly hit & injured a lady. CCTV footage played a huge role in the investigation," Srinagar police said in a tweet.

Power Shutdown Announced In Parts Of Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Power Controller Kashmir has informed that, the power supply to Receiving Stations Rajbagh, TRC, Shalimar, Harwan, Nishat, Brian, BB Cant and Sonwar shall remain affected due to preventive maintenance works of 33 Kv Lines on April 26 and May 3 from 10.00 am to 4pm.

It also informed that the power supply to Receiving Stations Peerbagh, Airforce, STC BSF, Rangreth, Wanbal, Doodh Ganga and JAKLI shall remain affected due to Augmentation of 33 Kv Lines on April 27 and 30 from 10.00 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, in order to replace the 11 Kv Panel the power supply to receiving stations Wanganpora and

Safakadal shall remain affected on April 26 from 09 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to receiving stations of Cement Plants Khyber, Saifco and TCI Max shall remain affected on 26th, 29th April and 2nd May from 10 am to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to receiving stations Bahama, Wuyan, TCI Old, Chinar Flour Mills shall remain affected on 26 and 30 April from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to the receiving station Kathidarwaza shall remain affected on 2nd May from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to the receiving station Rajbagh shall remain affected 28 April from 11 am to 5 pm.



Special puja organized at Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar on the occasion of Shankaracharya Jayanti on Tuesday, KO Photo Abid Bhat

Shankaracharya Jayanti Celebrated In Srinagar With Fervor

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir summer capital celebrated Shankaracharya Jayanti with religious fervor on Tuesday with a large number of devotees offering prayers at the Shankaracharya Temple here.

The Jayanti marks the birth anniversary of eighth century Vedic scholar Adi Shankara.

Several spiritual leaders, saints and people from different parts of the valley gathered at the Shankaracharya Temple atop Zabarwan hills here to perform a 'puja'.

Mahamandaleswar Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswati from Sunderbani Ashram of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district offered his prayers at the temple along with other saints from across the country.

Rohit Raina, a Kashmiri Pandit who visited the temple from north Kashmir's Baramulla district, said he was delighted to attend the 'havan' performed by Kanchi Mutt members in honour of Adi Shankara.

Raina said he appreciated that despite the tension in the valley, such religious events went smoothly.

DC Srinagar Greets Devotees

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today paid a visit to Shankaracharya Temple on the top of Zabarwan hills to extend warm greetings to the devotees on the eve of Shankaracharya Jayanti marking the birth of Adi Shankara ji, an 8th century Indian philosopher and theologian.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by members of the Dharmarth Trust and other functionaries of Shankaracharya Temple Management Committee.

While extending warm greetings on the occasion, the DC expressed hope that this

day would contribute towards strengthening brotherhood, unity, harmony and would be a harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity in J&K in general and in District Srinagar in particular.

The Management of Shankaracharya Temple and the devotees present on the occasion expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and conveyed their gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner in this regard.

During the visit, the DC also inspected the Langar and other arrangements made by the District Administration Srinagar for the devotees including Water supply, electricity, smooth transport facility, etc.

Swami Saraswati told PTI that special prayers were aimed at fostering a sense of brotherhood and love among the people in the valley.

"Many programs have been organized to mark Shankaracharya Jayanti. A rally will be held from Lal Chowk to Tagore Bhanwan," he added.

Uri Man Found Hanging At Tulsi Bagh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A domestic help was found hanging in Tulsi Bagh area of Srinagar on Tuesday, police said.

Police have taken cognizance of the case and taken up the investigation. A police official said that a man hailing from Uri Baramulla and was working as a domestic help in the house of a lawyer was found hanging in a room of a government quarter.

He said police are investigating the reasons behind taking such an extreme step by the deceased.

NIT Srinagar Accords Warm Send-Off To Dr Rakesh Sehgal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A mega farewell function was organized at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday for outgoing Director Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal, who completed his 5 years and 5-month tenure.

Prof. Sehgal joined as Director NIT Srinagar in November 2017. During his tenure NIT Srinagar achieved many milestones including improvement in NIRF rankings from 239th rank in 2019 and 66th rank in 2022.

During the function, speakers praised Prof. Sehgal for his legacy and stated that he will

always be remembered for his vast contribution at NIT Srinagar. In his farewell speech, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Sehgal thanked teaching and non-teaching staff and colleagues for organizing the grand farewell for him.

He said landing in Kashmir was one of the most difficult decisions he had ever made in his life. It was the toughest decision and with the grace of Almighty I tried my best to do justice to it.

"After convincing my family, I got full support at NIT Srinagar from all of my colleagues. I never felt that I am outside my home and Kashmir is like my second home," he said.

Child Protection Specialist Dr Ziba Vaghri Delivers Special Lecture At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dr Ziba Vaghri, an acclaimed expert on child protection and development, delivered a special extension lecture on 'Role of Child Protection in Fulfilling Children's Rights' at the University of Kashmir on Tuesday.

Dr Ziba, an alumnus of the KU's Institute of Home Science, is presently Associate Professor at University of New Brunswick, Saint John, Canada. KU Vice-Chancellor

Prof Nilofer Khan presided over the lecture session, which was attended by students of the Institute of Home Science and the School of Law.

In her presidential remarks, Prof Nilofer emphasized on "right development" of children from their early childhood.

She said young students have a role to play beyond academics to serve the society by raising community-level awareness on the importance of child protection and development.

Saying that Dr Ziba's lecture is an opportunity for the University to develop a strong alumni connection, the VC said that young students should draw inspiration from works of the invited speaker and develop the quest for learning from rich experiences of scholars of repute.

Referring to internationalization of higher education in the country, the VC said the University will explore how best it can work with experts like Dr Ziba in the area of child protection.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MUFFASIL R&B DIVISION BUDGAM
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Single Cover
NIT No:07/MDB /2023-24/651-71 DATED: 25/04/2023.

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on a percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money CDR/ FDR/BG (Rs)	Time of Completion (days)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Improvements/Upgradation of Shoolipora to Lassipora road by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semidense with 6mm thick seal coat.	79.07	1600.00	581400/-	25	AAY	C&T
2	Improvements/Upgradation of Budgam Ichigam road by way of Providing and Laying of 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semidense with 6mm thick seal coat.	79.18	1600.00	583600/-	25	AAY	C&T
3	Improvements/Upgradation of Humhama ITI link, Jamia Masjid Link, Baghi Khawat Link and Dar Link by way of Providing and Laying of GSB, WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semidense with 6mm thick seal coat.	79.12	1600.00	582400/-	25	AAY	C&T
4	Improvements/Upgradation of Inner links at Nassrullahpora Jamia Masjid Mir Mohalla upto GMS Nassrullahpora Panchayat Link, PHC Nassrullahpora, Greveyard link by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semidense with 6mm thick seal coat.	34.62	1100.00	692400/-	15	AAV/BEE	C&T
5	Improvements/Upgradation Inner links Ompora by way of Providing and Laying of GSB, WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semidense with 6mm thick seal coat.	49.45	1100.00	989000/-	20	AAV/BEE	C&T

Project Authority: Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kashmir
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.Q.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25/04/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25/04/2023
3	Bid submission Start Date	25/04/2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	08/05/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) (Tech. Bids)	09/05/2023 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Budgam

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam.
No: 651-71
DIPK-725/23 Dt: 25.04.2023

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS
FAJR 4:19
ZUHR 12:29
ASR 5:15
Magrib 7:14
ISHA 8:41

HIJRI CALENDAR
05 Shawwal
1444

This Day In History

- 1514- Copernicus makes his 1st observations of Saturn
- 1755- 1st Russian university opens (Moscow)
- 1803- Meteorites fall in L'Aigle, France
- 1803- Meteorites fall in L'Aigle, France
- 1828- Russia declares war on Turkey to support Greece's independence
- 1865 - Battle of Durham Station, NC (Greensboro)
- 1865 - Battle of Ft Tobacco, VA
- 1904 - Bell Telephone Company of Antwerp Belgium forms
- 1915- Italy secretly signs Pact of London with Britain, France & Russia
- 1920 - Harlow Shapley and Heber D. Curtis hold "great debate" on the nature of nebulae, galaxies and size of the universe at US National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
- 1926- Germany & Russia sign neutrality/peace treaty
- 1928- Madame Tussaud's waxwork exhibition opens in London
- 1929- 1st non-stop England to India flight lands
- 1942- Coal mine explosion kills 1,549 at Honkeiko Manchuria
- 1944 - Papandreou government in Greece forms
- 1945- World War II: Battle of Bautzen - last successful German tank-offensive of the war and last noteworthy victory of the Wehrmacht.
- 1954 - Nationwide test of Salk anti-polio vaccine begins
- 1956- First modern container ship, the Ideal X, leaves Port Newark, New Jersey for Houston, Texas
- 1959- Cuba invades Panama
- 1961- French paratroopers' revolt suppressed in Algeria
- 1962- Ariel 1 Launch (1st UK Satellite)
- 1962- US/UK launch Ariel; 1st international payload
- 1964 - Tanganyika & Zanzibar form The United Republic of Tanganyika & Zanzibar

From KO Archives

Sayed, Mangat Clash At Cabinet Meeting

Observer News Service

JAMMU - Deputy Chief Minister Mangat Ram Sharma snubbed Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed at a cabinet meeting here Tuesday, telling him he was not a "headmaster" who could dictate terms to his seniors in politics.

Sharma walked out of the cabinet meeting in a huff, the second time he has done so in the past 16 months. He later flew to New Delhi, telling reporters he would apprise the Congress party leadership about Sayeed's "dictatorial behaviour".

