

LG Unveils 576 Flats For PM Package Employees In Kashmir

Says 2000 More Residential Accommodations Will Be Completed By Dec-2023

Observer News Service

Baramulla: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that his administration understands the pain of Kashmiri migrant families, and as such are working with the right intent to complete the construction of residential accommodations for them on priority.

"Government is sensitive to the issues of the Kashmiri migrant families," Sinha said, after inaugurating 576 residential accommodations for PM package employees at Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Shopian districts.

"Today's inauguration is a testimony to our commitment to create adequate facilities for a future of prosperity & dignity of employees," he said.

The administration, the LG said, has taken various initiatives to expedite the process of construction of housing units for PM Package employees and 2000 more flats will be completed by December 2023.

The LG also highlighted the remarkable progress in various sectors including industries,



“SOME VESTED INTEREST SPOILED THE GENERATIONS, separated your own brothers from you. Come forward and say that what had happened was wrong and now we won't let it happen to anyone”

- LG Sinha

potential of various priority sectors, extending handholding to budding entrepreneurs, creating large self-employment opportunities, and ensuring fast track & transparent recruitments.

Earlier, the LG called upon people to come out in open and speak against the vested interests, which "spoiled the generations" and separated the brothers from one another.

"Some vested interest spoiled the generations, **More on P10**

empowerment of citizens and building a competitive economy & inclusive society. He also spoke on progressive reforms introduced to boost infrastructure, employment generation and ease of living in the UT.

"Today, the domestic and foreign companies are willing to invest in J&K. More than 1.25

lakh crore rupees worth highways and tunnel projects are going on in the UT. Increased flight operations in both Jammu & Srinagar airports, improved road and rail connectivity have brought J&K closer to the world," he said.

He also shared the key initiatives taken to tap the growth

LG Orders Campaign Against Power Theft

Jammu: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday ordered Power Development Department (PDD) to launch a campaign against power theft, saying that electricity theft should be tackled on priority as it is an important aspect to ensure energy security to all.

Chairing a meeting of PDD to review power situation during the upcoming summer months, today at Civil Secretariat here, Sinha also sought a detailed report on the ongoing power sector projects and schemes, such as installation of pre-paid meters.

He directed the officers to analyse all the issues such as manpower augmentation & rationalisation to provide better power services to the people of J&K.

The LG directed the officers to strictly implement the decisions taken in the earlier meetings to meet any peak demand and proactive actions for robust power distribution & transmission systems.

Sinha also instructed to complete the augmentation and upgradation work of Grid stations on a war footing.

He also launched the Real-Time Data acquisition system (RT-DAS). The system would provide real-time access to performance parameters pertaining to different feeders besides other benefits.

The meeting discussed the various aspects to meet the high electricity demand and a multi-pronged strategy to ensure adequate availability of power.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by **More on P10**

Snow Bike Impact On Gulmarg's ESZs NGT Asks J&K To Probe Matter, Take Remedial Action

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The National Green Tribunal has directed the Jammu & Kashmir Administration to look into the matter and take remedial action against use of snow bikes in and around the Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary and Eco Sensitive Zone.

The green panel was hearing an application claiming that snow bikes use petrol which has a harmful impact on the ecology. The applicant has also claimed that the weight of the bikes impacts the soil and the vegetation underneath the snow and such activities also result in

encroachments and loss of grasslands.

A bench of Chairperson Justice A K Goel said, "On due consideration but without expressing any opinion on merits at this stage, we consider it appropriate to direct that the matter be looked into and such remedial action taken in accordance with law as found appropriate by the ACS, Forest and Environment, J & K."

The bench, also comprising Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said the applicant may serve a set of papers on ACS, **More on P10**

NIA Court Issues Warrants Against 23 Pak-Based Militants

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A special NIA court has issued non-bailable warrants against 23 militants operating from across the border after exfiltrating from their home district of Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said on Wednesday.

This was the second time that the **More on P10**

NIA Searches Office Of Khurram Parvez

The NIA on Wednesday searched the office of an NGO linked to jailed activist Khurram Parvez in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district in connection with a militancy-funding case, officials said. Parvez is in prison **More on P10**

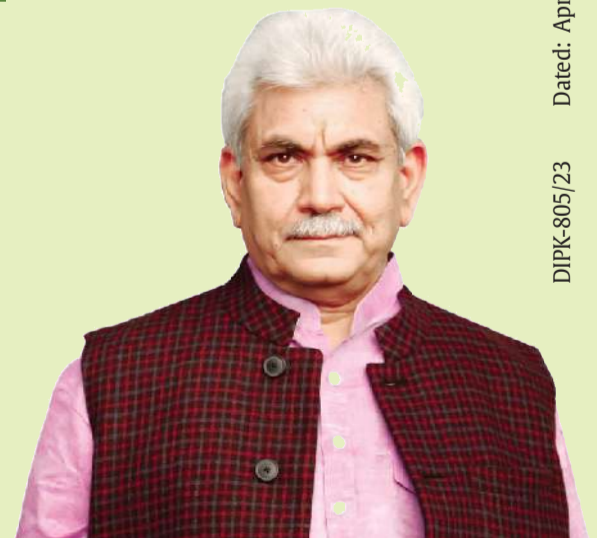
Aspirations Of Humanity Can Be Fulfilled Only In Peace: LG

Asserting that the aspirations of humanity can be fulfilled only in the conditions of peace, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that 'Ahimsa' deeply rooted in India's civilization, is making the world realize the futility of conflict and utility of dialogue. Sinha made these remarks while addressing the National Conference on 'India@G20', at the Convention Centre here on Wednesday. The Conference was organized by IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, AIIMS Jammu, in collaboration with Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DICC) to deliberate upon priorities, prospects and way forward for creating an inclusive & sustainable society. "During India's G20 presidency, green, **More on P10**



'DAKSH KISAN' : A mobile and web based learning management system for farmers.

- 118 online skilling courses designed as per J&K's agro climatic zones
- Video tutorials in 4 languages (Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri and Dogri).
- Reading material in Hindi, Urdu and English.
- Offline contact programs for practical demonstration at KVK's.
- Farmers shall receive certificates on completion of skilling course.



Scan this QR Code to Visit the Website

Date: Apr 26 2023

DIPK-805/23





**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD**
CPO Chowk, Kacchi Chowki, Jammu/Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar
(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Subject: Provisional Selection List of the candidates for the posts of Junior Stenographer, Junior Scale Stenographer & Steno Typist, for UT Cadre, Divisional Cadres and various District Cadres, advertised vide Notification Nos 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 and 03 of 2021.

Notification

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) received various Indents from Departments for the posts of Junior Stenographer, Junior Scale Stenographer, Personal Assistant & Steno Typist, for UT Cadre, Divisional Cadres and various District Cadres for making direct recruitment; and

Whereas, the 16 departments, comprising of 49 Items, included a total number of 217 posts as per the above nomenclature, with the requisite qualification as under:

1. Graduation from any recognized University having minimum speed of 65 and 35 words per minute in shorthand and type writing respectively.
2. Six months certificate course in Computer Application from a recognized Institute.

Whereas, the category-wise breakup for these 217 posts belonging to various cadres/departments was as under:

OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC/IB	RBA	PSP	EWS	TOTAL
117	24	15	3	5	39	4	10	217

Whereas, the JKSSB, vide Notification No. 04, 05 & 06 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020, No.01 of 2021 dated.03.02.2021, No.02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021 & 03 of 2021 dated.04.06.2021, advertised these posts as per the category-wise breakup given herein above, under various Items, for seeking applications from the eligible candidates; and

Whereas, as per the method of recruitment notified for these posts, while 60% weight-age is earmarked to the performance of the candidates in the Computer Based Test (CBT), the Shorthand and Skill Test shall carry 20% weight-age each; and

Whereas, based on the performance of the candidates in the Shorthand and Computer Based Written Test (CBT) in accordance with the notified criteria, the JK SSB, vide notification No. JKSSBCOE0EXAM (UT)/4/2023-04 (CC-7107235) dated 12.01.2023, published result/score sheet of the candidates; and

Whereas, the JKSSB, vide Notice No. KSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/3/2023-04 (CC-7107235) dated 18.01.2023, called upon candidates who had applied for Multiple Items/posts to indicate order of their preference (s) for all such posts to indicate their order of preferences through an online link provided on the official website of the Board w.e.f. 20.01.2023 to 23.01.2023 and were also called for Document Verification w.e.f. 24.01.2023 to 25.01.2023; and

Whereas, a Miscellaneous Application No.61/242/2023 titled Kawaldeep Singh Vs General Administration Department was filed before the Hon'ble CAT Jammu, by some applicants regarding the process of Selection to the posts of Junior Stenographers, which was heard and an interim direction was passed by the Tribunal, as under:

"Selection and appointment to the posts of Junior Stenographer, Junior Scale Stenographer and Steno Typist pursuant to Advertisement (Annexure A-1) shall abide by the decision of this Tribunal."

Whereas, the above interim direction does not debar from notifying Provisional Selection. Accordingly, the JKSSB vide Office Order No. 33-SSB of 2023 dated 15.02.2023, constituted a Selection Committee to prepare the Provisional Selection for the aforementioned posts; and

Whereas, the Selection for 04 Posts (OM=02, SC=01 & RBA=01) of Personal Assistant, belonging to Department of Law, Justice & PA, Item No.154, UT Cadre, has not been considered on account of some clarification; and

Whereas, the above Selection Committee, while preparing the Provisional Selection List, has examined various aspects and applied reservation rules, except Horizontal Reservation, as no candidate belonging to the ESM/PwD Category qualified for the final result; and

Whereas, the Selection Committee prepared the Item-wise Provisional Selection List for 179 aforementioned posts in accordance with the merit obtained/eligibility of the candidates and as per the rules in vogue. The remaining 34 posts of various reserved categories belonging to different departments have remained unfilled for want of eligible candidates; and

Whereas, the Provisional Selection List prepared by the above-mentioned Selection Committee was placed before the Board in its 223rd Meeting held on 17.04.2023, which, after deliberations, approved its notification.

Now, therefore, the Provisional Selection List of candidates selected for the posts of Junior Stenographer, Junior Scale Stenographer & Steno Typist, for UT Cadre, Divisional Cadres and various District Cadres, advertised vide Notification Nos. 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 and 03 of 2021, under various Items, is hereby notified as per the details forming **Annexure- A to P** to this Notification. It is further ordered that:

- (i) The Provisional Selection List shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending in the court of law.
- (ii) The Provisional Selection List shall also be subject to the *outcome of any pending enquiry*, involving candidate(s), figuring in this Selection List.

In case any candidate/s is aggrieved with this Provisional Selection List, he/she may represent through the email address jkssbstenoselection2023@gmail.com within seven days from the date of its Notification, beyond which no representations shall be entertained. The e-mail in this regard shall necessarily include complete details of the candidate including Name, Address, Roll Number and Contact Number.

By Order.

(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS,
**Secretary,
J&K Services Selection Board.**

No.JKSSB/23/2023-03(E 7164134)
DIPK-751/23 Dated:26.04.2023

Study Sheds Light On Role Of Glucose In Brain Activity

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have shed light on how neurons, or nerve cells, consume and metabolise glucose, as well as how these cells adapt to glucose shortages.

The researchers from Gladstone Institutes and UC San Francisco (UCSF), US, said that the new findings could lead to the discovery of new therapeutic approaches for those diseases and contribute to a better understanding of how to keep the brain healthy as it ages.

"We already knew that the brain requires a lot of glucose, but it had been unclear how much neurons themselves rely on glucose and what methods they use to break the sugar down," says Ken Nakamura, associate investigator at Gladstone and senior author of the study published in the journal Cell Reports.

Many foods we eat are broken down into glucose, which is stored in the liver and muscles, shuttled throughout the body, and metabolized by cells to power the chemical reactions that keep us alive.

Scientists had proposed that glial cells, or cells found in the tissue of the central nervous system, consume most of the glucose and then fuel neurons indirectly by passing them a metabolic product



of glucose called lactate. However, the evidence to support this theory had been scant.

Nakamura's group provided more evidence in this regard by using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells) to generate pure human neurons. This had been hard so far for scientists to generate cultures of neurons in the lab that do not also contain glial cells.

Then, the researchers mixed the neurons with a labelled form of glucose that they could track, even as it was broken down. This experiment

proved the ability of neurons to take up the glucose themselves and process it into smaller metabolites.

Using CRISPR gene editing, the researchers removed two key proteins from the neurons to investigate how they were using metabolised glucose products. While one of them enabled neurons to import glucose, the other was required for glycolysis, the main pathway by which cells typically metabolise glucose.

They found that removing either of these proteins stopped the breakdown of glucose in the iso-

lated human neurons. "This is the most direct and clearest evidence yet that neurons are metabolising glucose through glycolysis and that they need this fuel to maintain normal energy levels," said Nakamura, who is also an associate professor in the Department of neurology at UCSF.

The team next engineered mice's neurons, but not other brain cell types, to lack the proteins required for glucose import and glycolysis.

The mice were found to develop severe learning and memory problems as they aged, suggesting that neurons rely on glycolysis for normal functioning, Nakamura explains.