Cabinet meeting was later postponed to April 22. On Jan 24, almost in similar circumstances, Sharma walked out of a cabinet meeting on being overruled on the appointment of Kashmir's senior most Indian Administrative Service officer KB. Pillni as chairman of the State Public Service Commission. Ultimately, Sharma had to relent and reconcile to the choice of the chief minister.

Tuesday's walkout followed a verbal duel between the two over the use of 'improper' language by Sharma while conversing with Chief Secretary Sudhir S Belloria.

The meeting was to discuss a major administrative and police reshuffle in the state. Sayeed termed Sharma's conversation with the chief secretary as 'improper.'

"You should not use such language with the chief secretary," Sayeed told Sharma in the presence of the entire cabinet and some top officials

Sharma allegedly told Belloria 'kar do Ji' (do it) instead of 'kar deejlye' while marking the agenda for the day.

Sayed corrected him in front of the cabinet after which the deputy chief minister replied that he did not have to be taught how to deal with the bureaucracy.

Sharma told Sayeed: "I am senior to you in politics by 11 years. You cannot treat me like a headmaster, and I am leaving."

Sharma then burst out of the meeting Sayeed, the sources said, rubbed salt into Sharma's wounds by saying: "If you want to go, no one is going to stop you." He suggested that Congress President Sonia Gandhi should be informed about this incident. Chief Minister was quoted as saying: "How can the govt run amid this indiscipline?"

(Kashmir Observer, 26 April, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 26-04-2023

Let Mideast Peace Inspire South Asia

The world is witnessing a significant shift in global power dynamics, with China's influence on the rise while the United States' dominance continuing to wane. China's recent offer to mediate peace talks between Israel and Palestine is just one example of its growing role in regional diplomacy and global leadership. As the United States' involvement in conflicts such as the Iraq and Afghanistan wars has led to more conflict than solutions, China's approach of encouraging dialogue and cooperation may prove more effective in addressing longstanding rivalries in Middle East.

If anything, China's sudden proactive effort to broker solution to entrenched conflicts reveals its ambition to position itself as a global peacemaker, a role traditionally reserved for the United States. The Gulf countries are recognizing that the United States may no longer be the most reliable security guarantor, and they are trying to diversify their portfolio of external partners, which has enhanced the geopolitical agency of the regional countries. With China expanding its footprint in the region, the unilateral dependency on the US diminishes.

China's recent diplomatic offensive in brokering the restoration of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia shows clearly that it is becoming much more than an economic powerhouse and is adopting a more proactive foreign policy. The launch of the Chinese Global Security Initiative further highlights China's efforts to rebrand its international role as a responsible and great power.

China's rising position as a global leader is evident by the huge influx of state leaders lining up to meet Premier Xi Jinping. Leaders from Spain, France, Singapore, Malaysia, and the European Union have all met with the Chinese leader, despite Beijing's unwavering support for Russia. China's renewed influence in the Gulf has not gone unnoticed, and it has been recognized by the UK-based thinktank Chatham House in a recent report.

China's offer to mediate peace talks between Israel and Palestine is a testament to its growing influence and potential as a global leader. Its diplomatic efforts to resolve regional conflicts are expected to be more effective in achieving long-term peace than the involvement of the United States as a global policeman. The peace that follows a China-mediated productive engagement among the estranged Gulf countries could potentially lead to stronger ties and cooperation among them, establishing Beijing as a global peacemaker.

As China's influence continues to rise, the world can expect to see a shift in the global power structure, with China playing a more significant role in regional diplomacy and global leadership. The United States must adapt to this changing landscape and find ways to work collaboratively with China to achieve common goals, including peace and stability in the Middle East. In South Asia, we should try and emulate the West Asia peace effort. This alone will guarantee regional prosperity and, of course, connectivity in a region where almost one-fourth of the global population lives. At the same time, if China's wants to be taken seriously as a global peacemaker, it has to try and mend fences with India, cease aggression and seriously address the lingering border issue.

OTHER OPINION

Blue ticks not special anymore

Crossed out

Sir — Is it a mere coincidence that the blue ticks signifying 'verified' Twitter accounts started to disappear from the social media platform hours after Elon Musk's spaceship went up in flames? Musk is known to be impulsive and petty — he once fired a Twitter employee after buying the company because the latter had criticised the technocrat. He is living proof of the Harvard study which revealed that most male business leaders are afflicted by hubris, which they mask as charisma. But Musk has got one thing wrong. By monetising the blue tick, he has actually ended up reducing its value. Since blue ticks became available in exchange for money, hundreds of thousands of accounts now carry the mark. They are now a dime a dozen and not worth bothering with.

Counterview

Sir — Founded by one of the most illustrious sons of India, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Visva-Bharati does not require the glory of an individual to spread its ideological motto of universal humanism or *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*. Unfortunately, in West Bengal, the self-proclaimed moral custodians of bangaliana tend to privilege an individual at the cost of a great institution like Visva-Bharati. Despite having experienced the outcome of complacency, Bengalis appear to have conveniently forgotten the fact that Bengal was hailed during the nationalist phase as a harbinger of politically and ideologically innovative and inspiring models for humanity. The reasons for this decadence are plenty: some of them can be located in the desire to fulfil partisan interests by those who matter in decision-making, leading to individual interests being prioritised over those of the state and institutions that made Bengal proud not so many decades ago.

Arghya Sengupta ("Fall from grace", April 20) appears to have been annoyed with the Visva-Bharati administration in view of the strong steps taken to recover illegally-occupied land. Let me acquaint the readers with some basic facts that are relevant to the issue at hand. Visva-Bharati had 1,134 acres of land, which it acquired over time out of donations by philanthropists and through purchase by the institution. When the new administration took over in 2018, I was told that the landsharks have already grabbed 77 acres of Visva-Bharati's land.

Telegraph India

Lost Peace Process

The late S K Lambah's book, which discusses the promising peace process between India and Pakistan during 2003-07, leaves one with a sense of regret for what could have been accomplished

RIYAZ WANI

In his book, 'In Pursuit of Peace,' the late Indian diplomat S K Lambah provides a comprehensive account of the behind-the-scenes efforts to secure peace between India and Pakistan by resolving Kashmir, their decades old bone of contention. Lambah was a skilled diplomat who had access to all shades of political leaders in Pakistan. The "accord" reached by the two countries on Kashmir aimed to make borders irrelevant without redrawing them, with key elements such as bus services between two parts of Kashmir already in play during Manmohan Singh's term as Prime Minister. However, this was not to be, and hostilities continue to dominate the relationship between India and Pakistan. Lambah's book documents the inability of diplomats from both countries to reach a mutually beneficial agreement that would ultimately allow their people to live in harmony.

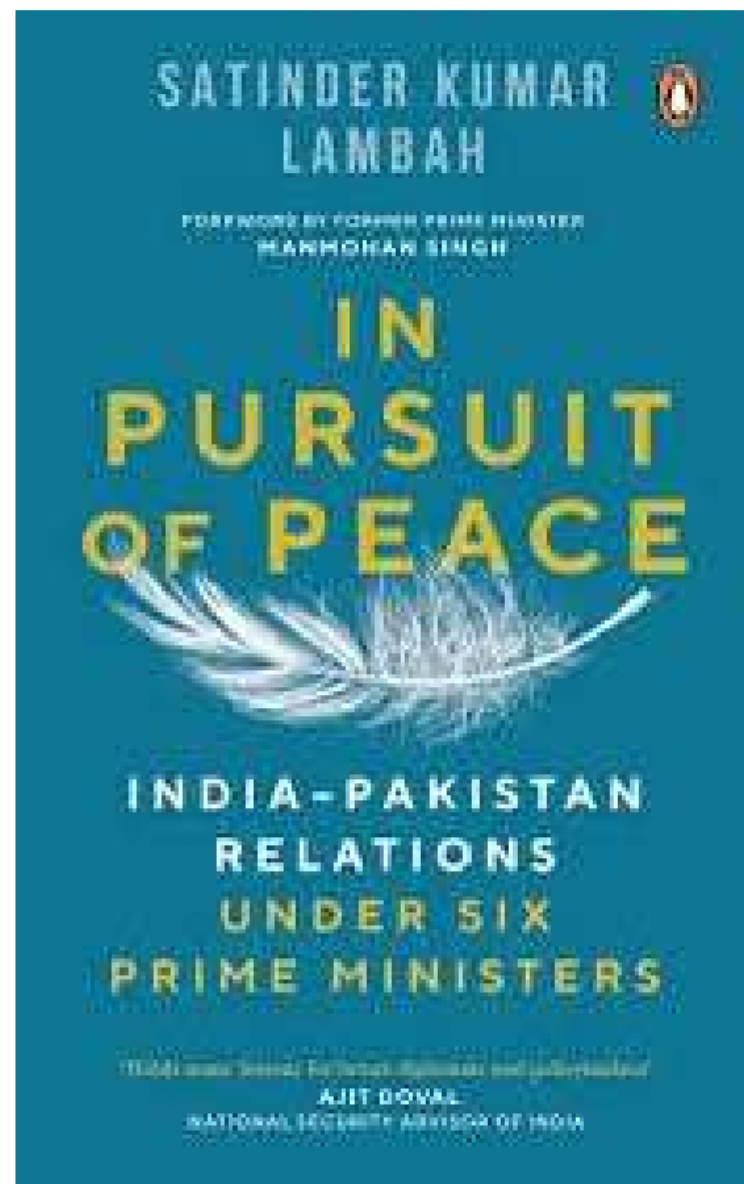
The book also highlights the possibilities for peace that presented themselves over the past quarter century, including the Delhi-Lahore bus service that began in 1999, the visit of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Islamabad in 2004, General Pervez Musharraf's visit to India in 2005, and the near-reopening of consulates in Mumbai and Karachi, among others.