"Interestingly, some of the deficits we saw in mice with impaired glycolysis varied between males and females," he added. "More research is needed to understand exactly why that is." The team also studied how the neurons adapted themselves in the absence of energy received through glycolysis - as might be the case in certain brain diseases.

They found that neurons used other energy sources, such as the related sugar molecule galactose. However, the researchers found that galactose was not as efficient a source of energy as glucose and that it could not fully compensate for the loss of glucose metabolism.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No. 06 of 2023-24 Dated 26.04.2023

For and on behalf of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, e-tenders are invited by Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar by e-tendering mode on item wise Percentage basis from approved and eligible Registered Contractors/suppliers with J&K State UTI, PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following works:-

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earned Money (In Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Change of upholstery of Club Car seats and allied inputs for G20 Golf tournament at RSGC Srinagar	12.00	24000/= in shape of CDR or FDR in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC	650/- Non Refundable in shape of Bank Challan in favour of Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB-0229040100012341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	10 Days	Firms registered with GST in Mechanical Or Electro mechanical Suppliers / Contractors	Plan

Position of AA: Accorded Position of TS: Obtained Position of funds: Available

Special conditions:-
I. No exemption is allowed and so all bidders must Upload Proof of EMD and Tender Processing Fee.
II. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason at any stage.
IV. Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid Registration card / PAN / GST registration. However successful bidder shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.

V. The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Cost of Contract pledged to Executive Engineer as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. (Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid registration card with renewal of 2022-23 or 2023-24 /PAN/GST registration with latest renewal of march 2023 or 3rd Quarter (1st October -Dec2023). However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.
VI. The typographical error in the BOQ like Unit of item Quantity of item etc. if any found during e-NIT or after end date of NIT shall be rectified in the allotment as per the estimate.
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26.04.2023 4:00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 26.04.2023 to 02.05.2023 (4.00PM on wards)
3	Bid submission Start Date	26.04.2023 4:00 Pm on wards
4	Bid Submission End Date	02-05-2023 upto 4.00
5	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	02-05-2023 at 4.10 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar

General Conditions:
1. The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar. In case of any avoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority.
2. The 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 5% of the Contract Value in addition to EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar drawn from nationalized/ Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non responsive.
3. The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason.
4. The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders.
5. The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ down loaded should be used for filling the item rate/ Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
6. The Contractor is bound to supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found Substandard/ defective shall not be entertained and contractor is bound to replace it immediately at his own cost.
7. The date of start of work shall be reckoned with in one day from the date of issue of LOI /allotment.
8. In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 10% of the allotted cost shall be imposed.
9. No advance payment shall be paid to the Service/ contractor.
10. The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 07 days from the date of issue of LOI/allotment.
11. All disputes and differences between the parties arising out of any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of RSGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be referable to Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties.
12. The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, Labour cess etc.
13. The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract.
14. The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement
15. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double /FC-31.
16. Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage.
17. The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work shall be upto the period of not less than six months.
18. No overhead/ Extra Charges or carriage of replaced spares shall be allowed to the service/ contract or his mechanics/ Trained Service Engineers/ Labours.
19. The replaced spares shall atleast perform satisfactory for a period of six months from the date of its replacement/ Maintenance.
20. Rates should be quoted in INR inclusive of all taxes / Charges/ FOR.
21. No escalation of rates shall be allowed whatsoever during the period of rate contract.
22. In case of the unsuccessful tenderer the CDR/ FDR shall be released after completion of the rate contract with successful tenderer.
23. The EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR with validity of not less than 24 months from any nationalized/ scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank pledged to Executive Engineer and should be uploaded on the portal with tender.

No: RSGC/EE/2023-24/
DIPK-NB-398/23 Dated: 26 / 04 / 2023

Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar

FATEHA KHWANI

Its with deep sorrow and bereavement we inform the death of our beloved mother W/o late Aga Syed Naqi Shah of Munwarabad Srinagar. She left for heavenly abode on 26th of April at 4.45 pm at her residence Baghi Mehmood, Baghbanpora, Lalbazar Srinagar after a brief illness.

The congregational Fateha Khwani shall be held on Sunday 30th of April at our ancestral Graveyard Munwarabad Srinagar at 7 am in the morning and thereafter at condolence service will continue at our residence Baghi Mehmood, Baghwanpora, Lal bazar, Srinagar.

BEREAVED
Syed Zaffar Iqbal and
Syed Riyaz Ahmad (Sons)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I have lost my registration certificate of my vehicle scooty Activa bearing no. JK01AL4827. Now I want to apply for its duplicate. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Assistant Regional Transport Officer Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Zeeshan Hussain
S/o Gh Hussain Hajam
R/o HMT khushipora srinagar nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of 6th pass Certificate From the office of the Govt Boys High School Padshahi Bagh Srinagar . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned school within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Rather
S/o Gh Mohd Rather
R/o Natipora Srinagar fk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am holding Valid Driving License under No. JK-0120020018903 issued by RTO Kashmir. I have lost the aforementioned Driving License near Nigeen Bagh Srinagar on 24.04.2023, and despite several searches the said Driving License could not be traced out, the said driving license is not pending in any court or Police Station.

Rouf Ahmad Wani
S/o; Haji Ghulam Rasool Wani
R/o; Naseem Bagh, Srinagar nj



CAR SOLD

It is notified for the information of general public that I, Ms. Sabha Ashiq Hakim D/O Mr. Hakim Ashiq Hussain R/O Baghwanpora Lal Bazar Srinagar, J&K have sold my Maruti 800 car bearing Registration Number: JK01Q 3403, Chassis NO: MA3ECA12502833022, Engine No: FBBIN4395345 to Mr. John Mohd Bhat S/O Ghulam Mohd Bhat R/O Meerak Shah Colony Hazratbal, Srinagar 190006, on 26-04-2023 at 04:30 PM. The vehicle in question is free from all encumbrances viz Challans, Accidents, Bank finance tribunals, Court/Police cases, theft & anti-national activities upto 26-04-2023 and onwards from the said date and time. Mr. John Mohd Bhat S/O Ghulam Mohd Bhat R/O Meerak Shah Colony Hazratbal Srinagar, 190006 shall himself be responsible for all the above conditions, acts, deeds and other things, whatsoever.

azko

Public Notice

I have lost the Number Plate of the my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK05K0373. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the police station Tangmarg within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mr Javid Ahmad Lone
S/O Mr Ghulam Mohammad Lone
R/O Teran Baramulla Tangmarg bmg

Div Com Conducts Late Night Visit Of SSCL Projects In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri conducted late night site visit & inspection of Srinagar Smart City Ltd (SSCL) developmental projects regarding upgradation of Footpaths, construction of Cycle tracks, macadamization of roads in preparation of G20 Summit.

He was accompanied by CEO SSCL, Chief Engineer R&B, Chief Engineer Smart City, Police Officers and other concerned officers of SSCL.

During the visit, he took stock of beautification, upgradation and redevelopment work at Nishat, SKICC, Gupkar Junction, Residency Road, Polo View and MA Road.

He emphasized on employing concerted efforts by

engineering wings of SSCL & R & R & R&B to mobilize entire available machinery & labor to complete the on-going projects at a double quick pace.

While elaborating the nature of exigency of work, he urged concern for gainful display of results by consuming minimum time and executing the work with enhanced capacity & efficiency.

He cautioned for lingering the work and urged for rapid action on the developmental front.

Div Com advised them to seize the opportunity and present the beautiful & picturesque view of the City.

During the inspection, he was briefed by CEO SSCL regarding site wise physical status and was assured that finishing touches will be given



A woman on Boulevard Road in Dal Lake, covers her kid under umbrella as rains lash parts of the valley including Srinagar on Wednesday, KO Photo Abid Bhat

Will Act Tough Against Creepy Stunt Biking, Rash Driving: SSP Traffic

Cautions Parents Against Purchasing Expensive Bikes For Minors

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic city, Syed Muzaffar Shah said the efforts to curb rash driving and stunt riding are being ramped up in Srinagar and elsewhere and those found involved will face action.

The SSP said crackdown against stunt riding will be stepped up and that the offenders, who put their lives in danger in addition to their own, will be taken to task.

He claimed that reports about youngsters engaging in dangerous maneuvers on city streets without protective headgear are pouring in

from several areas of the city.

"Drive against stunt riding and other traffic violations by youngsters continues in Srinagar and we will be stepping up the drive to curb this nuisance that poses a threat to pedestrians. Such acts won't be tolerated," SSP Traffic told Kashmir Observer.

He cautioned parents against buying a two-wheeler for their minor children and urged them to keep a close eye on their wards so as to save their lives and the lives of others.

The SSP Traffic said that 48 stunt bikers who were identified via social media have so far been detained, while 300 more have been identified, who will be detained shortly. He said the two-wheelers used for creepy

stunts have also been seized.

He said the traffic police authorities need cooperation from parents and the general public to curb the menace of high-speed stunt biking in the summer capital.

"To end the menace of stunt riding in the summer capital, we need the help of the general public and parents. Since their children are endangering their lives by performing creepy stunts, parents have a far more significant role to play in this direction. Who better could advise the kids than their own parents," he added.

SSP Traffic claimed that parents usually sway into emotions and purchase expensive bikes for their kids without thinking about the repercussions.

Parimpora Harassment Case

RTO Kashmir Suspends, Cancels Registrations Of 2 More Vehicles

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The transport authority on Wednesday ordered the suspension and cancellation of two more Registration Certificates (RCs) of the "vehicles" used in alleged harassment of a family.

The case pertains to the allegations of a family from the Srinagar outskirts that a group of boys riding two-wheelers manhandled them.

The office of the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, by exercising powers under Section 54 of the MVA, 1988, issued two separate orders, calling for the suspension of the registration certificate of the vehicle number JK01AS-1158 with immediate effect and cancellation of the RC of the vehicle

number JK01AR-1634 for a period of one year.

Meanwhile, the RTO Kashmir, in a separate order, exercised powers under Section 180 of MVA, 1988, and imposed a penalty of Rs 5,000 upon Mehraj Din Ganaie, present owner and possessor of the vehicle used in "offence", for causing and permitting his vehicle to be driven by a person who did not possess a valid driving licence.

The order states that "Hial Mehraj is complicit in the offence and has acted irresponsibly, not only allowing his vehicle No: JK01AS-1158 to be used in contravention of the provisions of this MV A, 1988, but also allowing his son Mr Hazik Mehraj, a juvenile to drive his vehicle".

Khomeini Chowk Residents Decry Dilapidated Road, Poor Drainage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Locals of Hyderia Colony, Khumani Chowk in Bemina area of Srinagar have expressed strong resentment against the district administration, especially the R&B Department and SMC, for the dilapidated condition of a road stretch at Bemina Khumani Chowk to Hyderia Colony Sector 10.

Aggrieved residents said the road is dotted with deep potholes and has not been repaired for long. They alleged that the Roads & Buildings (R&B) department and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) are least bothered about their sufferings.

"It is an important link road which unfortunately

has been overlooked by the successive governments and nobody seems to be taking our issues seriously," they said.

They also alleged that every year lakhs of rupees are released for construction and maintenance of the roads but the road stretch from Bemina Khumani Chowk to Hyderia Colony Sector 10 has been always ignored by the authorities concerned.

"We apprised the R&B Department as well as SMC a number of times regarding our genuine demands but all in vain as the concerned department failed to repair the road," Sajid Abbasi, a local said, adding, "The road stretch is giving nightmarish experience to us and transporters, especially during the rainy season, as it has been totally tattered."

DC Srinagar Holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp In Check-Sangri Khonmoh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing efforts of the Administration to reach out to the common masses living in the rural and far-flung areas of the District to address their grievances, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday undertook an extensive tour of Check Sangri area in Khonmoh Block of

the District and held a Grievance Redressal Camp under Weekly Block Diwas programme.

Besides, DDC member, Manzoor Ahmad, the Grievance Redressal Camp was attended by representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions and large gathering of people of the area who projected their grievances and issues before the Deputy Commissioner including macadamization of Check Sangri road,

infrastructure upgradation of High School Sangri and Middle School Sekinar, development of playground, augmentation of water supply, deployment of Teaching Staff for Boys Middle School, upgradation of Health facilities, enhancement in the quota of IAY cases, expansion of mobile network connectivity and other issues.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal
 Address: Mini Secretariat Ganderbal TelNo. 0194-2416058

Subject :- Improvement/Upgradation of Arhama Inner links at Wudder Arhama, incl. Molvi Mohalla, Kasana Mohalla, Rehmat Shah Mohalla, Ghulam Gul Mohalla b.w.o macadamisation under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Mechanically).

Reference:- This Office NIT No.09 S. No.13 of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No.567-72 Dt.20-04-2023

The above mentioned NIT floated for tenders, issued under endorsement No. referred to above shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

No:752-60
 DIPK-794/23 Dated:-26-04-2023

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 (R&B) Division Ganderbal

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
 Office Of The Executive Engineer,
 Construction Division

FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on (Percentage basis %age) from the Original Equipment manufacturers of Lifts or their authorized dealers registered with Govt. of J&K/ other union territories and CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
1.	Supplying, Installing, Testing, and Commissioning of G+3 Elevator (Lift) an allied works for 4-Storeyed Research Hostel at Zakura Campus.	28.20Lacs	Rs.1,100/-	Rs.56,400/-	28-04-2023 to 08-05-2023 (6.00 PM)	09-05-2023 (11.30 AM)

The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website www.kashmiruniversity.net/ / www.jktenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer

NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/15/23
 DIPK-NB-380/23 DATED: 26/04/23.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
 Green Campus, Ganderbal-191201, www.cukashmir.ac.in

LAST DATE EXTENDED
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION CUET PG 2023-24

It is for the information of all the concerned aspirants that the last date for submission of online admission forms for Common University Entrance Test (CUET-PG) 2023-24 to be conducted through NTA has been extended as per the given schedule:

Activities	Date
Last date for submission of online Application Form	05 May 2023 (Up to 09:50 P.M.)
Last date for payment of fee online	05 May 2023 (Up to 11:50 P.M.)
Correction in particulars of online Application Form	06 May to 08 May 2023

Details of eligibility, guidelines for online submission of forms and other instructions are available on the website(s): www.nta.ac.in/, www.cukashmir.ac.in/, <https://cuet.nta.nic.in/>

No.CUKmr/Acad/CUET-23/910/23
 Dated: 24.04.2023

Sd/-
 Dean Academics Affairs

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

AIRPORTS
 SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
 06 Shawwal
 1444

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4 :17
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5:16
Magrib	7:15
ISHA	8: 42

This Day In History

- 1296 - Battle of Dunbar: The Scots are defeated by Edward I of England.
- 1518 Treaty of St Truiden: anti-French Trapdoors/Bourgondisch covenant
- 1522- Battle of La Bicocca: a combined French and Venetian was decisively defeated by a Spanish-Imperial and Papal army
- 1522 Battle at Bicocca: Charles I & Pope Adrianus VI beat France
- 1526- Mughal King Babur beats sultan of Delhi
- 1650 - The Battle of Carisdale: Royalist army under Marquess of Montrose invades mainland Scotland from Orkney; defeated by a Covenanter army.
- 1662- Netherlands & France sign military covenant
- 1805 - US Marines attack shores of Tripoli
- 1861- US President Abraham Lincoln suspends writ of habeas corpus (US Civil War)
- 1863 - Battle of Streight's raid: Tusculumbia to Cedar Bluff, AL
- 1865 - Steamboat "SS Sultana" explodes in the Mississippi River, killing up to 1,800 of the 2,427 passengers in the greatest maritime disaster in United States history. Most were paroled Union POWs on their way home.
- 1890- French troops under Capt Archinard occupy Ousseboungou West Sudan
- 1909- Sultan of Turkey Abdul Hamid II is overthrown
- 1911 - Following the resignation and death of William P. Frye, a compromise is reached to rotate the office of President pro tempore (for the time being) of the United States Senate.
- 1911- Indian passive resistance is suspended when Gen. J.C. Smuts enters into negotiations with Mahatma Gandhi.
- 1915-Counterattack launched by Turkish forces under the command of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk against allied troops
- 1941- German troops occupy Athens, Greece
- 1942- Belgian Jews are forced to wear stars
- 1943- Soviet Union breaks contact with Polish government exiled in London
- 1945-Italian partisans capture Benito Mussolini at Dongo (Lake Como)
- 1945- World War II: The Völkischer Beobachter, the newspaper of the Nazi Party, ceases publication.
- 1946- 1st radar installed aboard a commercial ship
- 1951- Mohammed Mossadeq chosen as premier of Persia
- 1959- Liu Sjau-chi elected president of China People's Republic.
- 1960- 1st atomic powered electric-drive submarine launched (Tullibee)
- 1960- Togo (formerly French Togo) declares independence from French administration

From KO Archives

Gone Are The Days When We Would Be Dismissed: Farooq

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah today ridiculed threats of dismissing his government saying the National Conference was governing the state with massive support of the people who were the real fountain of power.

Nobody can; dismiss us, gone are such days, Dr. Abdullah declared at a largely attended rally organised to felicitate the newly elected member to Rajya Sabha, Mirza Abdul Rashid at Zanaana Park here this afternoon.

Without naming Mufti Sayed's People's Democratic Party, the chief minister said some parties were roaming in villages saying that their stand on holding talks with militants has been vindicated. Truth is that decision of releasing Hurriyat Conference leaders was taken after consultations between the state and central governments". He said he was not against holding talks with anybody provided these are held within the constitution. (Kashmir Observer, 27 April, 2000)



India Was World's 4th Largest Defence Spender In 2022, Says Report

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India was the world's fourth largest military spender in 2022, with its defence spending increasing by around six percent as compared to 2021, a report by Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said.

The military expenditure report said around 23 per cent of the total spending by India was towards funding equipment and infrastructure, including that along the China border where tension continues. However, a major part of the spending was on expenditures like salaries and pensions.

With military expenditure of USD 81.4 billion (one billion=100 crore), India's spending was up by six per cent from 2021 and by 47 per cent as compared 2013.

"The increase in India's spending shows the effects of its border tensions with China and Pakistan," the report released on Monday said.

Expenditure on capital outlays, which funds equipment upgrades for the armed forces and to the military infrastructure along its disputed border with China, amounted to 23

per cent of the total military spending in 2022. Personnel expenses like salaries and pensions remained the largest expenditure category in the Indian military budget, accounting for around half of all military spending.

The United States, accounting for 39 per cent of the world military spending in 2022, was the top spender, followed by China (13 per cent), Russia (3.9 per cent), India (3.6 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (3.3 per cent).

Together, these five countries accounted for 63 per cent of total global military spending in 2022. The 15 largest spenders in 2022 together accounted for 82 per cent of the world military expenditure of USD 1,842 billion.

Total global military expenditure increased by 3.7 per cent in real terms in 2022, to reach a new high of USD 2,240 billion. Military expenditure in Europe saw its steepest year-on-year increase in at least 30 years.

The largest spenders in 2022 -- the United States, China and Russia -- accounted for 56 per cent of the world total.

In 2021, India's military spending of USD 76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world. It was fifth largest military spender in the world in 2016 at USD 55.9 billion.

10 Cops, Driver Killed By Maoists In Blast In Dantewada



Press Trust of India

DANTEWADA: Ten police personnel and a driver were killed after Naxals blew up the vehicle in which they were traveling in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Wednesday, police said.

This was the biggest strike by the Maoists on the security forces in the state in the last two years.

The blast, carried out using an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), took place under Arampur police station area around 1 pm when a team of the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said.

DRG personnel are mostly recruited from the local tribal population and trained to combat Maoists. The area where the blast took place is around 450 km from state capital Raipur.

TV visuals from a local news channel showed a huge crater, almost 10-feet deep, splitting the road at the site. The vehicle was completely destroyed in the attack while bodies covered with plastic sheets were also seen in the video.

The security personnel had set out from Dantewada district headquarters after getting information about the presence of Maoists belonging to the Darbha division in the area, the IGP said.

When they were returning in a mini-goods van, Naxals blew it up between Arampur and Sameli villages, he said.

Ten DRG jawans and the civilian driver of the vehicle were killed on the spot, the official added. Reinforcement was rushed to the spot and the bodies of the deceased were being evacuated, he said.

Security personnel have launched a search operation in the area, he said.

Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the fight against Naxalism was in its last phase, and the Naxals will not be spared under any circumstances.

"We will work in a coordinated way and eliminate Nax-

alism," he added. Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Baghel following the incident.

"Anguished by the cowardly attack on the Chhattisgarh police at Dantewada. Have spoken to Chhattisgarh's Chief Minister and assured all possible assistance to the state government. My condolences to the bereaved family members of the martyred Jawans," Shah tweeted.

In the past, numerous attacks have taken place on the security forces in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, comprising seven districts including Dantewada, between March and June.

During these summer months the Maoists carry out their 'Tactical Counter Offensive Campaign'.

In the last major incident, 22 security personnel were killed on April 3, 2021, in an ambush along the border of Sukma and Bijapur districts.

Seventeen security personnel were killed in a Naxal ambush in the Minpa area of Sukma district on March 21, 2020.

Man Tries To Get Refund For Cancelled Tickets, Ends Up Losing ₹4.8 Lakh Online

Press Trust of India

MAHARASHTRA: A man from Maharashtra's Thane city lost nearly ₹5 lakh in cyber fraud after he relied on the results of a Google search to seek refunds for his cancelled trip to an African nation, an official said today.

In his police complaint, the man said that he had booked return tickets to Kenya's capital Nairobi as he and his friend wanted to visit the city of Mombasa. The tickets were booked for April 29 and May 05 and he paid ₹1.46 lakh for them.

However, the complainant's plans changed and he decided to cancel the tickets and seek refunds, said the official. He filled out a form for refund on the website of the airline on April 11.

When the complainant could not get through to the airline's helpline, he ran a Google search and got what he thought to be the contact number of the airline, said the official.

He dialled the number and was told that the airline's technical team would get in touch with him and facilitate the re-



fund, the official said.

A man then spoke to the complainant and said he was eligible for a refund of ₹1.28 lakh. He asked the complainant to download an app, got complete access to his phone and stole ₹4.8 lakh from his accounts, said the official.

On the basis of the man's complaint, the Chitalsar police on Tuesday registered a case under the IT Act. A probe is on, said the official, adding that no arrest has been made yet.

Delhi Waqf Board Can Only Be Custodian, Not Owner Of Properties: Centre To Court

Agencies

NEW DELHI: While opposing the petition of the Delhi Waqf Board against the 123 claimed properties, the Central Government in a filed affidavit in Delhi High Court said that the Delhi Waqf Board is not and cannot be an owner of a given property and at best it can be the custodian of the property if it is a waqf property.

Earlier an affidavit has been filed before the court of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri in a petition of the Delhi Waqf Board challenging the order to inspect 123 properties.

Central Government in its affidavit also said that the Petitioner (Delhi Waqf Board) nor anyone else can have an objection to any inspection which

would even otherwise be permissible under the Waqf Act and which in any case would clarify the factual position obtained on the ground in respect of such properties.

It also submitted that merely because certain properties were given on lease to various persons, does not ipso-facto mean that the said properties are converted into Waqf properties.

The Delhi Waqf Board is a creation of a statute i.e. The Waqf Act, 1954. This being the position, the Petitioner in any case does not either have the locus or the competence to raise any question whatsoever on the acquisition of properties that took place way back in 1911 to 1914, the affidavit submitted.

The central government was represented by Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma and Central government Standing Counsel Kirtiman Singh. They had submitted that the government order only speaks about the physical inspection of the properties.

Senior advocate Rahul Mehra had argued that the possession of the properties has been with the board. The board has been contesting the matter for the last 100 years and the decision of the government is blatantly illegal.

He sought a status quo in the matter till the next date of hearing. He also opposed the contention of the government counsels that the board has not shown any interest in the properties.



Member Of Assembly Of Experts Assassinated In Northern Iran

Agencies

A member of Iran's influential clerical body has been assassinated in an armed attack in the country's northern province of Mazandaran.

Ayatollah Abbasali Soleimani, a member of the Assembly of Experts and also a former representative of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchistan, died in hospital on Wednesday after being shot at a bank in the city of Babolsar, Mehr news agency reported.

General Governor of Mazandaran Province, Seyyed Mah-

moud Hosseinipour, told the state-run Islamic Republic of Iran News Network (IRINN) television news channel that an investigation is underway to find out the circumstances surrounding the deadly incident and the motive behind the assassination.

The Assembly of Experts elects and oversees the activities of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and is in a position of authority to either appoint or dismiss the Leader.

Members are directly elected to office by the people for an eight-year term. The body holds biannual meetings to review major national issues and every other year to appoint a new chairman.

Iran Court Orders US, Obama To Pay \$313m For 'Terrorist' Attacks

Agencies

TEHRAN: An Iranian court has ruled the United States government and a number of individuals and entities, including former President Barack Obama, must pay compensation for 2017 attacks carried out by the armed group ISIL (ISIS).

The court in the capital issued the verdict on Wednesday based on complaints by families of three people killed and six wounded during the June 2017 attacks in Tehran, according to the official news website of the judiciary.

The building of the Iranian parliament and the mausoleum of the founder of Iran's current establishment, Ruhollah Khomeini, were targeted during the daylight assault that killed 17 people in total.

The court ruled \$9.95m needs to be paid to compensate for financial damages while \$104m and \$199m are for moral and punitive damages, respectively, with the total nearing \$313m.

Those convicted in the case include the US government, Obama, former President George W Bush, Central Command (CENTCOM), and its former commander Tommy Franks, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Treasury Department, weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin, and American Airlines Group.



None of the named entities or individuals is believed to hold any assets under Iranian control that could be seized, and the court did not say how the compensation order would be carried out.

As to why the US is being blamed for the attacks, the website cited comments by American officials about the "fundamental" role played by the US in "organising and guiding terrorist groups", news and information published by US media, and books and speeches by US officials discussing "the CIA's role in creating terrorist groups", including ISIL.

The judiciary also acknowledged the ruling comes as a response to numerous orders by US courts over the years that have blamed Iran for "terrorist" assaults, and ordered compensation paid from seized Iranian assets.