However, the current state of affairs is far from promising, with no direct flights, hardly any visas issued, and no bus or train services between the two countries. Lambah notes that India-Pakistan hostilities have become an instrument of political mobilization and that the painful memories of partition are being revived. He rightly points out that hate is the guiding political philosophy of both countries today, and as long as this remains the case, no channel, front or back, will work.

Overall, "In Pursuit of Peace" offers a glimpse into the complexity of the relationship between the two countries and the challenges that must be overcome to achieve lasting peace.

That said, Lambah's book is the second on the promising 2003-07 peace process between India and Pakistan. The first one was 'Neither Hawk, Nor Dove' written by the former Pakistan foreign minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri. That book also provides a detailed analysis of "the complex Pakistan-US-Afghanistan-India quadrangular relationship".

Kasuri writes that by the time the former Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf was ousted from office, Pakistan and India had made progress on the last of the contentious points of his four point settlement formula for Kashmir which had brought the two countries tantalizingly close to a solution. This was about creating a joint consultative mechanism between the divided parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The two countries had agreed that such a mechanism would



“The Situation Has considerably transformed since, and almost in every sense: regionally in terms of the growing power disparity between India and Pakistan, and in J&K too, which has since been divested of its special status and downgraded into two federally controlled units, in other words, two union territories

consist of a specified number of elected members from each of the two units. There was also an agreement on "the principle of the presence of Pakistanis and Indians" in this mechanism. What was still under discussion was "the manner of the presence and association" of the two countries with the ar-

rangement.

Kasuri believed that Pakistan's relations with India "had impacted our national psyche and affected Pakistan's foreign and security policies because of the distrust, suspicion and hostility between the two countries".

The four year engagement be-

tween the two nations was underpinned by a sustained back-channel contact, first between Tariq Aziz and Brijesh Mishra, then Aziz and J N Dixit - who allegedly first broached the idea of an "out-of-box-solution to Kashmir" to Kasuri - followed by the one between Aziz and Satinder Lambah.

What transpired during these years has since been told and repeated. The broad outlines of the contemplated solution - no border re-adjustment, demilitarization, self-governance, and joint mechanism - are now a common knowledge. The book offered a new perspective by delving into greater depth and providing more comprehensive details than had previously been available.

For example, Pakistan had agreed to withdraw troops from the part of Kashmir controlled by it after India demanded a quid pro quo for doing the same on this side of the border. And the two countries had agreed to conclude an "agreement within one year over reduction of troops and the process of demilitarization".

Kasuri credited Pakistan for the progressive decline in militancy in Kashmir during the period. According to him, Pakistan had set up centres to wean away militants through a process of DDR - De-radicalization, Disengagement and Rehabilitation.

The rest is history. The agreement could not be concluded. The lawyers' agitation and Musharraf's slipping grip on power towards the end of 2007 ensured that the agreement remained confined to non-papers. Then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's expected visit to Pakistan - first in 2006 and then in March and May 2008 - to sign the deal was indefinitely put off and never again seriously contemplated. In August 2008, Musharraf exited the scene and the backchannel couldn't be sustainably re-established since.

The situation has considerably transformed since, and almost in every sense: regionally in terms of the growing power disparity between India and Pakistan, and in J&K too, which has since been divested of its special status and downgraded into two federally controlled units, in other words, two union territories. This, in turn, has altered the complexion of the Kashmir issue as we understood it.

And if at all the two countries return to dialogue in the near or medium future, it seems hardly probable that they will revisit the Four Point Proposals. But should the two countries choose to go back to them as a broader framework for settlement, they will need to adapt it to the new reality. But again, getting to that point won't be easy.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



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Road Rage

The article, "Road accidents - A concerning trend" in Kashmir Observer, dated April 15, 2023 was an eye-opener and the need of the hour. Road accidents are the most unwanted thing to happen, yet they happen almost every day on Indian roads. As our cities grow in size and complexity, road accidents also grow in number. A heterogeneous traffic mix that includes high speed vehicles, vulnerable road users, unsafe road infrastructure and

inadequately trained drivers - all contribute to the high fatality rates seen on India's roads.

India has a dubious distinction of having the maximum number of road fatalities. Over-speeding is the major reason for all the common causes of road accidents. It is a natural psyche of humans to excel, and given a chance, man is sure to achieve infinity in speed. Studies reveal that 80 per cent of the accidents are due to the fault of drivers, most of them with

valid driving licenses. It is difficult to ensure proper safety awareness for drivers and monitor issuance of licenses. New drivers need more comprehensive training and rigorous test levels on safety awareness. Education and enforcement can together bring about a shift in the mind-set of drivers. Better road sense, the ability of a driver to comprehend road signs, pay heed to speed restrictions are some of the driving etiquettes that will ease the pressure on traffic

police. Discipline ensures safety and faster movement of traffic. Frequent camps on road safety with catchy slogans like, "alert today - alive tomorrow", "A text or call can wreck it all", "two-wheelers are for two, and not for too many, and "fast drive could be the last drive" will go a long way in preventing accidents. There is an urgent need to stress more on road safety awareness.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

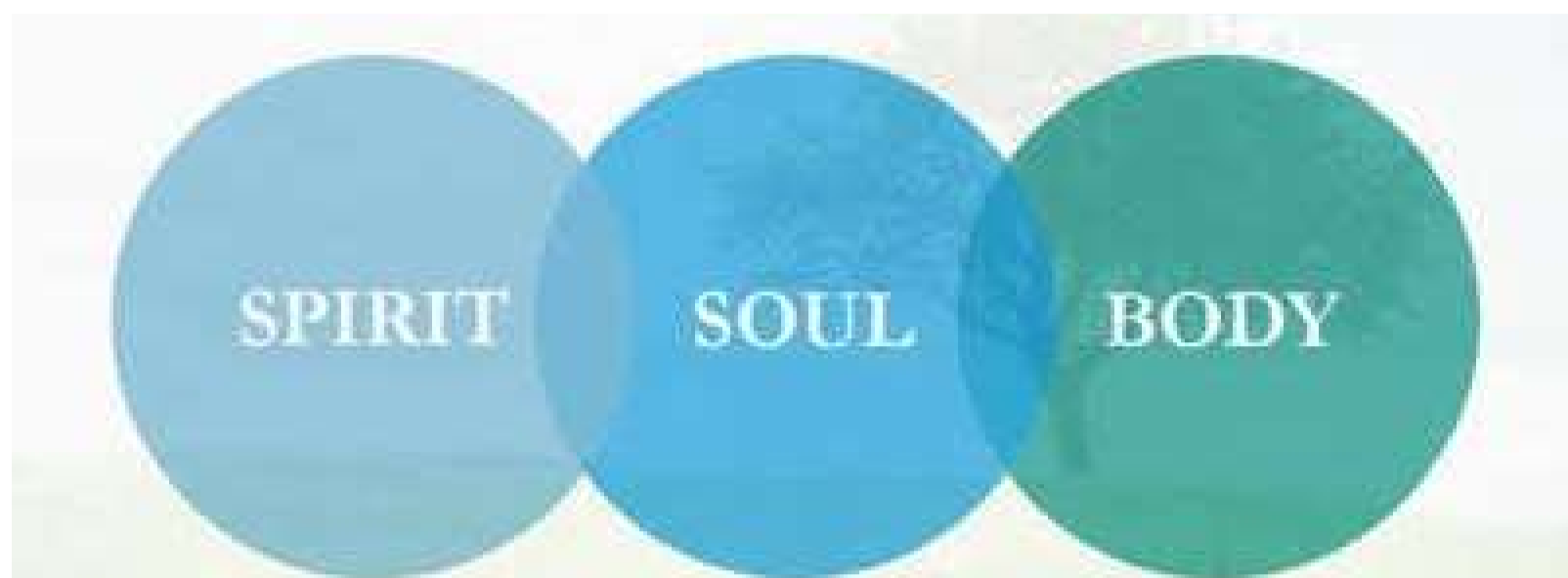
Human Soul: The Sole Source of Universal Spirituality

Dr. Rajkumar Singh

The concept of the soul is a universal and timeless concept that has played a central role in many cultures and spiritual traditions throughout history, although, the beliefs about the nature and significance of the soul may vary widely across different cultures and religions, it remains a topic of ongoing exploration and contemplation in many parts of the world. In various forms of Hinduism and Buddhism, the soul (known as the atman and the anatta, respectively) is often seen as a core aspect of human existence that can be realized through spiritual practice and meditation. Almost all forms of religion, including Christianity, the soul is believed to be created by God and responsible for a person's moral and spiritual development. At the same time, many people view the concept of soul as a metaphorical or symbolic representation of human consciousness or identity, but the status of the soul varies widely depending on cultural, religious, and philosophical context. However, despite the difference on opinion, it continues to be an important and enduring aspect of human thought and experience, and is likely to remain a subject of exploration and contemplation for generations to come. Others alike, some advance studies and researches have attempted to explore related concepts such as consciousness, spirituality, and the afterlife which has attempted to shed light on the possibility of an afterlife or an eternal aspect of the self. Some pertinent researches conducted on meditation and mindfulness practices have also explored the potential benefits of these practices for personal growth, spiritual development, and overall well-being.