"As this marks a violation of the immunity of the Iranian government, Iranian courts have also judged a variety of cases against the US government and officials, and have issued legal decisions and will continue to do so," it said.

NEWS MAKERS

Syrian, Turkish Presidents Could Meet In May: Turkish FM

Agencies

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu announced that a summit between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could take place as early as next month in May, according to TV100.

However, the foreign minister also specifically mentioned that it was a "proposal" during the interview with the TV channel and that if it were to take place, the presidents of Iran and Russia would join the summit ahead of the Turkish elections. The Turkish minister said that work is ongoing and that the exact date has not been finalized.

Cavusoglu gave the interview on Tuesday, 25 April, ahead of the four-way meeting between the defense ministers and intelligence chiefs of Russia, Iran, Syria, and Türkiye.

Nevertheless, Cavusoglu made similar claims earlier this month, which were denied by the Syrian government as long as its conditions of a complete Turkish withdrawal from Syrian territory are not met.

The Turkish foreign minister also reiterated his country's position to continue its "counter-terrorism" operations in northern Iraq and Syria,

according to a report published by the Daily Sabah on 25 April.

"Türkiye's exit from the region would create a power vacuum that terrorists would rush to fill," Cavusoglu claimed during the TV interview.

In addition, on 6 December, Orhan Miroglu, the head of the Justice and Development Party, reported that Damascus turned down Ankara's proposal to set up a meeting between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Al-Mayadeen reported.

Syria has accused Türkiye of backing terrorism by supporting several extremist armed militias and launching repeated military incursions into northern Syria since the start of the war in 2011.

Syria and Türkiye held their first high-level bilateral meeting since the start of the Syrian war in 2011. The meeting took place in Moscow on 28 December, 2022. The summit was brokered by the Russian government, which brought the two sides together to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

At the time, Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar and Intelligence Chief Hakan Fidan met with Syrian Defense Minister Ali Hammad Abbas and intelligence chief Hossam Luke.

Air India Pilot, Entire Crew Grounded For Allowing Friend Into Cockpit

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Nearly two months after an Air India pilot allowed a female friend into the cockpit during a Dubai-Delhi flight, aviation watchdog DGCA has directed the airline to deroster the entire crew till investigations are complete, according to a senior official.

A cabin crew member of the flight had filed a complaint with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) about the pilot allowing a female friend into the cockpit. The incident happened on February 27.

On the condition of anonymity, the official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said though prima-facie, the cabin crew seems to have no role in the incident, the entire crew of the flight has been derostered pending investigations.

There is an allegation, which is being investigated and the principle of natural justice will apply, and the pilot concerned will also be given an opportunity to present his case, the official said on Wednesday.

The official also said the pilot will remain grounded till a final decision in the matter is taken by the regulator.

While there was no immediate comment from Air India on the latest development, the airline, on April 21, said it had taken serious note of the reported incident and that investigations were underway.

Unauthorised people are not allowed to enter the cockpit and any such entry could be in violation of norms.

Singapore Executes Indian-Origin Man For Cannabis Trafficking

Press Trust of India

SINGAPORE: Singapore on Wednesday executed a 46-year-old Indian-origin drug trafficker, ignoring pleas for clemency from his family, human rights activists and the United Nations.

Tangaraju Suppiah was hanged at dawn in Changi Prison, a day after his 11th-hour appeal was rejected by a court here.

He was convicted in October 2018 by a High Court judge of a capital charge of abetting an accomplice by conspiring to traffic cannabis. This was by delivering about 1kg of cannabis to himself, an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

The Singaporean of Indian origin was detained in 2014 for drug consumption and failure to report for a drug test.

A statement by the Singapore Prison Service said that Tangaraju "had his capital sentence carried out today at Changi Prison Complex".

Tangaraju's sister Leelavathy Suppiah said the family had received a death certificate. It was Singapore's first execution

in six months.

Tangaraju's case had drawn support from British billionaire Richard Branson and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ravina Shamdasani, on Tuesday, urged the Singapore government to "urgently reconsider this (Tangaraju's) execution and to take steps to fully respect the most fundamental of human rights - the right to life."

Branson had claimed in a blog post that Tangaraju's conviction did not meet standards and that "Singapore may be about to kill an innocent man".

Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Tuesday that Branson's views regarding a Singaporean on death row showed "disrespect" for the country's judges and criminal justice system.

Anti-death penalty activist Kirsten Han tweeted on Wednesday, "Tangaraju was hanged in Changi Prison this morning." She added that his family was given the death certificate.

"The family said they weren't

going to give up on him until right to the end," Han was quoted as saying by the BBC.

"They still have a lot of unresolved questions about his case and the evidence against him. It has been such a harrowing experience for them," the activist said.

Statements were also issued by the Delegation of the European Union to Singapore and Australian MP Graham Perrett.

The EU statement, jointly issued on Monday with the diplomatic missions of EU member states, Norway and Switzerland in Singapore, called on authorities to halt Tangaraju's execution and commute his sentence to a non-capital sentence.

Perrett had expressed his views in a Facebook post last Thursday, saying he was "concerned that the planned execution of Tangaraju violates international law standards", Channel News Asia reported.

A court in Singapore dismissed an application by Tangaraju on Tuesday to have his case reviewed and for his execution to be stayed, according to the report.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 27-04-2023

Bollywood Boosts Tourism

In recent years, Bollywood has once again returned to Kashmir Valley, once a hub for Indian cinema before the unrest in the 1990s. The return of the megastar Shah Rukh Khan and his crew to the Valley, this time for the shooting of his upcoming film Dunki, directed by Rajkumar Hirani, has once again testified to the prevailing normalcy in Kashmir. It has not only excited fans but also given hope to the booming local tourism industry.

It is not just the return of Bollywood that symbolizes a transformed Kashmir, but also the increasing number of tourists flocking to the valley. The recently concluded tulip festival attracted over 3.75 lakh tourists, while Gulmarg saw over 2 lakh tourists during winters. Last year, J&K witnessed over 26.7 lakh tourist arrivals, the highest in the last three decades.

The increasing number of tourists will generate employment opportunities and boost the local economy, which was hit hard during the successive COVID lockdowns of the past four years. Union Minister for Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari's recent visit to inspect the ongoing work on the Zojila tunnel in Sonmarg, which will connect Ladakh to Kashmir and in turn to the rest of the country throughout the year, reflects the ongoing development in the union territory. The tunnel has further raised hopes of increased tourism and employment opportunities.

However, this newfound hope and optimism should not be taken for granted. The government and local authorities must ensure that the infrastructure, security, and amenities are in place to cater to the increasing number of tourists. The recent visit of Ranvir Singh and Alia Bhatt, who shot for Karan Johar's film Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani, shows that Kashmir is once again becoming the sought-after destination for Bollywood.

It is heartening to see this happening again. The valley has always been a paradise on earth, and with the reopening of one cinema and increased tourist arrivals, the omens look good for the future. Let us hope that this positive momentum continues, and Kashmir becomes a beacon of hope and prosperity for its people.

The G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar, India, is also a significant occasion for the region. This event will provide an opportunity to showcase the potential of Jammu and Kashmir as a tourism destination not only for India but for the world. The G20 meeting is expected to bring economic gains to the region by boosting tourism. It also has the potential to establish the area as a reliable investment location.

OTHER OPINION

Rescue service

As India's "Operation Kaveri", launched to evacuate Indians stuck inside war-torn Sudan is underway, the government is making the most of a 72-hour ceasefire window to bring out about 3,000 civilians. The operation, which involves the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy, is being coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs. Given the heavy fighting in Khartoum between forces loyal to the head of the ruling council, General Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan, who also heads the Sudanese Armed Forces, and his former deputy, Gen. Mohammed "Hemeti" Hamdan Dagalo of the paramilitary group, RSF, most civilians are being brought by road to Port Sudan, a perilous journey, to be evacuated by air and sea. India has been coordinating efforts with other countries that have the most civilians and resources in Sudan, including the U.S., the U.K., the UAE and Saudi Arabia, on logistics, timing the evacuation operations, and even using Saudi and French planes. En route to the Caribbean for a scheduled visit, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also met with the UN Secretary General in New York to seek help. It is clear that military personnel, officials and diplomats will have a difficult few days ahead given that even humanitarian workers and ambulances have been attacked. They have no doubt been assisted by the cumulative experience of similar operations over the decades, beginning with the largest such single civilian evacuation during the Gulf war, in 1991.

The Sudan evacuation brings once more into focus the particular challenges that India faces in any conflict. With about 14 million non-resident Indians and more than seven million tourists and travellers each year, there is practically no conflict today that does not affect an Indian citizen. Given that many work in the most dangerous environments — examples being students in Ukraine, nurses in Iraq or Yemen, or labourers in Libya, Syria and Lebanon — the responsibility of the government to help those without the means to return to safety is greater. As a result, a standard operating procedure, and even possibly a special force to deal with such crises — as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee for External Affairs, in 2022 — must be considered by the government. It is also essential that such crises be devoid of political grand-standing or finger-pointing, and that unseemly public spats over the evacuation, or unnecessary controversies over garnering domestic political mileage be avoided. India is admired for its reputation and ability to harness all its resources in rescuing every single citizen in any corner of the world, every time they are in need. That reputation must remain intact.

The Hindu

Charu Sudan Kasturi

“None of this is to suggest that India should align itself with Russia and China. On the contrary, this is about India's ability to navigate a world that is desperately trying to avoid getting caught in the mounting tensions between Washington and Beijing

Weakest Brick

India could lead nations looking to avoid having to pick between superpowers

"Brazil is back," declared the country's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, during a recent visit to China. Lula — as he is widely known — spelled out what he meant. "The time when Brazil was absent from major world decisions is in the past," in an apparent reference to his predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, whose maverick rule saw the Western hemisphere's second-largest democracy drift away from its traditional partners in the Global South.

Even Lula's critics will agree that Brazil's international profile rose during his two previous terms. Barack Obama once described him as the world's most popular politician. Possibly no single entity captures Lula's legacy better than the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa grouping that he was instrumental in co-founding. Yet if Brazil under Bolsonaro was often viewed as the weakest link in the group by geopolitical pundits, Lula's comments — made at the announcement of his ally, Dilma Rousseff, as president of the BRICS Bank in Shanghai — served to underscore how times have changed.

Today, it is increasingly hard to escape the sense that India is the weakest brick in the formation that for the past two decades has promised to offer an alternative economic and political pole to the West. While China has always been the most dominant player in the bloc since its formation, its influence within BRICS was moderated by the strong, historical part-

nership between India and Russia and the warm ties that India and Brazil enjoyed during Lula's earlier stint in power.

In 2023, those equations look very different.

China and Russia are tied closer at the hip than at any other point in modern history, with the war in Ukraine leaving Moscow particularly reliant on Beijing for political and economic cover. South Africa has long backed Chinese positions within BRICS — its economy depends too heavily on Beijing, its largest trade partner by far. And a series of missteps has left India vulnerable to the prospect of losing Lula too.

Lula's January 1 inauguration was attended by a galaxy of Latin American and global dignitaries. The Narendra Modi government, however, did not depute any senior politician to attend the ceremony. It is unclear whether that was an oversight or a conscious decision. Either way, it added to a sense that the relationship between India and Brazil today lacks the punch it once had. It can't have helped that Modi hosted Bolsonaro — a man who has repeatedly tried to undermine Brazil's democratic institutions — as chief guest for Republic Day in 2020. The poor diplomatic decision hasn't aged well, with pro-Bolsonaro rioters trying to stage an insurrection against Lula's elected government in January.

Brazil and South Africa appear willing to take bolder positions on New Delhi's extended neighbourhood than India itself.

Lula allowed Iranian ships to dock in Brazil in February despite pressure from the United States of America to drop that plan. South Africa has repeatedly pointed out Western hypocrisy in enabling Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian lands while challenging Russia's equally illegal invasion of Ukraine. By contrast, India has sacrificed ties with Iran and Palestine statehood at the altar of stronger relations with the US and Israel. You can't be a credible voice of the Global South — as the Narendra Modi government insists India is — if you are unwilling or unable to speak for it except when convenient.

None of this is to suggest that India should align itself with Russia and China. On the contrary, this is about India's ability to navigate a world that is desperately trying to avoid getting caught in the mounting tensions between Washington and Beijing. That sentiment, and the rising fears of a cold or hot conflict between the US and China, are visible across Asia, Africa, Latin America and in parts of Europe too.

India could lead nations looking to avoid having to pick between superpowers. But for that, it needs credibility in the Global South. It won't gain that by losing influence within groups like BRICS.

The author is a senior journalist who writes on foreign policy and international relations

A smartphone and a finger click are all you need to create a virtual domino effect. After all, a click has no legs to stand on. A single click leads to another. And thereby our fingers are conditioned to share without care. And soon it becomes our second nature.

As per the American Journal of Sociology, a rumour is a tall-tale of explanations of events circulating from person to person and pertaining to an object, event, or issue in public concern.

One must remember that rumours are lies and a lie is no match for the truth. Irrespective of the quantum of rumour, the extent of its spread and the ubiquity of its existence, a lie can never attain the status of truth. Beyond doubt is the supremacy of truth over falsehood, heresy and tall-tales. In the words of Martin Ugwu, "A rumour thrives in the palace of uncertainty but dies in the corridors of truth." Be it religious, be it ethical; be it scientific, be it humanistic; be it empirical, be it observational-from every single point of view, the act of sharing unconfirmed and unauthentic information is ugly and devastating. It is damaging and destroying. It is devouring and endangering. It is putting calm at risk and order in jeopardy. It deserves contempt and condemnation to say the least.

To add to the existing woes of epidemics, we have the scare of infodemics. Besides the danger of a pathogen, we have the derring of misinformation. While some do it purposely, to some, it is recreation. While some do it out of intention; to some, it is like invention.

Isolating and sifting rumours from facts can be painful and daunting, but it is necessary. The English humorist, Terry Pratchett

The Legalised Crime of Sharing

Firdous Ahmad Mala



wrote in Feet of Clay, "Rumour is information distilled so finely that it can filter through anything. It does not need doors and windows, sometimes it does not need people. It can exist free and wild, running from ear to ear without ever touching lips."

The luring and tempting entice of rumour-mongering and easy access to doing it has resulted in its widespread and prevalence. William Shakespeare in Henry IV part 2 wrote:

"Rumour is a pipe Blown by surmises, jealousies, conjectures And of so easy and so plain a stop That the blunt monster with uncounted heads, The still-discordant wavering multitude, Can play upon it."

Rumours cannot and must not be justified. Call it "improvised

news" or "stories of perceived importance that lack substantial evidence", a rumour is not less harmful than a tumour that has the potential of enlargement and growth, the possibility of being carcinogenic and the danger of wreaking havoc and rampage. Rumours travel and have speeds that thrill but kill. In his novel, "The Chalk Man", the British author, C. J. Tudor wrote, "Rumors are like germs. They spread and multiply almost in a breath and before you know it, everyone is contaminated."

History is witness to a plethora of concocted, fabricated, made-up, misquoted and spun tidings that culminated into substantial losses or beyond-repair ramifications. And our recent local history bears witness to several mistakes we have already committed. The rumour of the death of children by polio vaccine in 2016 and other numerous under-researched published arti-

cles in newspapers are just the tip of the iceberg. It shows the ugly and deteriorating face of our society. The Indonesian writer, the author of Master of Stupidity, Tobago Beta writes in Betelgeuse Incident, "If humour and rumour are needed more than faith and truth, then it tells me something about the kind of world we live today."

The potential danger of a rumour may be hard to gauge. It may not look ugly and dreadful at the start. But it can debase a person or give rise to myths besides making one believe a widespread falsehood or reject an unpopular truth. In the words of Wiss Auguste, "There's nothing more poisonous to a community than rumours and gossip. They taint the good character of those who effortlessly stand out. They provide mediocre individuals with a means to become relevant. They set in like gangrene and eat away at the sense of decency that differentiates humans from animals."

The importance of being circumspect and meticulous vis-à-vis passing on to others the information we receive is hard to overestimate. It is the responsibility of one and all to inspect, investigate and scrutinize what one hears and shares. It is advisable to remember the words of Ziad Abdelnour, "Rumors are carried by haters, spread by fools, and accepted by idiots."

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

The author is a senior journalist who writes on foreign policy and international relations



OBSERVER MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Waste Water Treatment Has to be Modernised

The world is progressing at a rapid pace, and this progression is exerting a lot of pressure on natural resources. The resources are limited, but demand has been increased to all time higher. The nations are facing many challenges including climate change, extinction of natural flora and fauna, acute crisis of fresh water etc. Tremendous population growth

has put stress on water and sanitation system. One of the major issues of present days is the management of wastewater being generated from domestic, hospital, industries, and agricultural sectors. Discharge of wastewater into rivers, seas, and oceans harms the aquatic environment in many ways such as acidification, nutrient enrichment, high level of growth, oxygen depletion and many

others. This has led to the extinction of rich flora and fauna of aquatic systems and also has indirect impact on human health by means of bio-magnifications. Over the years, technologies have developed and many advanced methods have been emerged which are more efficient, cheap and eco-friendly in treating wastewater. Methods like Removal of dye-based recalcitrant from aqueous matrices

using radical driven Advanced Oxidation/Reduction Processes, membrane based separation technique, a combined solvent extraction and ion exchange process and a number of other advanced biological means has to be employed at various levels of wastewater treatment.

Vijaykumar HK

AI: Opportunities and Challenges

M. Nayyar Azam

Industry, government, and the general public must collaborate to make sure AI is utilised responsibly and for the good of society as a whole. This involves working together to create ethical standards, encouraging accountability and openness in AI decision-making, and spending money on education and training to get the workforce ready for an AI-driven future

Due to its potential to revolutionize various aspects of society, the discipline of computer science known as artificial intelligence (AI) has been drawing a lot of interest in recent times. The development of computer programs that can carry out operations like speech recognition, decision-making, and natural language processing—tasks that typically require human intelligence—is at the core of artificial intelligence (AI). The quick development of AI technology has created new opportunities for organizations, governments, and people, but it has also generated significant ethical and societal concerns.

Automation of challenging and repetitive jobs frees up human workers to concentrate on more creative and complicated work, which is one of the main advantages of AI. For instance, chatbots using AI can answer simple customer care questions, while machine learning algorithms can analyse an enormous amount of data to find trends and forecast future events. Businesses and organizations may experience cost savings as a result of enhanced productivity and efficiency.

By enabling quicker and more precise diagnostics, individualised treatment regimens, and predictive analytics for disease prevention, AI has the potential to enhance healthcare as well. While AI-powered robots in manufacturing can do risky or difficult operations more effectively and with higher precision, self-driving automobiles driven by the technology will enhance safety and decrease traffic congestion in the transportation sector.

However, as AI advances, there are also worries about job loss and the moral implications of AI-driven decision-making. Nevertheless, as AI technologies develop, they also pose new problems that must be solved if they are to be put to use for the benefit of mankind. The possibility of job displacement by AI is one of the significant challenges it poses. Automation and AI will progressively take over tasks that were previously completed by humans as they develop. Some occupations, like those in manufacturing, transportation, and customer service, have already seen some automation as a result of this trend. Jobs can get affected and the economy may be disrupted



as a result of this displacement, especially in sectors with a large workforce. As a result, it is crucial to develop tactics that lessen the effect of AI on the labour market, such as investing in retraining programs and developing new, difficult-to-automate, jobs.

The potential for bias and discrimination in AI is yet another challenge. Because AI systems can only be as objective as the data they are trained on, biased training data will result in biased AI systems. This discrimination may result in a bias towards specific racial or ethnic groups, including women and people of colour. For instance, it has been discovered that facial recognition software has a greater error rate for individuals of colour, raising questions about racial bias. As a result, it is crucial to make sure AI systems are created, trained, and monitored frequently for bias in their outputs. Additionally, security and privacy are placed at risk by AI. AI systems frequently rely on gathering and analysing a lot of personal data, like biometric information and online activity. This information may be exposed to security lapses and online attacks, which could result in privacy violations and identity theft. Therefore, it is essential to develop strict data protection laws and cybersecurity controls that guarantee the secure collection, processing, and storage of personal data.

Finally, AI raises ethical concerns, notably in relation to its application in autonomous

weapon systems and military applications. A variety of ethical problems, including those of accountability, responsibility, and transparency, may arise from the development and use of AI in military settings. Additionally, there is a chance that AI-powered weapons could malfunction or be compromised, causing harm that wasn't intended. Therefore, it is essential to establish international standards and laws that control the creation and application of AI in military settings.

Industry, government, and the general public must collaborate to make sure AI is utilised responsibly and for the good of society as a whole. This involves working together to create ethical standards, encouraging accountability and openness in AI decision-making, and spending money on education and training to get the workforce ready for an AI-driven future.

In conclusion, artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize a number of societal facets, but its research and application must be done carefully and with careful consideration of its ethical and societal ramifications. We can use AI to boost productivity, efficiency, and results while making sure that it benefits every member of society by addressing concerns about job displacement, bias, and ethical decision-making.

The author can be reached at mirnayarazam@gmail.com

As public concern about the ethical and social implications of artificial intelligence keeps growing, it might seem like it's time to slow down. But inside tech companies themselves, the sentiment is quite the opposite. As Big Tech's AI race heats up, it would be an "absolutely fatal error in this moment to worry about things that can be fixed later," a Microsoft executive wrote in an internal email about generative AI, as The New York Times reported.

In other words, it's time to "move fast and break things," to quote Mark Zuckerberg's old motto. Of course, when you break things, you might have to fix them later – at a cost.

In software development, the term "technical debt" refers to the implied cost of making future fixes as a consequence of choosing faster, less careful solutions now. Rushing to market can mean releasing software that isn't ready, knowing that once it does hit the market, you'll find out what the bugs are and can hopefully fix them then.

However, negative news stories about generative AI tend not to be about these kinds of bugs. Instead, much of the concern is about AI systems amplifying harmful biases and stereotypes and students using AI deceptively. We hear about privacy concerns, people being fooled by misinformation, labor exploitation and fears about how quickly human jobs may be replaced, to name a few. These problems are not software glitches. Realizing that a technology reinforces oppression or bias is very different from learning that a button on a website doesn't work.

As a technology ethics educator and researcher, I have thought a lot about these kinds of "bugs." What's accruing here is not just technical debt, but ethical debt. Just as technical debt can result from limited testing during the development process, ethical debt results from not considering possible negative consequences or societal harms. And with ethical debt in particular, the people who incur it are rarely the people who pay for it in the end.

Off to the races

As soon as OpenAI's ChatGPT was released in November 2022, the starter pistol for today's AI race, I imagined the debt ledger starting to fill.

Within months, Google and Microsoft released their own generative AI programs, which seemed rushed to market in an effort to keep up. Google's stock prices fell

Paying The Price

Casey Fiesler

when its chatbot Bard confidently supplied a wrong answer during the company's own demo. One might expect Microsoft to be particularly cautious when it comes to chatbots, considering Tay, its Twitter-based bot that was almost immediately shut down in 2016 after spouting misogynist and white supremacist talking points. Yet early conversations with the AI-powered Bing left some users unsettled, and it has repeated known misinformation.

When the social debt of these rushed releases comes due, I expect that we will hear mention of unintended or unanticipated consequences. After all, even with ethical

example, and in a medical risk prediction algorithm that was being applied to around 200 million Americans. Academics and advocacy or research organizations like the Algorithmic Justice League and the Distributed AI Research Institute are doing much of this work: identifying harms after the fact. And this pattern doesn't seem likely to change if companies keep firing ethicists.

Speculating – responsibly

I sometimes describe myself as a technology optimist who thinks and prepares like a pessimist. The only way to decrease ethical

When the social debt of these rushed releases comes due, I expect that we will hear mention of unintended or unanticipated consequences. After all, even with ethical guidelines in place, it's not as if OpenAI, Microsoft or Google can see the future. How can someone know what societal problems might emerge before the technology is even fully developed?

guidelines in place, it's not as if OpenAI, Microsoft or Google can see the future. How can someone know what societal problems might emerge before the technology is even fully developed?

The root of this dilemma is uncertainty, which is a common side effect of many technological revolutions, but magnified in the case of artificial intelligence. After all, part of the point of AI is that its actions are not known in advance. AI may not be designed to produce negative consequences, but it is designed to produce the unforeseen.

However, it is disingenuous to suggest that technologists cannot accurately speculate about what many of these consequences might be. By now, there have been countless examples of how AI can reproduce bias and exacerbate social inequities, but these problems are rarely publicly identified by tech companies themselves. It was external researchers who found racial bias in widely used commercial facial analysis systems, for

debt is to take the time to think ahead about things that might go wrong – but this is not something that technologists are necessarily taught to do.

Scientist and iconic science fiction writer Isaac Asimov once said that sci-fi authors "foresee the inevitable, and although problems and catastrophes may be inevitable, solutions are not." Of course, science fiction writers do not tend to be tasked with developing these solutions – but right now, the technologists developing AI are.

So how can AI designers learn to think more like science fiction writers? One of my current research projects focuses on developing ways to support this process of ethical speculation. I don't mean designing with far-off robot wars in mind; I mean the ability to consider future consequences at all, including in the very near future.

This is a topic I've been exploring in my teaching for some time, encouraging

students to think through the ethical implications of sci-fi technology in order to prepare them to do the same with technology they might create. One exercise I developed is called the Black Mirror Writers Room, where students speculate about possible negative consequences of technology like social media algorithms and self-driving cars. Often these discussions are based on patterns from the past or the potential for bad actors.

Ph.D. candidate Shamika Klassen and I evaluated this teaching exercise in a research study and found that there are pedagogical benefits to encouraging computing students to imagine what might go wrong in the future – and then brainstorm about how we might avoid that future in the first place.

However, the purpose isn't to prepare students for those far-flung futures; it is to teach speculation as a skill that can be applied immediately. This skill is especially important for helping students imagine harm to other people, since technological harms often disproportionately impact marginalized groups that are underrepresented in computing professions. The next steps for my research are to translate these ethical speculation strategies for real-world technology design teams.

Time to hit pause?

In March 2023, an open letter with thousands of signatures advocated for pausing training AI systems more powerful than GPT-4. Unchecked, AI development "might eventually outnumber, outsmart, obsolete and replace us," or even cause a "loss of control of our civilization," its writers warned.