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

The concept of the soul has a long history and appears in many spiritual and religious traditions. In general, the soul is seen as the non-physical essence of a person or being, often associated with the idea of an eternal, immortal spirit. It has roots in ancient civilizations, including Egyptian, Greek, and Indian cultures. In these traditions, the soul was believed to be responsible for a person's identity, personality, and consciousness. It was also seen



HOWEVER, DESPITE THE DIFFERENCE ON OPINION, IT CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT AND ENDURING ASPECT OF HUMAN THOUGHT AND EXPERIENCE, AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN A SUBJECT OF EXPLORATION AND CONTEMPLATION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. Others alike, some advance studies and researches have attempted to explore related concepts such as consciousness, spirituality, and the afterlife which has attempted to shed light on the possibility of an afterlife or an eternal aspect of the self

as the aspect of a person that was capable of surviving physical death and continuing on in the afterlife. In many religious traditions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, the soul is believed to be created by a divine force and given to each individual at birth. It is often seen as the part of a person that is responsible for their moral and spiritual development, as well as their connection to the divine. The development of the human soul has many aspects- spiritual, philosophical, and psychological traditions throughout the history which include:

a. Spiritual growth: Many spiritual and religious traditions view the development of the soul as a key aspect of human existence, and see

the soul as the essential, eternal aspect of a person that transcends the limitations of the physical body and mind.

b. Moral and ethical development: The soul is often seen as the source of a person's moral conscience, and the development of the soul may be viewed as the process of cultivating ethical virtues and living a virtuous life. In this view, the development of the soul is attached with practicing compassion, generosity, honesty, and other ethical values.

c. Self-discovery: Some people view the development of the soul as the process of discovering one's true identity and purpose in life which has firm belief in exploring one's

own values, beliefs, and desires, and may require introspection, self-reflection, and personal growth.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOUL

The importance of the soul is heavily dependent on beliefs of the individual or culture but in general, the soul is often seen as a key aspect of human existence that has significant spiritual and ethical implications:

a. Spiritual significance: Many religious and spiritual traditions view the soul as the most essential part of a person's being, and believe that it has an eternal, transcendent nature that connects individuals to a higher power or ultimate reality.

b. Moral responsibility: Some

ethical and philosophical traditions hold that the soul is the source of a person's moral conscience and sense of right and wrong. The soul is seen as the aspect of a person that is capable of making ethical decisions and living a virtuous life.

c. Personal identity: The soul is often seen as the core of a person's identity, reflecting their unique personality, values, and beliefs. Some people may believe that understanding and cultivating their soul is essential to living a fulfilling and meaningful life.

d. Afterlife beliefs: Many cultures and religions believe in an afterlife, and the soul is often seen as the part of a person that continues on after physical death. In these traditions,

the soul's ultimate fate may depend on the moral and spiritual choices made during a person's lifetime. To conclude, the importance of the soul is often intertwined with broader spiritual, ethical, and philosophical beliefs, and can have significant implications for how individuals understand their place in the world and the nature of human existence.

SOUL AND HUMANITY

These apart, there is a close relationship between man and soul where it has explored many spiritual, philosophical, and psychological traditions throughout history which largely include:

a. Unity: Some traditions hold that the soul and the individual are ultimately one and the same, and that the goal of spiritual practice is to realize this unity. In this view, the soul is seen as the essential, eternal aspect of a person that transcends the limitations of the physical body and mind.

b. Dualism: Other traditions posit a separation between the soul and the individual, often viewing the soul as a higher, more spiritual aspect of a person that is distinct from their physical body and mind. In this view, the soul is seen as a guiding force that helps individuals navigate the challenges of life and make ethical decisions.

c. Personal growth: Many people believe that cultivating the soul is essential to personal growth and spiritual development. This may involve practices such as meditation, prayer, or self-reflection, and may be seen as a way of connecting with a deeper sense of purpose or meaning in life.

d. Moral responsibility: The soul is often seen as the source of a person's moral conscience, and may be viewed as the aspect of a person that is responsible for making ethical decisions and living a virtuous life.

Dr. Rajkumar Singh is a Youth Motivator, presently Professor of Political Science and Dean of Social Sciences along with Dean, Student's Welfare (DSW), at B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura (Bihar), India. His 23 books published in addition to 900 articles in national and international journals and daily newspapers from 25 foreign countries

The Science Behind Motion Sickness

James Phillips

My first experience with motion sickness was as a college student, standing on the back of a marine research vessel looking at interesting things dredged from the seafloor off the California coast. It was a day trip, the weather was good and the sea was calm. I was unaware of the boat's gentle pitching and rolling, instead concentrating on the mud and organisms on a table in front of me.

Then, slowly I began to feel warm and to salivate. I felt exhausted, although I was well rested. There were intense waves of nausea, and I began vomiting. It was a long afternoon. Once back on shore, I felt as if I were still moving. I didn't feel back to normal until the next day.

In retrospect, this was the perfect situation for a bout of motion sickness. I was focused on my immediate environment – the table covered with ocean specimens – which was visually stable. My eyes were unaware that we were, in fact, shifting up, down and side to side with the waves. But my inner ear was signaling all of this movement to my brain. Sensory signals from the muscles and joints of my body were providing information that was like a cross between the visual input from my eyes and the balance feedback from my inner ears' motion detectors.

In short, my senses were in conflict. I was in an environment that conflicted with a lifetime of expectations about how sensory information usually combined to inform me about the world. My brain recognized something was wrong and attempted to save me from things that it was designed to deal with – poisoning or other illness. To my brain, emptying my stomach contents and forcing me to rest and recuperate seemed the perfect solution.

For me, this event preceded a lifetime of work studying the vestibular system, which are the inner ear

and brain structures and functions that allow you to remain oriented and stable in space. In my laboratory, my colleagues and I reproduce these kinds of complex motions and conflicting sensory inputs and study how the brain uses them during development, in normal adult behavior



“THE DOWNSIDE OF THIS PROCESS IS THAT THE NERVOUS SYSTEM IS UNPREPARED FOR THINGS WITH WHICH IT HAS NO EXPERIENCE. It explains in part why astronauts experience transient nausea while adapting to weightlessness, why sailors get seasick and why watching a movie on your iPad in the back seat of a car or playing an immersive virtual reality video game may become unpleasant

and in disease. Ultimately, we hope to produce treatments for people who are disabled by a loss or disruption of these senses.

MISMATCH OF A GREAT SYSTEM AND UNUSUAL SITUATION

Any moving environment can trigger motion sickness. It's not usually



due to illness or pathology. Instead, motion sickness is the result of your nervous system functioning optimally, based on what it's learned throughout your life.

When processing sensory information and generating motor commands, the brain constantly monitors and adjusts its inputs and outputs to perform the tasks of life efficiently. For example, to see clearly while turning your head, your brain moves your eye opposite and equal to the motion of your head. It does so based on feedback from the sensors in your inner ear that focus on balance. Your brain constantly monitors this reflex behavior, making continual adjustments to make sure that your eye and head movements match perfectly.

The efficiency of this system is based on experience and outcome, and it works well. It helps you get better at coordinating your movements and maintaining your balance while you're growing, and helps you recover from imbalance and disori-

entation due to injury, illness and aging later in life.

The downside of this process is that the nervous system is unprepared for things with which it has no experience. It explains in part why astronauts experience transient nausea while adapting to weightlessness, why sailors get seasick and why watching a movie on your iPad in the back seat of a car or playing an immersive virtual reality video game may become unpleasant. Human beings did not evolve as a species to do these things.

So someone who is motion sick is really exhibiting skillful and optimized functioning in a uniquely challenging and suboptimal environment.

CHANGES OVER THE LIFE SPAN

Typically, infants and very young children do not experience motion sickness. Older children are highly prone to motion sickness as they learn typical relationships between the different senses.

As people age further into adulthood, the susceptibility to motion sickness typically dwindles again, presumably because they're able to contextualize their experiences. In older adults, such changes as loss of receptor cells in the ear and eye, fogging of the eye's lens or loss of functioning in peripheral nerves, motion sickness may either increase or decrease. Usually, though, the incidence of motion sickness in a healthy older adult continues to decline.

A simple example of this is that my balance is actually better than that of my grandniece, who is a toddler. Her inner-ear balance system and muscles are brand new. Mine are not. In fact, through normal aging I have lost many of the receptors in my ear that sense motion. However, I have learned to skillfully use the complement of sensory and motor functions that I have, and over the years I've continually adjusted to an ever-changing new normal. She is just starting this learning process.

TECHNIQUES TO DEAL WITH MOTION SICKNESS

If you experience motion sickness, there are several strategies you can use to feel better.

The first is to resolve the conflicting sensory information that your situation is creating. Look at an Earth-stabilized reference – focusing at the shore or horizon if you are on a boat, for example, or moving to the front seat in the car and looking out the window. This way, you align the incoming visual and inner-ear vestibular information.

The second strategy is to reduce the information that is causing the conflict. There are several medications that work by suppressing inner-ear vestibular information, and others that change the way that sensory information is processed centrally in your brain.

You can also try to prevent the output of this conflict. Essentially, you can sabotage the central nervous system's attempts to save you from your situation by short-circuiting the mechanisms that produce the motor response of vomiting. Taking anti-nausea drugs reduces nausea without necessarily resolving the sensory conflict that induced it.

You can eventually adapt, through repeated experience, to many novel situations. When your brain learns a new normal, it allows you to function with fewer unwanted symptoms in the challenging environment. For example, NASA is developing pre-conditioning countermeasures to allow astronauts to transition from Earth's gravity to the weightlessness of space more quickly and with fewer symptoms of motion sickness.

Studies like these will extend the range of environments in which human beings can function and allow us to explore and ultimately live in what are, to us, novel and new worlds.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Pak Raises Kashmir At UN, India Hits Back

'Will Not Waste Council's Time In Responding To Such Mischievous Remarks: Indian Ambassador'

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: India tore into Pakistan after it raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at a Security Council meeting here, prompting India's permanent ambassador to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj to assert that she would not waste the Council's time by responding to such "mischievous" remarks.

Kamboj's stern response to Pakistan came in her remarks at the UN Security Council open debate on "Maintenance of international peace and security: Effective multilateralism through the defence of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations" chaired by Russia, President of the Council for the month of April.

With Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov presiding over the debate, Pakistan's Permanent Representative at the UN Munir Akram referred to Jammu and Kashmir in his statement.

"Lastly, this august forum has today heard some mischievous remarks by a permanent representative arising purely out of ignorance and lack of an understanding on the basic facts

of decolonisation," Kamboj said on Monday.

"I will not be wasting the time of this Council in responding to those remarks. Our advice to that delegation is please refer to our numerous rights of reply that we have expressed in the past," she added.

Pakistan consistently rakes up the issue of Kashmir at various UN platforms, irrespective of the agenda and topic of discussion at the meetings.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 was its internal matter.

It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda. India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

J&K Bank Bags Award For Outstanding Contribution Under PM Awas Yojana

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K Bank on Tuesday received an award from Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) for its outstanding contribution towards housing sector of the country under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) - Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) through various innovative initiatives.

The Bank's General Manager (C&CB) Narjay Gupta received the award in the hands of Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manoj Joshi in presence of Chairman & Managing Director (HUDCO) Kuldip Narayan, Bank's Zonal Head (Delhi) Rakesh Magotra, HUDCO's board of directors and other dignitaries during HUDCO's 53rd Foundation Day Celebrations held today in New Delhi.

The function was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep S. Puri.

Commenting upon the felicitation, MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash said, "It is an honour for the entire J&K Bank Family to be felicitated at such a



prestigious national platform for our contribution towards country's housing sector under Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY)-U that envisaged ease-of-living through a pucca house to all urban dwellers.

"Such an acknowledgement will further boost our efforts as we continue to serve the weaker and vulnerable

sections of society through more such effective financial interventions", he added.

Earlier, in a communication to Bank, Chairman & MD (HUDCO) Kuldip Narayan expressed his deep appreciation for J&K Bank's outstanding contribution towards housing sector under PMAY-CLSS through its different innovative initiatives.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Felicitates IUST



Observer News Service

New Delhi: In the Vishwavidyalaya Anusandhan Utsav 2023, organized by the Department of Science and Technology, GoI, Union MoS (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, felicitated IUST among other recipient Institutions of the PURSE Grant. Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo Vice Chancellor, IUST led the IUST's delegation that comprised Dean Health Sciences, Prof Ayub Qadri, Dr. Muzaffar Rasool, Dr. Basharat Nabi, Dr. Arsheed Ganaie and Dr. Manzoor Ahmad.

IUST has bagged the project worth 10 cr. under "Promotion of University Research and

Scientific Excellence (PURSE)" which is a flagship scheme for promotion and strengthening of the research ecosystem of the Universities, pan India.

Pertinently, IUST guided by its strategic plan (2021-2026) has seen a manifold increase in the research outcomes in the form of patents, publications, collaborations with different institutions, promotion of research in frontier areas etc. In fact, in the last two years, the extra mural funding to the IUST has increased drastically to the tune of 42.38 cr. giving further impetus to the research and development activities. Further, under the NEP 2020, IUST has approved Kalam Academy of Training & Skills and has instituted various in-demand skilling courses and aims to skill over 3000 youth under the PMKVY 4.0 in promising areas.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Industrialists See

Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), an unprecedented 21,640 manufacturing and service units were established in 2021-22.

"As many as 42 industrial estates will be set up in Jammu Kashmir in the next few years and out of these 34 industrial estates will be focused on MSMEs", noted the Lt Governor.

LG said that the work done for industrial development of J&K is clearly visible. In the last two years, Jammu Kashmir has received 5,372 investment proposals worth Rs 70,000 crore. Proposals worth Rs 24,000 crore from more than 1,800 companies have been approved.

Don't Be A Yes

Centre here on Tuesday.

He extended his best wishes to all the young recruits and appreciated the J&K Public Service Commission for the transparent & fast-track selection process.

"Impartial, honest, efficient, transparent & fearless service is basic architecture of a good administration. I am confident that the young officers will discharge their responsibility towards public welfare with utmost sensitivity, commitment and dedication," Sinha said.

"JKPSC is providing momentum to change with enviable benchmarks and had declared the result for 2021 JKPSC exam within three hours after conclusion of the interview of the last candidate," he added.

The LG said the transparent selection procedure is enabling the government to recruit the best and transform the work culture. He said the State services are playing a vital role in inclusive growth and delivery of services to meet the aspirations of the people.

Sinha also highlighted the challenge of sustained & rapid economic growth and the efforts required to ensure that the growth is equitable.

"In the fast-changing world, Officers will also have to re-orient themselves like any other profession and learn new skills to adapt to change & progress in the society, protect democratic values and fulfill the commitment towards the public in a better way," he said.

"Today we are standing on the threshold of global leadership, so the expectations of the common man have also increased. In the next five years, the governance will be completely data driven. The administrative system will require an effective institutional framework to address the demands of the future," he added.

Observing that no department or public servant can work in silos, the LG asked the public servants and government departments to work as an organic entity to promote participatory decision making, transparency, accountability, equity and inclusiveness in the governance system and to establish rule of law.

"Better alignment of goals, resources and action, along with innovation capability & strategic skills, experience of seniors combined with new generation's resolve will pave the way for the future of Jammu Kashmir," he added.

Kashmir Receives

He said strong gusty wind towards late afternoon/evening with possibility of hailstorm can't be ruled out during the period.

"From 29-30th April, generally cloudy weather with light rain is expected at a few places for a short period," the official said, adding, "there is no forecast of major rain/snowfall till ending April."

Regarding temperature, the official said, Srinagar recorded a low of 8.3°C against 5.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 4.8°C against 3.6°C on the previous night while the prominent tourist resort of Pahalgam in South Kashmir recorded a low of 1.6°C against 0.5°C on previous night.

Kokernag recorded a low of 6.2°C against 6.2°C on previous night and it was 0.4°C above

normal for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 4.6°C against 3.2°C on previous night and it was 1.3°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 3.2°C against 3.7°C on the previous night and it was 4.4°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 20.6°C against 17.6°C on the previous night. It was 0.4°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 7.8°C (below normal by 1.6°C), Batote 10.7°C (below normal by 1.3°C), Katra 16.1°C (2.0°C below normal) and Bhadarwah 7.9°C (0.5°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of minus 1.2°C and 3.1°C respectively, the official added. (With GNS inputs)

2 'Anti-Nationals'

PSA after a secret verification of their antecedents afresh.

"We want to convey a message in loud and clear terms that anyone found involved in anti-national activities, especially militancy, will not be spared. We will detain all such individuals and even attach their properties," he said.

Meanwhile, a special NIA court awarded rigorous life imprisonment to three overground workers of the Hizbul Mujahideen outfit, ending a 19-year-old long trial in a militant funding case.

Special Judge NIA, Jammu, Ashwani Sharma awarded the sentence to Majid Ali Sheikh, Shah Nawaz, and Majid Amin, who were caught by a joint party of army intelligence and police near Bari Brahmana in Samba district on December 28, 2004 when they were on their way to Doda from Delhi to handover Rs 9.38 lakh to Hizbul militant Masood Ahmed.

They were also slapped with a fine of Rs 10,000 each, officials said.

Y20 Pre-Summit

G20, which involves youth participants from 30 countries. They will deliberate on issues confronting the youth in the world. The youth of today are concerned about their future, jobs, how growth champions the cause of peace in the world and sports, among others.

"This is part of the G20 experience. They will take home the message from here across the world. Youth of today will be the decision-makers of tomorrow and we want to engage them to know their thoughts on several pressing issues," said Nagaraj Naidu Kakanur, the G20 joint secretary here on Tuesday.

"We have 11 engagement groups in G20 (spanning different spheres) like health, labour, civil, among others, and the inputs of the youth will be fed into the Leaders' Summit to be held in September in New Delhi.

The Leaders' Summit is the culmination of all the G20 processes and meetings held throughout the year among ministers, senior officials and civil societies.

Pankaj Singh, director, MYAS, said the participants here will negotiate on five thematic areas, namely, future of work, climate change and disaster risk reduction, peace building and reconciliation, youth in democracy and health and wellbeing and sports during the three-day programme.

"The most crucial programme will be on April 28 when in-house technical negotiations will take place among the delegates and finally the sports minister will interact with the delegates," he added.

Printing Press Owner

CID wing of J&K police, arrested Kiran Jagdish Bhai Patel from a five star hotel in Srinagar on March 3.

Patel posed as Additional Director (Strategy and Campaigns) Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi, during his trips to the Valley.

He was on his third visit to the Kashmir

valley before being arrested.

A resident of the Ghodasara area of Ahmedabad, Patel was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police last month from a five-star hotel in Srinagar for posing as a top official of the Prime Minister Office (PMO) and availing requisite perks, including a bulletproof car and scores of security personnel.

Purported videos of Patel surveying the snow slopes of Gulmarg with a posse of armed security personnel around him and of a convoy of vehicles accompanying him weaving through a Valley town have been circulated widely across social media platforms.

He had even visited the last post at Uri in north Kashmir, posing for pictures at a bridge treated as a Line of Control between India and Pakistan.

Banihal Bypass

has gathered pace after all the issues were settled and our effort is to complete the project as soon as possible," Pal, whose company received the contract from MG contractors, said.

He said only senior staff having expertise in the construction work are from outside Jammu and Kashmir, while the majority of those engaged in the work are all locals.

Banihal is an important town on the highway connecting south Kashmir's Qazigund through the 8.5-km long Navayuga tunnel, which was completed in 2021, bypassing landslide-prone Jawahar tunnel and Shaitan Nalla and reducing the travel time between the two sides to just a few minutes which was over an hour earlier.

However, the heavy rush of traffic added to the problems of the people in Banihal town where the daily traffic jams have become a headache for the locals including students, office-goers and patients.

"Traffic jams in Banihal are a routine affair despite various measures taken to streamline it. The town is congested and the current highway is only meant for two-way traffic. The inflow of trucks causes a lot of problems," Sub-Divisional Magistrate Banihal Zaheer Abbas said.

Abbas, who is regularly monitoring the Banihal Bypass, said though the deadline set for the completion of the project is January 2024, the construction company has assured of completing the work by December this year which will provide big relief to the locals.

Vice President Beopar Mandal, Banihal Mukhtiyar Nabi thanked Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mussarat Islam for ensuring the start of the work on the project.

"Almost 15 years have passed but the Banihal bypass is still a dream because of the delayed start of the work. We are thankful to the deputy commissioner Ramban who perused the case with the NHA to ensure the start of the work on the project," he said.

Expressing satisfaction over the pace of work over the past year, he said the bypass is imperative to decongest the Banihal market as people from all walks of life especially school-going children and patients are the worst sufferers.

Special Forces

said, adding drones, sniffer dogs and metal detectors are being used.

They said nearly 50 people, including 14 OGWs, have been detained in connection with the attack and some of them have been let off after questioning, they said.

The sources said two group of seven to eight militants, are believed to have engineered the attack. According to the investigation, militants reportedly hid themselves in a culvert on this road stretch before attacking the vehicle.

Over 50 bullet marks have been found on the vehicle that shows intensity of the firing by militants, the sources said.

During the search operation, troops came across a few natural cave hideouts in the area, which could possibly have been used by the militants in the past, they said, adding the

troops are also looking for any improvised explosive devices (IEDs) militants may have planted in the densely forested areas, especially in deep gorges and caves.

The army truck attacked in Poonch was carrying fruits, vegetables and other items from the Bhimber Gali camp to Sangiote village for Iftar celebration on Thursday. The slain soldiers were from a Rashtriya Rifles unit deployed for counter-militancy operations.

The Bhimber Gali-Poonch road, which was closed for traffic following the militant attack, was reopened for traffic on Sunday.

Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Sunday said necessary action to nab the militants responsible for the deadly attack is underway.

Experts from various agencies, including the National Security Guard (NSG) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), have visited the site of the attack in the past two days to probe the incident, the officials said.

Hundreds of people in Kishtwar on Sunday took out a candle light march in solidarity with the family of the jawans killed in the attack.

SRK In Kashmir

is for two days after which Khan will head to Srinagar to shoot another sequence.

"In Srinagar, Khan will be staying at a posh hotel and the shooting will take place somewhere in the city on Thursday," they said.

After wrapping the Kashmir schedule, the 57-year-old actor will leave for Mumbai on Friday.

This is Khan's first visit to Kashmir after he shot for his 2012 movie "Jab Tak Hai Jaan", which was directed by late filmmaker Yash Chopra.

The details about Khan's movement and shooting have been kept under wraps for security reasons. The area where the shooting is taking place has been sealed and no movement of public was allowed, the officials said.

A huge blanket of security has been thrown around the location as well as the hotel where Khan is staying, they added.

In 2023, a number of films have been shot in the Kashmir Valley, including superstar Thalapaty Vijay-Trisha Krishnan starrer "Leo" and "Fighter", led by Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone.

Filmmaker Karan Johar also filmed a sequence for his upcoming movie "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani", starring Alia Bhat and Ranveer Singh.

Besides, Kiara Advani and Kartik Aryan filmed for their next movie "Satyaprem Ki Katha" in the beautiful locales of the valley, the sources said.

"Kashmir has covered Bollywood. The place has covered major stars and directors. It had happened in 2010 when Johar had come here and after three months, Khan landed here for 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan'. This time also, Johar came and now we have Shah Rukh Khan. So it bodes well for the valley," the sources

CRPF Man Dies

reason for Kishore's death. The deceased was a resident of Uttar Pradesh.

11 Bovine

Bahar Ahmed Sohail, Mohd Riyaz, Irshad Ahmed, Liaqat Ali, Asif Ali Chowhan, Anwar Hussain, Saleema, Veena Akhtar, Mohd Veer, Talib Hussain and Yasir Ali, they said.

They belong to R S Pura & Suchetgarh, Anantnag, Punjab, Kathua, Banihal Ramban, Krimnchi Udampur, Samba and are professional bovine smugglers who used to smuggle animals from different areas of Jammu, Kathua and Samba to Kashmir Valley, officials added.

Chargesheet Filed

a police spokesperson said. On November 1, 2022, a case was registered at Srinagar's Chanapora police station

following the receipt of a docket from the 'naka' party in-charge (Chanapora police station SHO) and an investigation taken up by the then Subdivisional Police Officer (Sadar). The case was subsequently transferred to the SIU-I on the orders of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Headquarters, he said.

Two grenades were recovered from two suspects -- Amir Mushtaq Dar, a resident of Sozeith Lawaypora, and HMT Srinagar resident Kabil Rashid Dar -- intercepted by the 'naka' party at a checkpoint at Harnambal, the spokesperson added.

Their personal mobile phones with inbuilt SIM cards were also seized. Accordingly, a case was registered and an investigation initiated, he said.

During the investigation, another co-accused -- Sozeith resident Aqib Jamal Bhat -- was apprehended and on the basis of his disclosure, an improvised explosive device (IED) he had allegedly hidden in a pit near the railway track at Rangreth was recovered.

The IED was destroyed on the spot by a bomb disposal squad, the police spokesperson added.

Investigations established that the three accused allegedly worked as militant associates for two militants Momin Gulzar Mir and Basit Ahmad Dar and, under a well-knit criminal conspiracy, were providing logistics support to them, he added.

The accused allegedly procured hand grenades and IEDs to carry out "terror activities", the spokesperson added.

On the strength of the evidence -- material or documentary or oral -- the three arrested accused were found involved in the commission of offences punishable under provisions of the Arms Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The accused Momin Gulzar Mir and Basit Ahmad Dar were found involved in the commission of offences under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act but are absconding and proceedings under Section 299 of the Code of Criminal Procedure have been proposed to be initiated against them, the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, the sanction for launching prosecution against the accused persons was obtained from the Home department and the charge sheet presented before the NIA court, he added.

NC Expels Ex-MLA

"Shri Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar, Ex MLA R/O Ganderbal has been removed from the basic membership of JKNC for 6 years in view of his anti-party activities and causing indiscipline. The order has been issued by the General Secretary JKNC," the NC said in a tweet.

In the past, Jabbar has openly revolted against the party leadership, particularly, after not being elected as the district president for the second term.

Earlier in the day, at a party function in Ganderbal, NC president Farooq Abdullah had hinted that the party will issue an order removing Jabbar from the party.

He said anti-party activities will not be tolerated and those indulging in such activities and indiscipline, would be thrown out of the party.

Soldier Dies After

in-charge C B Singh said. During the ceremony, Singar placed a fire-work rocket in his mouth, but it instead of shooting up, it burst in his mouth, killing him on the spot, he said.

Punt Guns Seized

9 punt guns so far. He said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigations taken up.

He added those having punt guns in their possession must deposit the weapon before the authorities, failing which strict action as per law will be taken against the violators.

1.50 Cr Trees Being Planted In J&K This Year: Chief Secy

Says UT Leading In Achieving 75 Amrit Sarovars In Each District

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday expressed confidence that India is more than capable of achieving its goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2070 and said that it is high time we shifted away from fossil fuels and made alternate sources our main energy providers.

He was speaking at a workshop organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee here at the Convention Centre.

J&K has been a leader in adopting transformative steps in the overhaul of sports, agriculture, and tourism sectors in recent years. The Chief Secretary stated that we are planting more trees every year than ever before and this year over one and half crore trees are going to be planted again all over J&K.

In terms of health infrastructure, Jammu & Kashmir ranks among the leading states of India. The Har Ghar Nal Se Jal scheme will also be fully implemented by the end of this financial year, he continued. The scheme aims to



The interactive workshop 'Climate Change Mitigation and Green Financing for a Climate Resilient and Carbon Neutral J&K' was attended by Dr. Mohit Gera, PCCF (HoFF), J&K Forest Department and Chairman, J&K Pollution Control Committee; Dr. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University, Kashmir; HoDs of Forest Department, Dr. Ravindranath, renowned IPCC Author, and resource persons from MoEFCC, TERI, Earnest and Young Climate, World Resources Institute of India besides other eminent guests and environment experts.

Mehta appreciated the efforts of the Pollution Control Committee and Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department for organizing deliberations on Net Zero Carbon by 2070. He informed that J&K has already made a model by developing a climate resilient and carbon neutral Panchayat of village Pallin District Samba which is first of its kind in the country.

According to Mehta, Jammu & Kashmir has always been at the forefront of adopting flagship developmental schemes of the government. "The distinction of implementing the 75 Amrit Sarovars in each district amongst first in the entire country is a good example of how well J&K can adapt to the needs of the times with cooperation from its citizens. Similarly, schemes like "Har Gaon Hariyali", "One Beat Guard, One Village Program", "Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan" have been very effective in building in resilience and adaptation at village level.

mitigate water supply challenges for the coming 50 years at least, in view of climate change.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of communicating climate change adaptation measures to the masses in a way that creates a genuine connection with them. To achieve this goal, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to communicate with the public at all levels, including panchayats, in ways that creates public ownership.

The CS stressed that what is good for the environment is invariably good for the economy and society and underlined that infrastructure development of the states should not hamper our climate change mitigation steps.

Also, the Chief Secretary urged the environmental experts present to work out environmental plans for Jammu & Kashmir for timely intervention on behalf of the UT administration. The Chief Secretary expressed hope that J&K will continue taking a lead in India's fight against climate change even in the years ahead.

Dr Mohit Gera, PCCF (HoFF) and Chairman, J&K Pollution Control Committee spoke in detail on purpose of workshop, likely strategies and action plan for building in resilience in Union Territory in view of vulnerability of Jammu and Kashmir. He also highlighted the role of Forest sector in mitigation of climate and how forests are supporting Agriculture, Horticulture and Tourism from perspective of climate change and adaptation.



DEVOTEES IN LARGE NUMBERS ON Tuesday offered prayers at the Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar on the occasion of Shankaracharya Jayanti. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Ex-Guv Malik Slams Critics Over Pulwama Attack Remarks

'Wrong To Say I Am Raising Questions After Demitting Office'

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR: Former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik said on Monday that it was "wrong" to state that he was raising questions over the 2019 Pulwama terror attack only after demitting office.

His remark came in response to a question on Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent statement that he was "leveling allegations after parting ways with us".

"It is wrong to state that I raised this issue when I was out of power," he told reporters in Sikar in Rajasthan, adding that he had raised it on the day of the attack.

Forty Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed in the terrorist attack on a convoy of security vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir's Pul-

wama in February 2019. Malik, who was then governor of Jammu and Kashmir, has recently alleged intelligence failures and that the central government denied aircraft for the movement of security personnel.

To a question about the allegation that the CBI's recent summons to Malik was linked to his criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government, Home Minister Shah said such a charge is not true as he was called by the probe agency earlier too.

"I can say with complete conviction that the BJP has done nothing that needs to be covered up. If someone is levelling allegations after parting ways with us, then it should be evaluated accordingly by the media and people," he told the India Today in an interview last week.

In response to a question, Malik said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is a "serious candidate" for the post of prime minister and that "if it is in his destiny, he will become one".

Asked about the BJP's prospects in the Lok Sabha elections next year, he said, "I wish them well, but in politics and elections, no one knows what will happen. The current situation is difficult for them, they will have to do some things."

Malik claimed that Prime Minister Modi's silence on the Adani issue will harm him. The prime minister should also speak on the Pulwama issue, he added.

In the context of Rajasthan where assembly elections are due later this year, Malik said that if the BJP projects Vasundhara Raje as its chief ministerial candidate, its chances of victory will increase.

Court Asks Former IAS Officer To Appear To Record If He Consents To DNA Test

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A court here has former IAS officer Sudhanshu Pandey to appear before it to record his statement whether he consents to a DNA test if the court orders so to prove whether or not he is the biological father of the girl born to a Srinagar-based woman who has alleged that Pandey married her and the child was born during their wedlock.

The woman has alleged that in

the year 2010, when Pandey was holding the position of Finance Secretary in the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, he developed relationship with her.

In the month of May 2010, she claimed Pandey converted to Islam, whereafter he entered into wedlock with her on 8 May 2010 and out of the wedlock, the girl was born on 12 April 2011.

She alleged that in the month of October, 2012, Pandey was deputed to Central Government and posted at New Delhi. He shifted

to the place leaving her and the girl in lurch. She alleged that on 01.04.2013, Pandey along with daughter visited the native place of Pandey at Lucknow where she came to know that Pandey was already a married man having a wife and two children. She said that the former bureaucrat has abandoned her and the girl.

The court of second additional Munsiff Srinagar has issued fresh directions asking Pandey to appear in person so that his statement can be recorded.

DC Kulgam Reviews Implementation Of Jal Shakti Abhiyan

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Tuesday chaired a meeting of officers to review the implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, (Catch the Rain) in the district.

During the meeting, the DC instructed concerned to visit springs and tube wells which are source to various drinking water schemes to find out the requisite interventions for sustainability of these Water resources and to formulate comprehensive and meticulous plan.

Dr Bilal stressed on the need for making extra efforts for water conservation and rainwater harvesting.

He also called for advance planning to catch the rain under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and efficient water management.

While Highlighting the importance of community participation for the success of the campaign in the district, the DC stressed to create awareness and involve the general public to give momentum to the campaign.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed progress and achievements of targets made by the line departments under Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

He further asked the departments to work in cohesion and make dedicated efforts to conserve and preserve water for the present and future generations.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Showkat Ahmad Rather; JDP, Zahid Sajjad; ACR, Mir Imtiaz-ul-Aziz; ACD, Mohammad Imran; CEO, Executive Engineers from Jal Shakti, Irrigation and Flood Control, DAO and other officers.

J&K Govt To Revive Traditional Millet Cultivation On 8,000 Hectares Of Land

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has set a target to revive the cultivation of traditional millet crops on 8,000 hectares of land in the Union Territory.

The process will begin by providing seeds of seven varieties of millets to the farmers with 100 per cent subsidy in 10 districts of Jammu region.

The administration in February this year also approved a Rs 15-crore project to prop up nutri cereals, besides promoting and enhancing millets production and consumption in the Union Territory.

The project aims to revive traditional millet growing in around 8,000 hectares of land and double the productivity per-hectare from 10 to 20 quintals, the officials said.

The project, to be implemented over a period of three years, aims to promote cultivation of millets, increase their value addition and generate entrepreneurship opportunities for farmers, additional chief secretary at Agriculture Production Department Atal Dulloo said.

As part of the project, the agriculture department has earmarked an area of 1,400 hectares for growing millets and farmers are being provided seeds with 100 per cent subsidy.

"The year 2023 is the international year of millets. In Jammu division, the agriculture department has earmarked 1,400 hectares for the production of millets. We have seven different varieties of millets. We are going to provide seeds to farmers on 100 per cent subsidy around 10 districts of Jammu division," Joint Director, Agriculture (Input), A S Reen told PTI.

He said these seeds are water-re-

silient and good for wetlands (Kandi land). "We have selected the areas and will distribute the seeds to farmers soon. It is a high-value crop and its export demand is very high," he said.

Reen said that if a farmer wants to start a small processing plant, the government is providing Rs 4 lakh to Rs 5.25 lakh subsidy.

"We are also promoting Millet restaurants and providing Rs 2 lakh subsidy to them for introducing millet-based food," he said.

Millets are known as the "miracle grains" or "crops of the future" due to their resilience to climate change. They can grow in drought-prone areas and do not require large amount of water or external inputs, making them an ideal crop for small scale farmers in Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said.

The Centre is actively promoting the cultivation, processing and marketing of millets and in the past declared 2018 as the 'National Year of Millets'.

The United Nations General Assembly, following a request from the Indian government, has declared 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets' to raise awareness about the health benefits and sustainable production and consumption of millets.

Dulloo said the government is also focusing on creating awareness about millets among the farming community.

"Despite growing awareness and popularity of millets, their production and consumption is still limited and there are several challenges that need to be addressed. One of the significant challenges is the lack of awareness and knowledge about millets among farmers and consumers," Dulloo said.

G20 Meetings

Secretary Health Assesses Healthcare Arrangements

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupender Kumar on Tuesday visited Kashmir Nursing Home here at Gupkar to take first hand appraisal of healthcare facilities being made in the Kashmir Nursing Home for the upcoming G20 summit to be held in Kashmir in May.

Secretary was accompanied by Principal Government Medical College, Srinagar, Dr. Tanveer Masood and Director, Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather.

Secretary visited all sections of the Nursing Home and reviewed ongoing works being executed regarding healthcare facilities for

the G20 summit. He directed the Principal GMC and Medical Superintendent Kashmir Nursing Home to expedite the pending works and make the hospital fully ready in all respects within a fortnight.

He also directed the Medical Superintendent to increase the OPD footfalls of the hospital so that the people are benefited at large.

Pertinent to mention, Secretary Health and Medical Education has been regularly taking stock of healthcare arrangements for G20 meetings to ensure all requisite facilities available for the visiting dignitaries. The medical staff is being trained and updated regarding healthcare equipment and facilities which will be available during the G20 summit.

Sex Racket Busted In Kupwara, 5 Arrested

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: An alleged prostitution racket was busted in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday with the arrest of five people, police said.

Information was received about sex racket being operated from Shabir Ahmad War's house in Reshipora area of Handwara in the north Kashmir district, a police spokesperson said.

This is the third sex racket that has been busted this month in the union territory.

The spokesperson said a raid was conducted at the house and War, his wife, a sex worker and two customers -- Rayees Ah

Lone, from Rafiabab's Dangerpora and Bilal Ahmad Sheikh, from Baramulla's Binner -- were arrested, the spokesperson said.

Rs 47,800 cash was also recovered from the spot, he said, adding a case has been registered and an investigation initiated.

On April 3, police had busted an alleged prostitution racket in the Bagh-e-Mehtab area of Srinagar city, and arrested two people who were running it from a rented accommodation. A day later, the house owner also was nabbed.

Police on April 11 busted a prostitution racket in the Nowgam area of Srinagar and arrested three people and detained two customers and a sex worker.

SVEEP Voters Awareness Held At Shopian

Sports Activities, Main Attractions Of The Awareness Camp

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Various activities under 'Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme were held at Heerpora, Shopian to create awareness regarding the electoral process and to convey voter awareness messages.

The team of election employees under the supervision of Deputy District Election Officer Shopian, Jahangir Ahmed held a programme at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Heerpora Shopian here.

On the occasion, the participants were briefed about the basic knowledge related to the electoral process. In order to make the pro-

gramme more attractive and attentive, a Cricket Match and Badminton Match were also organised.

The participants included teachers, students, BLOs and other officers/ officials who wholeheartedly took part in the activities to encourage and create awareness among all the eligible and prospective voters about the voter registration and electoral participation.

The programme also included the discussion regarding the Electoral Process, Constitution value of Vote, etc. with a view to incorporate the sense of electoral registration and participation in Voting. Subsequently, all the participating students were asked to take a pledge

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER SINGHPORA KALAN

NEAR PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE SINGHPORA KALAN
Email ID: zeosinghpora1100@gmail.com

Sub-Tender Notice of Eatable / Stationery & other Items for KGBV Baramulla Zone Singhpura Kalan for the financial year 2023-2024.

TENDER

On behalf of Governor of J&K State sealed Tenders are invited from authorized/registered dealers for supply of the below mentioned items during the year 2023-2024, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of the said Tender Notice in daily news papers, and should reach to the office of the under S/d. in a sealed envelope supported with the Cash deposit receipt (CDR) of Rs: 20000 (Rupees: Twenty Thousand only) pledged in the name of Zonal Education Officer Singhpura Kalan within ten days from the publication of this tender notice in the Newspaper including the date of publication. The tenderers shall in clear terms indicate the quality & quantity of each item as per tender notice without any cutting. The rate mentioned in the quotation should be for KGBV Baramulla zone Singhpura Kalan and shall remain valid for the entire financial year 2023-2024. The tenderers should be presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives. The tenderers shall have option to remain present on the day of opening of tenders. A copy of GST registration may also be enclosed. The rate quoted by tenderers be inclusive GST and all taxes alongwith carriage / fare charges of the articles. ZEO Singhpura Kalan reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

S.NO	Name of the Item	Unit	S.NO	Name of the Item	Unit
1	Mustered Oil Jamba A Grade	15 Ltr.pack	18	Cauli flower	Per kg
2	Dhara Oil (Refined)	15 ltr pack	19	Cabbage	Per kg
3	Chilly Powder (Kanwal/elephant)	Per kg	20	Potato	Per kg
4	Turmeric Powder (Kanwal/elephant)	Per kg	21	Onion	Per kg
5	Spices (Masala)	Per pack	22	Brinjal	Per kg
6	Rice (Wond Apple Brand)	Per quintal	23	Carrot	Per kg
7	Lipton Tea (Taaza)	Per kg	24	Capsicum	Per kg
8	Sugar	Per kg	25	Radish	Per kg
9	Milk (Tetra Pack Amul)	Per ltr.	26	Chicken (Broiler)	Per kg
10	Bread	Per piece	27	Cucumber	Per kg
11	Flour (Fine) (Atta)	Per kg	28	Salt "Tata"	Per kg
12	Mutton	Per kg	29	Curd	Per kg
13	Cheese	Per kg	30	Soap Detol	Per piece
14	Dal Rajmash "Grade A"	Per kg	31	Wheel Powder	Per kg
15	Dal Moong "Grade A"	Per kg	32	Tea Green Packed "Samawar"	Per kg
16	Dal Chulla "Grade A"	Per kg	33	Suji	Per kg
17	Peas	Per kg	34		

Terms and condition:-

- Quality of Dietary/Non Dietary items should be as per sample approved by the committee.
- Regular check of the items approved by the committee will be made off on.
- Convener of the committee is authorized to reject any items at any time if found substandard.
- A fine of 5 times the cost of the items will be imposed if found substandard
- The approved dealer is bond to supplying the items on spot i.e, KGBV Baramulla zone Singhpura Kalan.
- The approved dealer will be bond to deliver the goods in time.
- Vegetables/Meat/Eggs/Cheese are to be supplied as per requirement on daily menu.
- Dry food items should be supply on monthly basis.
- Payments as per claim will be released soon after the availability of funds.
- The items should be received / delivered as per the approved tendered rates only.

No: ZEO/SK/3138-3141
Dated: 25-04-2023

DIPK-706-23
Dt: 25/04/2023
Zonal Education Officer
Singhpura Kalan



Secretary JKSC Reviews 2023-24 Calendar Of Activities

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, J&K Sports Council (JKSC), Nuzhat Gull, on Tuesday chaired a meeting in her office chamber to review the 2023-24 calendar of activities planned by the council.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary informed that with the mission to maximize the reach of sports activities across J&K, several sports activities under the banner of different sports verticals. Discussing the modalities regarding preparations to kick-start the sports activities in J&K, the Secretary apprised that the digitisation of the website for registration of participating athletes is in final stages and it shall be launched soon.

She also asked the attendees to prepare a separate programme especially for the children enrolled in both gov-

ernment and private schools. Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir, Nuzhat Farooq impressed upon the need for procurement of game related equipments well in time.

Stressing upon the need for close coordination with all recognised sports associations, Secretary JKSC asked Divisional Sports Officer J, K & C to coordinate with all the recognised associations to prepare and submit the calendar of activities 2023-24 within two days.

The advent of leagues in various sports disciplines was taken into consideration and accordingly the formats and fixtures were discussed covering both genders and expanding scope to rural all possible niche of the J&K.

The plan to celebrate important days of national and sports importance systematically all through the year was also discussed.

ZPEO Anantnag Holds Inter School Sports Competitions



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Zonal Physical Education Office (ZPEO) Anantnag conducted a Zonal Level Inter School Carrom and Chess competitions for Girls of Un-

der-14 and Under-17 age group on Tuesday.

The competitions were held at BHSS Khanabal Anantnag under the supervision of Principal BHSS Khanabal. More than 450 participants participated in the events.

Struggling KKR Seek Change Of Fortunes Against RCB



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Kolkata Knight Riders will be desperate to bring their flagging campaign back on track while Royal Challengers Bangalore will look to shrug off the overdependence on its top three batters when the two teams clash in the IPL here on Wednesday.

The two-time champions have looked clueless in their last four outings, losing at home while also on the road. The Nitish Rana-led side is currently at seventh spot with just two wins from seven games.

The losses can largely be pegged down to the shoddy performance by KKR batters. They are missing their regular skipper Shreyas Iyer and star all-rounder Shakib-Al-Hasan.

In the 49-run loss against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, KKR batters were expected to rise to the occasion, chasing a 230 plus score, instead the top-order, comprising the likes of Venkatesh Iyer, Rana and N Jagadeesan crumbled under pressure.

The big-hitting Andre Russell has also failed miserably in his role as the finisher. He hasn't been able to hit the big shots and the fact that KKR send him at number seven or eight has not been helpful.

The all-rounder's fitness is also a concern. He hasn't bowled his quota of four overs even once this season as he often gets injured while bowling. But KKR will walk into the game with a slight psychologically edge, having defeated RCB by 81 runs earlier this season.

Meanwhile, RCB will be high on confidence after eking out a seven-run win over the then table toppers Rajasthan Royals and would be eager to extend their winning streak.

Faf du Plessis and his troops have won four of their seven games, including the last two, and find themselves just outside of the top four in the fifth spot. RCB's wins have come on the back of sensational performers by a few players.

Du Plessis has been in sublime form and has raised several century-stands with Virat

Kohli and Glenn Maxwell, who are also in good nick.

Such is the dependence on the three that only they are doing the bulk of the scoring while the other batters have failed to fire. More is expected from the middle-order comprising Dinesh Karthik, Mahipal Lomlor, Shahbaz Ahmed and Suyash Prabhudessai.

Among bowlers, Mohammed Siraj has been in sensational form. The Purple Cap holder has conceded at 7.17 runs per over and has bowled the most dot balls -- 89 this season.

Siraj is being ably supported by Wayne Parnell and Harshal Patel.

The addition of Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga has also done wonders for the previously struggling RCB bowling unit.

RCB were undone by KKR spinners earlier this season and they will have to be a bit cautious while playing the likes of Varun Chakravathy, Suyash Sharma and Narine.

Match starts: 7.30pm IST.

City, Arsenal Meet In Potential PL Title Decider

Agencies

LONDON: Arsenal is discovering the brutal reality about going toe to toe with Manchester City in the final stretch of a Premier League title race.

Perfection is pretty much essential. And at the moment, Arsenal is far from perfect.

Three straight draws -- the most recent coming at home to Southampton, the league's last-place team -- has seen the long-time leader lose the initiative, if not quite first place.

Arsenal's credentials are being seriously questioned ahead of the ultimate test in English soccer and what many are billing a title decider: An away match against City.

"We really want it and we are going to show it again tomor-

beaten, winning 10 of them.

And Pep Guardiola's team is at it again. Heading into Wednesday's game at Etihad Stadium, City is on a 16-game unbeaten run in all competitions, taking 25 points from a possible 27 in the league in that period.

That Arsenal still holds a five-point lead is testament to its extraordinary, improbable start to the season. The team is young, though, and isn't used to handling the pressure of a title race.

It's why many view City as the favorite, considering its form, its two games in hand and its pedigree in these situations.

Asked whether nerves were to blame for throwing away two-goal leads in draws against Liverpool and West Ham and then dropping two more points in the 3-3 with Southampton on



row night," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said Tuesday, "but you have to deliver in the right moment the right performance, and it has to be perfection."

"Because that's what this level demands -- absolute perfection."

It's something City is getting used to producing at this stage of the season. Just ask Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, whose team fell short of the title despite posting points totals of 97 (in 2018-19) and 92 (in 2021-22) while up against the City juggernaut.

In the first of those duels, City closed the league campaign with 14 straight victories to win the title by a point. Last season, the difference between the teams was also a point after City went its final 12 games un-

Friday, Arteta said: "I think it's more about the situation -- the key moments in games haven't gone our way. It could have been different."

Saliba will be absent again on Wednesday, Arteta said, while midfielder Granit Xhaka remains a doubt after missing the game against Southampton because of illness.

What might have gone unnoticed amid Arsenal's recent slip-ups is that the team is still on a 10-match unbeaten run in the league itself. It's why Arteta retains hope and belief in his players, even if they lose to City.

"We are toe to toe with them," he said. "We knew we had to go to the Etihad and we knew after that we're going to have another five very difficult games. (AP)

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