As critiques of the letter point out, this focus on hypothetical risks ignores actual harms happening today. Nevertheless, I think there is little disagreement among AI ethicists that AI development needs to slow down – that developers throwing up their hands and citing "unintended consequences" is not going to cut it.

We are only a few months into the "AI race" picking up significant speed, and I think it's already clear that ethical considerations are being left in the dust. But the debt will come due eventually – and history suggests that Big Tech executives and investors may not be the ones paying for it.

By arrangements with
The Conversation

FCIK Dismayed Over Stakeholder's Exclusion From SICOP/SIDCO Boards

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has conveyed its dismay over continued exclusion of stakeholders from re-constituted Boards of Directors of Jammu and Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation (SICOP) and J&K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (SIDCO).



The Boards of the two industrial related corporations were re-constituted on Tuesday under Government order No 109-(JK) IND of 2023 with 10 members each all of whom were drawn from government officials with no representatives from industrial stakeholders as it used to be a norm before 2019.

The FCIK expressed surprise that the orders were issued on the same day when the Chief Secretary in an earlier meeting had called for working in tandem by and regular interaction between industry and the government in order to address the grievances of industries in the UT.

The FCIK claimed that the apex organisation was on the board of all industrial related corporations and committees from their very inception which had yielded positive results in the working of these corporations towards development of industrial sector. While being part of these boards, FCIK would critically and objectively analyze the proposed schemes and programmes of these cor-

porations to incorporate necessary amendments in order to make these industry-friendly. "How is the subordinate staff of a senior officer expected to go against his views" asked FCIK adding that it paved way for approval of unilateral anti-industry decisions without any opposition from anywhere. FCIK has observed that most of the decisions taken in the boards without any outside stakeholders have worked in growing stress and debacle of the existing industry. One of the decisions taken was about collection of part premium with every change in the constitution of an industrial unit which only was aimed at filling the coffers of corporations ignoring the fact that these corporations were incepted basically for the growth and promotion of industry.

FCIK regretted that industries and commerce department in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir had drastically changed its vision and strategic planning process with most of its efforts and time being utilized for allurements of prospective enterprises which in turn has resulted in ignorance of existing industry with thousands of crores of investment already made in the sector in shambles.

Maruti Suzuki Planning New Plant To Cater To Domestic, Export Markets

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday said it is looking to set up a manufacturing plant with a capacity of up to 10 lakh units per annum in order to cater to the expected increase in demand from domestic as well as export markets.

The company, which has earmarked a capex of around Rs 8,000 crore for the current fiscal year, is yet to finalise the amount of the investment on the new plant and its location.

The company said its board has given in-principle approval for the creation of up to 10 lakh vehicles per year capacity in the new plant, which is expected to come up in phases depending upon the market situation.

As of March 31, 2023, MSI has a cash reserve of around Rs 45,000 crore. It had earmarked a capex of Rs 6,300 crore in FY23.

The carmaker also announced that it will be getting a "big three-row strong hybrid model" from Toyota as part of their collaboration.

In a virtual press meet after the Q4 results, Maruti Suzuki Chairman RC Bhargava said the new facility would be in addition to its upcoming manufacturing plant in Sonapat in Haryana. He noted that work on the new plant would be carried out



simultaneously with the Sonapat plant.

MSI is investing Rs 11,000 crore in the first phase of the Sonapat plant with an initial manufacturing capacity of 2.5 lakh units per annum, expected to be commissioned by 2025.

"We along with Suzuki looked at the estimated demand scenario over the next 8 years. It is expected that the Kharkhoda plant (in Sonapat) capacity will be fully utilised. So, we decided to put up one million additional capacity," Bhargava said.

He noted that the company would take an internal accrual route to fund the new investment.

When asked about the expected investment in the new plant, Bhargava said it is yet to be finalised but hinted that it could be slightly higher than

that in the Sonapat facility.

MSI's total existing production capacity is around 15 lakh units per annum in Manesar and Gurugram.

It is also the sole beneficiary of 7.5 lakh unit capacity of Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG) under a contract manufacturing agreement.

Besides, it will be getting 10 lakh capacity from Sonapat plant.

On the company's electric vehicle programme, Bhargava said the company aims to have six fully electric models in its portfolio by 2030.

"The models would largely be in the SUV category," he noted.

Bhargava noted that in order to move towards carbon neutrality, the country requires a mix of different technologies and not rely on just one kind of technology.



Stock Markets Rise For 3rd Session; Sensex Gains 169 Pts

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty extended their rally for the third straight session on Wednesday amid buying in index majors IndusInd Bank, Nestle India and HCL Tech.

However, continuous foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in global equities restricted gains in the market, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 169.87 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 60,300.58. During the day, it jumped 232.08 points or 0.38 per cent to 60,362.79.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 44.35 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 17,813.60.

"The domestic bourses mirrored the mood on Wall Street as soft economic data and underwhelming earnings dragged US equities to a weak close yesterday. However, the market gradually recovered after an uptick in US futures, with the earnings of tech companies providing support."

"Adding to investors' concerns about a possible recession, the US consumer confidence data

for April hit a nine-month low ahead of the upcoming Fed policy meeting," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

PowerGrid was the biggest gainer among the Sensex components, spurring 2.59 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Nestle, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC were the major winners.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, Reliance Industries and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest laggards, dropping up to 0.84 per cent.

"Investors are likely to have covered their positions ahead of the monthly F&O expiry on Thursday. Markets shuffling off global weakness is an indication that our fundamentals remain intact and investors are willing to stay risk-on in Indian equities."

"But ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy next month, markets may take cues from global direction to exercise caution," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Aadhaar Authentication Transactions Rise To 2.31 Billion In March



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Aadhaar holders have carried out nearly 2.31 billion authentication transactions in March 2023, underlining the growing usage of Aadhaar and the growth of the digital economy in the country, according to an official release.

The numbers in March were higher than in February when 2.26 billion authentication transactions were carried out.

"While a majority of the authentications transaction numbers were carried out by using biometric fingerprint, it is followed by demographic and OTP authentications," the release said.

Aadhaar e-KYC service continues to play a "stellar role" in banking and non-banking financial services by providing transparent and improved customer experience and facilitating ease of doing business.

More than 311.8 million e-KYC transactions were carried

out during March 2023, a rise of over 16.3 per cent against February levels.

Adoption of e-KYC has significantly reduced customer acquisition cost of entities like financial institutions, telecom service providers and others.

The cumulative number of Aadhaar e-KYC transactions so far has moved past 14.7 billion by the end March 2023.

Aadhaar saturation among adult population continues to be near universal, it said, adding that during March, over 21.47 million Aadhaars were updated following requests from the residents as against 16.8 million such updates in February 2023.

"In March 2023, 219.3 million last mile banking transactions were made possible through AePS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment System) and the network of micro ATMs," the release said noting AePS is enabling financial inclusion for those at the bottom of the income pyramid.

Hinduja Group Emerges Highest Bidder With Rs 9,650 Crore Offer For Reliance Cap In 2nd Auction

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A Hinduja Group firm on Wednesday emerged as the highest bidder with an offer of Rs 9,650 crore to take over debt-ridden Reliance Capital in the second round of auction, sources said.

The bid by IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL) is higher than Rs 8,640 crore offer made by Torrent Investments in the first round of auction held in December last year.

The other two suitors -- Torrent Investments and Oaktree -- did not participate in the second round of auction, sources said.

An e-mail sent to Hinduja Group for comment remained unanswered.

The Committee of Creditors (CoC) had set a minimum bid amount of Rs 9,500 crore for the first round and Rs 10,000 crore for the second round, with an additional Rs 250 crore for subsequent rounds.

The CoC had also put a condition that all bids must have a minimum of Rs 8,000 crore upfront cash payment,



sources said, adding, the IIHL bid of Rs 9,650 crore is an all upfront cash bid.

The second round of auction was held on Wednesday after the Supreme Court allowed the lenders to go ahead with the extended challenge mechanism in order to maximise the recovery from the sale of Reliance Capital's assets.

However, according to sources, any decision on the resolution of Reliance Capital by the CoC will be subject to the outcome of the SC's judgement in the appeal filed by Torrent Investments.

The resolution process of Reliance Capital was mired into litigation after the first round of auction.

Following the closure of first round, the Hinduja Group firm submitted the

bid post-auction date.

IIHL offered an all-cash revised bid of Rs 9,000 crore after the completion of the auction as against an offer of Rs 8,110 crore in December.

This was done even though lenders had expressed their intent to hold second round of auction. This post-auction bid is being contested by Torrent Investments in the Supreme Court as it was the highest bidder in the first round of auction.

Torrent challenged IIHL's revised bid and the lenders' decision to conduct second round of auction in NCLT Mumbai.

The NCLT ruled in favour of Torrent and the lenders of Reliance Capital challenged the order in NCLAT.

NCLAT ruled in favour of the lenders and allowed them to go for a second round of auction to maximise their recovery from the sale of Reliance Capital.

Torrent challenged the NCLAT order in the Supreme Court, which refused to stay the NCLAT order and allowed the lenders to go ahead with a second round of auction.

VC KVIB Convenes Meeting With Board Officers, Bankers



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Vice Chairperson, J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Wednesday convened an exhaustive meeting with bankers and KVIB Jammu division at JLN Udyog Bhawan.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Board besides officers from the participating banks and district officers of KVIB Jammu division.

The meeting, had detailed discussion on achievements of KVIB Jammu division for the year 2022-23 under both the schemes including Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP).

The meeting was informed that 1576 units under PMEGP and 408 units under

JKREGP were established during 2022-23 involving a margin money (subsidy) of Rs. 3722.56 lakh and Rs. 1035.56 lakh creating employment for 12608 persons and 2448 persons respectively.

Vice Chairperson applauded the role of participating banks in successful implementation of both the programmes of KVIB. She cautioned them to refrain from rejecting cases on flimsy grounds. She urged upon the bankers to give women and marginalized sections of society are given preferential treatment by processing their cases on priority.

Vice Chairperson also emphasized the importance of collective efforts by the implementing agency and banks to ensure that the benefits of employment generation programmes such as PMEGP and JKREGP reach the targeted population.

Dir Agri Inaugurates Hi-Tech Poly-House, Mushroom Units At Tangmarg

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Wednesday inaugurated a Hi-tech poly-house and two mushroom units at Rawalpora, Sub-division Tangmarg district Baramulla.

During his visit to the sub-division he took stock of the agriculture scenario in the area.

Speaking to the farmers of different areas, the sub-division Director said that the department is working on an ambitious plan of providing farmers with round the year availability of seedlings of different vegetable crops.

He said to achieve this goal the department has established hi-tech polyhouses in all the districts of Kashmir division.

Dir also highlighted the importance of integrated farming and asked the farmers to diversify their agriculture operations. He asked the concerned officers to guide the farmers during their preparation of paddy nurseries and during the pre and post harvest operations of oil seed (Mustard) crop.

He asked the farmers that the department would provide all the technical assistance to them in comprehensively performing their agriculture activities.

Later, Dir Agriculture visited some progressive agri-entrepreneurs in the area who have established their integrated farm units.

DDC Anantnag Presides Over Kisan Sampark Abhiyaan

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: District Development Commissioner Anantnag Dr Basharat Qayoom along with his team of district officers Wednesday visited the Block Shangus and preside over the weekly held Block Diwas at panchayat halqa Brariangan of shangus block.

BDC chairman Talib Hussain while presenting the developmental scenario of the area said that a lot has been done with respect to overall development of the block and more is a requirement for a developing society.

He raised some demands and issues of the area viz permanent water supply for Brariangan and adjacent areas, Digging of more borewells, augmentation of WWS lehanwan, Halan road construction, etc.

The PRI members and local auqaf representatives also spoke on the occasion and raised some local demand like Additional patwari for halqa Brariangan, issuance of ration card to new households, rationalisation of teaching staff in schools of shangus block, regular visit of agriculture, horticulture, Animal Husbandry experts for early identification of any disease besides technical guidance to farmers, scheduled power supply, Jk Bank branch, clearance of FRA cases etc. concerned sectoral heads presented detailed responses to the demands raised.



Chief Agriculture officer Anantnag Aijaz Hussain Dar apprised the DDC about the Kisan sampark Abhiyaan and said that this is a farmer orientation and skill development programme aimed at providing training to farmers about 29 projects and awareness about 16 centrally sponsored schemes at 394 Venues in 16 blocks besides displaying audio, video visuals of the project.

Through Holistic agriculture department programme participants will have the opportunity to learn about innovative farming techniques and technologies, he added.

A progressive farmer of mushroom cultivation of the area share his success story and experience and support by the agriculture department and he appealed the people to come forward and avail the benefits of schemes to become self-reliable.



17th Death Anniversary



Maulana Mustafa Hussain Ansari

MARCH 21, 1945- APRIL 27, 2006

During sixty three years of his eventful life Maulana Mustafa Hussain Ansari waged an unrelenting battle with the verbal and written word. Maulana Mustafa lent grace to the pulpit and the altar by his God-given spiritual attainments, and enriched the intellectual heritage of Kashmiris by the contributions of his flowing pen, from which coming generations will draw sustenance for ages.

AN erudite scholar, Maulana Mustafa would always stress the importance of rational thought in removing cobwebs of ignorance and modernising Muslim society. His religious insights helped many to understand the complexities of religion better. Unlike many of his contemporaries who rely heavily on arousing sentiments, Maulana Mustafa always made it a point to talk logic.

The Maulana is no longer with us today, but the seekers-after of knowledge and the spiritually-inclined will remember him for long.

Mannkibaat@100

National Conclave Explores Role Of Mann Ki Baat In Promoting Self Reliance, Nation Building

New Delhi: What is the importance of Atmanirbharta or Self-Reliance in the development of the nation? What has been the role of Mann Ki Baat in fostering citizen engagement and promoting self-reliance? The National Conclave on Mann Ki Baat @100, organized by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in New Delhi today, explored this question at a thematic session titled "Jan Samvad Se Atmanirbharta".

The session was moderated by Shradha Sharma, Indian entrepreneur and Founder & CEO of YourStory Media. The session featured Sanjeev Bhikchandani, Padma Shri awardee, entrepreneur and co-founder of Info Edge which owns naukri.com; radio jockey R J Raunac; T. V. Mohandas Pai, Padma Shri Awardee and former CFO and Board Member at Infosys; Ravi Kumar Narra, Padma Shri awardee, entrepreneur and national president of Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry; and Mohd. Abbas Bhat, head of Dal Lake lotus stem producer company, applauded by the Prime Minister in the Mann Ki Baat episode of March 2023, for creating employment for many farmers by exporting food products made from lotus stem.

Sharing her life story, Shradha Sharma said that she has told stories of 1.5 lakh startups and of Young India in the last 14 years, but that the moment of Atma Nirbharata came for her when Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in January 2019, gave her a one-hour interview. "The India that we are living today has one thing; since 2014, all of us have opportunity, and two, wherever we are from, we can say that we are no less than anyone else. Vocal for Local is something we all believe in. There is a sense of pride in ourselves today."

T. V. Mohandas Pai said that all of us must know the India story in technology. "Prime Minister Modi stood at the Red Fort in August 2015 and said Startup India, Stand up India, Digital India. What happened since then was a miracle. We are the largest software exporter in the world. 60% of global



business for software comes to India. It employs 55 lakh people. Of the ten most valuable software service companies in the world, five are Indian. Of the 32 lakh people employed in the top 10 companies, 22 lakh are Indian. We dominate this field globally. Bengaluru will export 80 billion dollars of software this year, and Bengaluru has more people working in technology than Silicon Valley."

Pai said that we have a startup industry which has grown since 2015, when Prime Minister gave the call for Startup India, Standup India. "We have 96,000 startups, next after only United States and China. These people employ 16 lakh people today. They created 500 billion dollars of value. By 2025, we hope to have 200 unicorns employing 36 lakh people or more, creating value of 1.5 trillion dollars. Bengaluru has the largest collection of human talent in the world for silicon chip design. This is only going to grow; we will have more people working in technology than the USA. We are really

Atmanirbhar in the world of innovation, in high technology. Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local are happening in the technology area, both in services and startups, and it is an exciting time for Young India."

Reflecting on why startups are important, Sanjeev Bhikchandani said that there has been a sea change in the Indian business landscape from 1984 till now. "If I look back and see which are the industry sectors and companies which created value and jobs, many of the sectors such as internet, e-commerce, IT and ITES, private TV channels and private airlines barely existed in 1984. A lot of what has happened has been led by new companies, i.e., very often startups. So, startups make a huge difference. It is startups more than established companies which generate growth and jobs. The giant companies of tomorrow are startups of today."

Bhikchandani said that while startups existed for a long time, what has happened is that it is the government

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which has really recognized the importance of startups in India's future and has taken proactive measures to encourage them.

Speaking of Mann Ki Baat, he said it is very direct, conversational and one-on-one. "You believe the PM is talking to you. He is taking stories bottom-up, of ordinary people, those who have not been glorified in the media. The first bit of Atma Nirbharata is self-belief. When you hear stories of regular people in the country doing incredible things and when they are talked about on Mann Ki Baat, it gives you belief that you too can do it."

The programme also covers the whole diverse range of topics, from culture, to food, to startups, he added. "It gives a national perspective; this is the magic of Mann Ki Baat."

Mohd. Abbas Bhat, head of Dal Lake lotus stem producer, said that the aspiration of the company is that their lotus stem reach the nook and corner of the country, and people use it.

Thanking the Prime Minister for applauding the efforts of the company in his Mann Ki Baat of March 2023, he said: "I thank the Prime Minister who spoke of our Farmer Producers' Organization; ever since he spoke of us, the demand for our lotus stem rose so much that we are now not able to meet the demand. Moreover, while we had to face lot of difficulties in getting 250 farmers to join us, since the mention by PM in Mann Ki Baat, now more than 500 farmers are willing to join us."

Noting that Mann Ki Baat is the country's most popular radio programme, R J Raunac congratulated everyone associated with the Mann Ki Baat programme for completing 100 episodes of the programme. "Wherever our radio station is there, in various regions across the country, the experience of every listener has been that the programme has inspired them very much, including to start something on their own. People have brought so many inspiring stories, and are sharing them with more and more others. I hope that Mann Ki Baat registers double century and beyond."

Ravi Kumar Narra said that there has been a clear shift in the way government approaches the welfare of SC and ST communities. "Before 2014 and after 2014, there has been a clear difference in the development of Dalit community. From 2014, a SC member gets Rs. 15 crore loan without any collateral security. Stand up India is the biggest financial inclusion programme, which provides Rs. 1 crore loan without any collateral security in any bank branch. This is very successful, leading to creation of entrepreneurs in villages as well. Another achievement is the SC ST Hub, which is leading to skill development, mentorship and provision of interest subvention, investment subsidy."

Narra said that earlier, the thinking of government and of the people did not use to match. "With Mann Ki Baat, the people and the government are thinking alike, and the policies are

reaching field level. When someone in a bank says that there is no such scheme or asks for security, people are showing the recording of Mann Ki Baat programme and asserting their rights. Thus, the programme has been instrumental in including all people, in facilitating understanding of government policies and their execution."

What makes Mann Ki Baat unique? This is what the panelists had to say.

Mohandas Pai: "Government has come close, the Prime Minister gives us hope, confidence and inspiration and new information, he showcases the culture of this great country, he shows ordinary heroes whom he respects. At Padma Shri awards, when I saw a tribal woman from Karnataka walk barefoot and receive the award from the President, I felt so proud of this country. Mann Ki Baat is a manifestation of that sentiment where every individual can aspire to reach the highest position and the country recognizes them and gives them equal opportunity."

Sanjeev Bhikchandani: "Each individual programme is a few stories, but when you add up, it is a mosaic of the story of India, and the Prime Minister tells it so well."

R J Raunac: "It is a matter of great pride that India's most-listened programme is a radio programme, the Prime Minister has chosen such a medium which can reach almost every person. When you listen to him, you do not feel that he is speaking to 140 crore people or to a group, you feel that he is speaking to you."

Mohd. Abbas Bhat: "Mann Ki Baat is such a platform where people from humble backgrounds too get an opportunity to rise up to high levels."

Ravi Kumar Narra: "The Prime Minister has captured the pulse of the people and Mann Ki Baat is a programme which unites everyone, not only culturally and religiously but administratively as well. This is going to give a very positive result in the development of our country."

The session also featured a short Q&A session.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Unveils 576

separated your own brothers from you. Come forward and say that what had happened was wrong and now we won't let it happen to anyone," he said

"Our young generation is our greatest asset and they should take the lead to build a stronger, prosperous and a more dynamic J&K," he added

Safina Baig, DDC Chairperson, Baramulla, in her address, said the Transit Accommodations will give a boost to the communal harmony and brotherhood in Kashmir.

LG Orders Campaign

H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, PDD on actions taken on the directions during the previous review meeting.

NGT Asks J&K

Forest and Environment, J & K and file an affidavit of service within one week.

The applicant in the case has invoked a notification from the "MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, which says that the Central Government notifies an area to an extent varying from zero (0) to 4.1 kilometers around the boundary of Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, in Baramulla District in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as the Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-sensitive Zone.

Pertinently, the applicant has also relied upon a letter from Wildlife Range Gulmarg addressed to the Director Tourism on the

subject of unauthorized plying of Snow bikes in Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary at Kangdori. "... due to these snow bikes the natural habitat of many wild animals is being disturbed and forcing these animals to leave their natural habitat and settle down in human habitation which leads to many man animal conflicts. In view of the above and to avoid such incidents your goodself is requested to pass directions to stop the entry of snow bikes in Gulmarg wildlife sanctuary immediately." the letter reads.

As per the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the application has been disposed of.

NIA Court Issues

special NIA Court, Jammu has issued non-bailable warrants against the militants hiding in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on the request of the police since March.

Earlier, non-bailable warrants were issued against 13 militants.

"Thirty-six individuals from Kishtwar went to Pakistan after joining terrorism over a period of time. Subsequently, two FIRs were registered against them to bring them to book," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal said.

He said while a special NIA court issued non-bailable warrants against 13 of them on March 1, a fresh non-bailable warrant was issued against the rest of the 23 militants on Tuesday.

"We want to arrest all of them and are approaching Interpol so that a Red Corner notice

is issued. The process has already been initiated and we are sure to arrange their presence in the court of law," the officer said.

He said the fresh non-bailable warrants have been issued in a case registered at police station Chatroo under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The SSP said Chief Investigation Officer, DSP Vishal Sharma approached the Special NIA Court for issuance of the warrants against the accused for their active involvement in militant activities and creating unrest in Chenab valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

"They (terrorists hiding in Pakistan) mobilised sleeper cells and pushed them into J-K in connivance with secessionist and separatist leaders for waging war against the Government of India with nefarious design of seceding Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India," he said.

He expressed hope that Pakistan will cooperate in the arrest and deportation of the militants.

"Pakistan is duty bound to extend their cooperation in accordance with international law. We are involving the Interpol to ensure the arrest of the absconders. If Pakistan fails to cooperate, it will get exposed," the officer said.

Poswal said various revenue teams have also been formed to identify the properties of the terrorists for attachment as per the law.

NIA Searches

since November 2021 after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested him for anti-national activities, they said.

The officials said a team of the agency conducted searches at the NGO's office in the Dandoosa area of the central Kashmir district.

Parvez, the programme coordinator of the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), was arrested for alleged anti-national activities such as collecting information on vital installations as well as deployment and movement of security forces and procuring secret official documents, and passing them to his Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) handlers through encrypted communication channels.

The activist was charged sheeted along with six others on May 13 last year.

Parvez, who is also the chairperson of Philippines-based Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), was formally arrested upon production in the NGO militancy-funding case on March 22.

Aspirations Of Humanity

accelerated, inclusive & sustainable growth are top priorities and the world is looking at us with a hope to deal with the challenges of Covid, Climate Change and Conflict," Sinha said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a new vision to the world that climate change cannot be fought from conference tables alone but it has to be fought from the dinner tables in every home. This will pave the way for sustainable &

inclusive development," he added.

The LG stressed upon synergy between developmental activities and environment conservation to ensure global prosperity and better quality of life for all. He said that the ecological security will lead to economic security and strengthen our social development initiatives.

"India will play the most important & constructive role for climate future and shape the action plan for mitigation, adaptation and environmental management systems. India will guide the world towards achieving the goal of environmentally sustainable development," he added

Under the leadership of PM Modi, Sinha said, India has given a new social model to the world for equitable development.

"Atma-Nirbhar Bharat, Make In India and Digital India have provided a robust framework for rapid and sustainable growth," the LG said, while underscoring the important role of premier institutions like IIM, IIT & AIIMS and the youth to provide future solutions to humanity.

He also emphasized on exchange of best practices and increased cooperation between the countries for Digitally Empowered Society and Knowledge-based Economy.

"G20 represents 60% of the world population, accounts 85% of global GDP and 75% of global trade. I am confident that India's G20 presidency will give new impetus to global relations and strengthen the spirit of "One Earth, One Family, One Future"," the LG added.

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

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

KO PODCAST

Quit International Cricket: IPL Franchises Sound Out 6 English Players With Multi-Million Pound Deal

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Owners of top IPL franchises are trying to convince as many as six premier England players to quit international cricket and take up handsome annual contracts ranging up to 5 million pounds in order to play T20 leagues round the year, the Times London reported.

Almost all the 10 IPL franchises have branched out in various leagues, including CPL (West Indies), SA T20 (South Africa), Global T20 League (UAE) and the upcoming Major League T20 in the US. The report, however, doesn't state which are the franchise that have approached and who are the players involved in the discussion.

There will also be an ambitious Saudi T20 league where some of the IPL franchises might be investing.

"The Times' report quotes: "Initial discussions have taken place after at least six English players, including some international stars, were approached by IPL franchise owners and asked whether, in principle, they would accept a deal that would make an Indian team their main employer, rather than the ECB or an



English county."

"This development follows discussions among players' unions around

the world about the potential implications of 12-month franchise contracts, which would be a significant

step towards the football model of elite players being primarily contracted to their team and released

for international duty, rather than the other way around.

"One source told The Times that contract offers could come as soon as the end of the year."

There is no doubt that T20 cricket is here to stay and T10 is also fast catching the imagination of the public.

While ICC has always thought about putting a cap on the number of leagues that an active contracted player can take part in a year, one can't rule out a possibility of a lot of young players either retiring from international cricket or giving up on central contracts to become free agents. The only hurdle in such a scenario could be 'NOC' from the respective country's cricket board.

"The probability of such a model being adopted has grown increasingly likely in recent years as some IPL franchise owners have bought stakes in several T20 tournaments in the UAE, South Africa, Caribbean – and now the United States with the new Major League Cricket venture which begins in July," the newspaper was quoted as saying.

The paper also claimed that a discussion on similar lines took

place with star Australian T20 specialists also.

"Discussions have already taken place with a number of high-profile Australian players about full-time deals but this has now been extended to English players. Contracts could be worth upwards of GBP 2 million a year and even as high as GBP 5 million – more than five times the value of the highest England central contracts."

The paper also spoke about the possibility of having partial contracts both with ECB or county and the IPL franchise, especially, the ones who play white-ball cricket.

"Reduced IPL deals – covering at least three of the rounds – would also be on offer. It is unlikely that any of England's Test stars will walk away from their central contracts in favour of a franchise contract but the sheer amount of money on offer makes that a risk in the future.

"What is more likely is that players will arrange "bespoke" deals depending on their own circumstances, which could result in them being part-contracted to their county or the ECB and part-contracted to a franchise."

Inter School Cycle Race Organised By ZPEO Bijbehara



Observer News Service

BIJBEHARA: The Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Bijbehara organised an Inter School Zonal Level Cycle on Wednesday for school students of Zone Bijbehara. The race started from Dara Shikoh Garden Bijbehara and culminated at MS Laribal (Village Laribal).

The cycle race was flagged off by the Senior Field officials of ZPEO Zone Bijbehara at 8:00 am from Dara Shikoh Garden. About 80 Cyclists from different schools of Zone Bijbehara participated in the cycle race with zeal and zest.

In U-17 age group, Yaseen Rashid of Public School Bijbehara got 1st place, Sahil Mustaq of HSS Arwani got 2nd place and Muzamil Rehman of HS HP Bagh got 3rd place.

In U-14 age group, Muneeb Ir-

shad of MS Balyar got 1st place, Aqib Ashiq of BMS HP Tawaila got 2nd Place and Ubaid Manzoor of Sir Syed Memorial School Zirpora Bijbehara got 3rd Place.

Speaking on the occasion, the field official of ZPEO Zone Bijbehara Dr. Riyaz Veeri said that sports is the powerful tool with which the drug menace can be eradicated. He said the sports activities will not only help youth to showcase their talent but will also keep them away from drugs and other such bad activities.

He further said that purpose of activities of Youth Services and Sports is to get more and more youth involved in various sports activities so that they will remain away from drug addiction.

PEM Khurshid Ahmad War along with other officials distributed the medals among the position holders of the race during the prize distribution ceremony.

Children's Sports Festival Held At BHS Akad



Observer News Service

AKAD: A Children's Sports Festival was organised at BHS Akad in District Anantnag on Wednesday under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (Samagra Shiksha).

Sports activities organised were held in different disciplines like Kabaddi, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, 7-a-side Football and 100 metre race.

In Kho-Kho, girls BMS Arighal defeated HS Akad by one set. In Kabaddi, HS Akad Blues lost to HS Akad Yellows by a close margin.

In Football, HS Akad Sir Syed

Sports defeated HS Akad Iqbal sports by one goal.

In 100 metre race, Faizan Sajad finished first followed by Muyeed Gulzar (2nd) and Mustakeem Rasool (3rd).

Principal HSS Seer and Cluster Head Arshid Ahmad, Incharge Headmistress HS Akad Zubaida Akhter, staff of HS Akad and technical staff of Youth Services and Sports Department were present on this occasion.

Principal HSS Seer felicitated the players and delivered a lecture on value of sports and games.

Sudeva Delhi To Hold Youth Team Trials In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sudeva Delhi FC is all set to hold football trials for its youth team starting this weekend. The trials will be held in the Srinagar and Sopore regions of Kashmir Valley and will be for the club's Under-13, Under-14, Under-15, Under-17 and Under-19 teams. The trials will be held in collaboration with

JKFA coaches.

The selectors, headed by the club's co-founder Anuj Gupta, travel to MET Stadium in Sopore on April 30 before heading to Srinagar on May 1 and holding the trials at Synthetic Turf TRC. For more information, interested footballers in Sopore can contact 7006061213, while players from Srinagar can contact 9796729244.

IPL 2023: RR Have Task Cut Out Against Rampaging CSK

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: Smarting from back-to-back defeats, Rajasthan Royals would hope to bounce back with a win against Chennai Super Kings in their IPL match at home on Thursday, but it will be easier said than done as the MS Dhoni-led team has been on a rampage with three victories on the trot. With their top-order comprising Ruturaj Gaikwad, Devon Conway, Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube firing together most of the time, CSK have notched up three easy wins while the Royals have lost their last two matches.

Thursday's match could turn out to be a battle between CSK's top-order batters and the world class spinners of the Royals.

Conway is the second most prolific batter so far this season with 314 runs from seven matches while a "transformed" Rahane, who hit a 71 not out off just 29 balls against Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday, has been in devastating form with 209 runs from five games, at a stupendous strike rate of 199.04, the highest among the batters.

The Royals can take a bit of solace from the fact they emerged victorious in their first meeting of this season against CSK. However, even



then CSK nearly pulled off a win as their talisman Dhoni turned the clock back with his batting, before going down by three runs in front of their home crowd.

However, things are different at the moment with Chennai registering their fifth win of the season, against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens on Sunday, to grab the top position in the standings with 10 points.

A win for CSK, at the Saiwai Man Singh Stadium on Thursday, will brighten their play-off prospects further. The Super Kings, a four-time winners, have the personnel to humble the Royals in their own backyard.

Having suffered two con-

secutive losses, the Royals will be desperate to get their campaign back on track with a clinical performance against the visitors from Chennai.

For the Royals to do well, it is imperative that the likes of Jos Buttler, Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Sanju Samson deliver with the bat and then, on a pitch that has help for the slower bowlers, hope that the seasoned spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal fire.

They may be playing at their base, but the Royals can expect plenty of home team fans at the stands rooting for CSK skipper Dhoni, who is probably appearing in his last IPL season, just like it happened in Kolkata a few days back.

With 5 Teams In European Semifinals, Italian Football Is Back

Agencies

MILAN: Italian football is back. Following years of domination by teams from Spain and England, there is a distinct Italian flavor to Europe's top club competitions this season.

Five Italian teams have qualified for the semifinals of UEFA's three competitions for the first time – more than England and Spain combined as those countries have two teams each left.

And there will definitely be an Italian team in the showpiece Champions League final – for the first time in six years – as city rivals AC Milan and Inter Milan play each other in the semis.

Juventus and Roma could both advance to the Europa League final – they face Sevilla and Bayer Leverkusen, respectively, in the semifinals – while Fiorentina plays Basel in the

A champions over the past three seasons – and there is all but certain to be a fourth this campaign.

Inter Milan ended Juventus' stranglehold on the league crown in 2021 and city rival Milan then won it last year. Napoli is now on the brink of ending a 33-year wait for the "scudetto" and could secure the title as soon as this weekend.

"Serie A is the only league in Europe where four different teams have won in the past four years: Juve, then Inter, Milan and now Napoli," De Siervo said. "That is what has led to us improving in Europe over the past four years. I hope now that it is a long-lasting result."

Napoli also had an impressive run in Europe this season, reaching the Champions League quarterfinals for the first time before being eliminated by Milan.



final four of the Europa Conference League.

"We're talking about an exceptional result, having five Italian teams in European competition has never happened before," Serie A chief executive Luigi De Siervo said. "We're convinced that this – in the year that we're selling the TV rights – will bring our football back to the top of the world: we're coming back to show ourselves for what we are. It's been a long journey, forged over time."

Italian teams have enjoyed several periods of dominance on the European stage, including during the 1980s and '90s. Between 1989 and 1998, all but one final of the Champions League – or European Cup as it was previously known – featured a team from Serie A.

In comparison, Juventus is the only team to reach the final (twice) since Inter won Italy's last title in the competition in 2010.

Only five different Italian teams have even reached European semifinals in the past decade – although Juventus and Roma reached three apiece across the competitions.

Now Serie A has a chance to replicate its feat from 1990 of having its teams win all three of UEFA's top competitions in the same season.

COMPETITIVENESS

The increased Italian success in Europe reflects the increased competitiveness of Serie A. After Juventus dominated the league for nearly a decade with nine straight titles, there have been three different Serie

WINNING MENTALITY

Roma's success in last season's Europa Conference League was the first European trophy for an Italian team since Inter won the treble of the Champions League, Serie A and the Italian Cup in 2010.

Both teams were coached by the same man: José Mourinho.

The victory also came just the year after Italy won the European Championship.

That all helped instil a belief that Italian teams could match the best in Europe.

Moreover, that belief was boosted by the rise back to the top of two of Italy's most storied clubs.

Seven-time European champion AC Milan's is back in the semifinals for the first time since it last won the Champions League in 2007. Inter had also not reached the final four since its treble-winning season.

An Italian team has never won the Europa League in its current format. Parma won it in 1999 when it was still known as the UEFA Cup. Inter finished runner-up in 2020, losing to Sevilla in the final.

ITALIAN COACHES

The Italian region of Emilia Romagna has three coaches in the Champions League semifinals, as Inter's Simone Inzaghi, Milan's Stefano Pioli and Real Madrid's Carlo Ancelotti all hail from there.

That beats the previous record of the German region of Bavaria having two coaches in the final four: Julian Nagelsmann and Thomas Tuchel. (AP)

Please Listen To Our Mann Ki Baat: Protesting Wrestlers Tell PM Modi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: "Why are you not listening to our Mann Ki Baat?" the protesting wrestlers asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and sought his time to discuss the sexual harassment allegations against his party's MP and WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

India's top wrestlers resumed their agitation against the wrestling federation's chief on Sunday, three months after they ended their sit-in protest following the formation of an oversight committee to probe into the serious allegations.

The Sports Ministry has not yet made public the findings of six-member oversight panel that submitted its report on April 5.

The wrestlers said they are surprised that PM Modi felicitates them and clicks pictures with them when they win medals but now he has turned a blind eye to their plight when they are on road, seeking justice.

"PM Modi sir talks about Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao, and listens to everyone's Mann Ki Baat. Can't he listen to our mann ki baat? He invites us to his home when we win medals and gives us a lot of respect and calls us his daughters. Today, we appeal to him that he listens to our Mann Ki Baat,"



Rio Games bronze medalist Sakshi Malik said during a media interaction.

Interestingly, Malik drew analogy with Prime Minister's popular radio programme Mann Ki Baat which is completing 100 editions and to mark the milestone, several programs are being organised by the government.

"I want to ask Smriti Irani (Union Minister) why is she silent now? It's been four days that we are sleeping on road, enduring mosquito bites. We are not being allowed (by Delhi Police) to prepare food and train, why are you silent? I just want to say that you come here, listen to us and support us," added Malik.

Malik feels may be their point is not reaching the Prime Minister. "Maybe our truth is not reaching him, so we want to meet him and let him know our issues."

An emotional World cham-

ampionship medalist Vinesh Phogat said: "we don't have the (telephone) numbers (of relevant people) by which we can reach out to him so we are appealing to PM Modi through media to raise issues. Maybe he can then listen to your cries. Our souls are almost dead, maybe he will see."

"He does his program Mann Ki Baat but has he, even for a minute given a thought to our mann ki baat, how much dilemma, does he think we face that daughters of the nation are sitting on the roads and are on the cusp of quitting wrestling by standing against a big criminal?"

Vinesh also said that they will take out a candle light march later on Wednesday evening. Tokyo Games bronze medalist Bajrang also appealed to the PM.

"These are daughters of India appealing to you, please do justice with them," he said.



Caringly yours



Make your existing health policy more comprehensive by adding



HEALTH PRIME RIDER



Preventive Health Check-up

(45+ Test Parameters at Network Centres)



24x7 Unlimited Tele-Consultation

Individual and family members



90,000+ Doctors

(35+ Specialisations for Tele-Consultation)



Rider for both Individual & Family Floater Basis*

*Based on the variant opted in your health plan

Health Prime Rider can be opted only with Bajaj Allianz Health and PA products

To know more:

Contact your nearest J&K Bank Branch

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune - 411006. IRDAI Reg No.: 113. | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | Health Prime (Rider) UIN: BAIHLIA22169V012122 | Health Prime Rider (Group) BAIHLGA22166V012122
For more details, log on to: www.bajajallianz.com or call at: Sales - 1800 209 0144 / Service - 1800 209 5858 (Toll Free No.) | For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BIAZ-O-JK-0016/25-May-22

*T&C apply

J&K Bank Ltd. is a licensed Corporate Agent [bearing License No.: CA0029] of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. [IRDA registration No. 113]. The benefits/features of products are indicative and for more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale.