www.kashmirobserver.net ● twitter.com / kashmirobserver ● facebook.com/kashmirobserver ● Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

More Women In Srinagar Grappling With Mental Health Issues: Study

Central Government's Tele MANAS Receives Over 10,000 Calls, 70 Percent Of Them From Women

Press Trust Of India

About 70 per cent of the 10,000-odd calls made to a mental healthcare call centre here were by women, with a study suggesting the digital facility has made it easy for women to talk about their issues from home without being stigmatised.

The call centre under the central government's Tele MANAS initiative was established at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Rainawari here in November last year.



Since its launch, the call centre has received more than

ren- 10,000 calls. "About 70 per han cent of those calls were from

women," Dr Arshad Hussain, a renowned psychiatrist working at the institute, said.

He said the institute conducted a study to ascertain why a majority of the distress calls were made by women.

"What could be happening is that women may be finding it easy to call from their homes and talk about their distress without being stigmatised," Hussain said.

"Recently, we had a guest faculty here. We were told that in other centres, there are more men calling. This is something which needs more research," he added. Hussain said the Tele MANAS centre aims to bridge the gap between mental health needs

and the availability of resources.
"There is a scarcity of resources the world over, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries, to actually deal with the epidemic of mental health problems," he said.

The call centre in Srinagar has 20 counsellors, mostly women, who are the first responders to distress calls.

Nashafa Firdous, one of the

counsellors at the centre, said most of the distress calls were from women, especially those from rural areas, "because it is easy for women to get counselling online without having to visit the centre".

"This is a good initiative because there is no barrier. They do not feel comfortable to reveal their identity or to show themselves up, but when they get online counselling, they feel comfortable," she said.

Asked about the nature of calls, Firdous said More on P6

a statement, the

Udhampur-based Northern

Command said, "At about

1115 hours on 04 May 2023,

an Army Aviation ALH

Dhruv helicopter on an op-

erational mission made a

precautionary landing on the banks of Marua river

in the Kishtwar region of

The pilots had reported

a technical fault to the Air

Traffic Controller (ATC) and

proceeded for a precaution-

ing ground, undergrowth

and unprepared landing

area the heliconter annar-

ently made a hard land-

ing. Immediate rescue op-

erations were launched and

Army rescue teams reached

the site," the statement said.

"Due to the undulat-

Jammu and Kashmir.'

ary landing, it said.

Army Chopper Crashes In Kishtwar,

Two Pilots Injured, Court Of Inquiry Ordered

Technician Dead

Bilawal Bhutto In India To Attend SCO Meet

Press Trust Of India

Benaulim: Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived in Goa on Thursday to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the first such high-level visit to India from the neighbouring country since 2011.

Bhutto Zardari's visit to India to attend the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting comes amid continued strain in ties between India and Pakistan on a number of issues including Islamabad's alleged support to cross-border terrorism.

People familiar with the conclave preparations said there is no plan for a bilateral meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Bhutto Zardari so far as there was no request for it from the Pakistani side.

"I am very happy to reach Goa to lead the Pakistani delegation at the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting. More on P6

POLICE SI RECRUITMENT SCAM

J&K HC Refuses Bail To Accused Officer, Son

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has rejected the bail application of a police officer and his son who were arrested by the CBI last year in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam.

Justice Mohan Lal dismissed the joint bail application moved by Assistant Sub-Inspector Ashok Kumar and his son Jaisuriya Sharma, terming it

"misconceived under law".

The police officer and his son were arrested on November 6 and 9, respectively, by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for their alleged active role in the recruitment scam and were among 33 persons charge-sheeted by the central probe agency on November 12 lest year.

November 12 last year.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the recruitment examination in March but the list of 1,200 selected candidates, along with that of 1,300 junior engineers and 1,000 finance account assistants, was cancelled

G20 Summit In Srinagar

LG Calls For Concerted Efforts To Make Event Successful

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday described G20 summits as a matter of pride for the country and impressed upon the officials of his administration to make concerted efforts to ensure successful conduct of one of the meetings in Srinagar.

"G20 is a matter of pride for the country. We should make concerted efforts to ensure successful conduct of the G20 meeting in Srinagar," Sinha said. He made these remarks while

chairing a high-level meeting to discuss preparation for the G20 meeting at Srinagar. The LG asked the departments to contribute enthusiastically to

make the historic occasion a memorable one.
India assumed the Presidency of the powerful grouping G20

India assumed the Presidency of the powerful grouping G20 from Indonesia on December 1 and is hosting about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors in multiple locations across the



country. The third G20 tourism working group meeting will be held in Srinagar between May 22-24

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

Among others, the meeting was attended by LG's Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Arvind Singh, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, ACS Home RK

Goyal, DGP Dilbag Singh, Special Secretary & Joint Secretaries from G20 Secretariat, besides other senior officers

The meeting, organized with the aim of making the upcoming event success with the cooperation of all the stakeholders, also reviewed various aspects of preparation, an official spokesperson said. More on P6

Security Bunkers Converted Into 'Smart Bunkers'

head of the G20 meeting here, Srinagar Smart City has taken up the revamping and repair of security bunkers by converting them into "smart bunkers" at different locations. A contractor assigned with the making of "smart bunkers" told a local news agency KNO that he has been allocated seven sites for the construction of smart bunkers in Srinagar city. "It is a part of the facelift and repairing of the bunkers ahead of the G20 meeting," he said, adding, "I have been assigned only seven sites." Notably, the preparations for the upcoming G20 meeting are in full swing, with authorities in the valley taking the work on a fast-track basis to ensure the completion of works before the event. The city is getting a makeover with newly-laid footpaths and realigned roads Visibly the smart bunkers consist of iron net protection with bulletproof shields inside them. The outer layer is covered with photos of tourist spots of the valley. More on P6

oads Visibly the smart bunkers consist of iron net protection with ered with photos of tourist spots of the valley. More on P6 Kashmir since 2021. The injured More on P6 Engineers and 1,000 finance a count assistants, was cancelled by the More on P6 Burn Fat, Not Fuel: 5 Off-Road Docking Stations Launched In Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: An Army helicopter

crashed after a "hard land-

ing" in a forested area in the

upper reaches of Jammu and

Kashmir's Kishtwar district

on Thursday following a technical fault, killing a tech-

nician and injuring the two

pilots on board, officials said.

The advanced light heli-

copter (ALH) Dhruv on an

operational mission came

down on the banks of a river

in Marwah area, cut off from

the district headquarters

ordered and further details

are being ascertained, the

Thursday's crash was

the fifth involving Army

helicopters in Jammu and

Army said in a statement.

A court of inquiry has been

due to heavy snow.

Cycling Reduces Travel Time, Offers Safe & Healthy Trip To Users: CEO Smart City

Majid Nabi

completed in several areas of cycles as it saves

Srinagar: Five chartered bike docking stations with the slogan 'Burn Fat, Not Fuel' were made operational on Thursday at Jhelum Riverfront in the Rajbagh area of the city, marking the first of its kind smart initiative in Kashmir under the Srinagar Smart City Project.

Smart cycling initiative, officials said, was taken in a bid to tackle overcrowding and reduce traffic mess in the congested city. Off-road bicycle routes, popping-up in several parts of Srinagar, offer cyclists a clean, healthy, and affordable ride from one station to another.

Out of the total 100 chartered docking yards, 70 have been

S H

completed in several areas of the city so far, of which 5 such points have been made active in the Rajbagh and Lal Mandi areas and the remaining 65 will be made operational soon, officials told Kashmir Observer.

They said the users could unlock the cycle by scanning a barcode before moving from station A to Station B. 30 docking stations, they said, will be made operational in Srinagar in a day or two.

Cycling, as per the rate list displayed outside River-Front Docking station is free for first 30 minutes while a user has to pay Rs 5 for 60 minutes, Rs 10 for 120 minutes, Rs 25 for 2-3 hours, Rs 50 for 3-4 hours, Rs 100 for 4-6 hours, Rs 200 for 6-8



Talking to Kashmir Observer, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Srinagar Smart City Project, Athar Amir Khan said 10 to 12 cycles will be deployed at every docking station.

"I recommend people to use

cycles as it saves time and helps them take breath in a healthy environment. Cycling as everyone knows has a lot of health benefits, besides it's cheaper and reduces travel time as well," he added.

He said chartered docking stations are coming up across Srinagar, including Boulevard Road, Airport Road, Nishat, Bemina and Khanyar area in the old city.

Khan, who also heads Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) as Commissioner, said the users need not bring back the cycle to its original track but could be dropped at the next station.

"Cycles as per the contract with the firm will be used for next ten years and extended accordingly. 100 off-road More on P6

and issued an emergency visa to attend his mother's funeral after he apologised to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for participating in an anti-government protest in London last year.

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir

National Panthers Party (JKNPP)

founder Bhim Singh's son has

been removed from a blacklist

Press Trust Of India

Ankit Love (39), who is based in London, was given a threemonth emergency visa on Thursday to attend his mother's last rites, which, according to



of Devika river in Udhampur district on Friday afternoon. "I am reaching Jammu tomor-

"I am reaching Jammu tomorrow (Friday) morning to say the final goodbye to my mother," Love told PTI on the phone from Delhi on his arrival from abroad.

him, will take place on the banks He said he is More on P6

Love Given Emergency Visa

After Apologising To PM

JKNPP Founder Bhim Singh's Son Removed

From Blacklist To Attend Mother's Funeral

LG Greets People On Buddha Purnima

ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the eve of the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima. In his message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, I extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to the people." "Lord Buddha's teachings of nonviolence, love and compassion continue to guide humanity on the path of harmonious living. His eternal message of right action and be a light unto More on P6

2 People Killed In Ramban Hotel Fire

wo people were killed and five others injured when a hotel caught fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Thursday morning, officials said. Fire occurred in Hotel Maa Shanti in Sanasar tourist place and spread fast, engulfing the entire area, they said. Fire tenders were pressed into service along with locals and police to douse off the blaze, which has been brought under control, they said. Those injured have been hospitalised. A magisterial inquiry headed by ADC Ramban has been More on P6

NIA Raids In Kishtwar, Baramulla

0

he National Investigation
Agency (NIA) on Thursday
carried out raids at several
locations in Jammu and Kashmir in
connection with separate militancy
cases. In Baramulla district of the
Valley, the NIA sleuths carried out
searches at four places in Old Town
in a case related to militancy in the
Union Territory, the officials said.
The NIA sleuths were accompanied
by police and CRPF, they said. Teams
of NIA also conducted raids and
subsequent searches at five places in
Kishtwar district, they said. More on P6

T A K E CRPF Inspector Slips To Death

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Thursday died after falling into a gorge during a cordon and search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, sources said.
CRPF Inspector Sunil Kumar slipped and fell down a mountain cliff in the Mohra Larya area of Sunderbani tehsil of the district, they said. Kumar was taken to a hospital where he was declared dead by the doctors, they said. He was part of CRPF deployed in Rajouri and Poonch after twin terrorist More on P6

Police Officer's Son Booked For Drug Peddling

police officer's son was booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) for his alleged involvement in cases of theft and drug peddling in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. He has been identified as Sunny Sharma, a resident of the Jawahar Nagar area of Rajouri, they said, adding he is the son of an assistant-sub inspector of police. The accused was repeatedly involved in theft and drug peddling cases, More on P6

Timber Smuggler Booked Under PSA

uthorities on Thursday slapped the Public Safety Act (PSA) against a notorious timber smuggler in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, officials said. Aashiq Husain Sheikh (52) alias "Aashiq Panga" of Bhaderwah town remained at large for over a decade and was booked in a dozen cases of illegal felling of trees, smuggling of timber and attacking forest department personnel, they said. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Bhaderwah, Chander Shekhar said Sheikh was involved More on P6

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

Office Of The Executive Engineer Irrigation And **Flood Control Division Srinagar**

Fax/Phone: 0194-2470119

email: exenifcdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com

Short Notice inviting e-Tender Fresh e- NIT No. 03 of 2023-24 Dated: 03/05/2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following works to be received by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Srinagar.

S.	Name of work.		,		MH of Account	Time of Completion	
No		(. in lakh)	(in .)	(in .)			contract
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
01	Temporary Restoration of damaged portion	11.40		900/=	SSCL	20 days	
	of right side of River Jhelum embankment (R/						CEE
	Wall) near Peerzoo Island. (Damages of 25thg		22800/=				DEE
	April 2023).						

Position of AAA = Under Process.

Position of TS = Under process.

Position of funds: 100% Budgetary provision

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.inas per schedule of date given below

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03.05.2023 FROM 06:00 P.M
2.	Period of downloading of bidding docu-	03.05.2023 FROM 06:00 P.M
	ments	
3.	Bid submission Start Date	03.05.2023 FROM 06:00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	09-05-2023 upto 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	10 -05-2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irri. and Flood control Divi-
		sion Srinagar.
6	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	The Successful bidder has to provide 3% of Adv. Cost as Performance Security within 7 days
		after opening of Financial Bid.

1):- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefullybefore uploaded softcopy any short fall if any found in the soft copy the tendershall be rejected 2) As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectt. Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017) -651 dtd. 07-06-2018 which reads as under:-Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of E-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who sdeclared 1st Low-

The Cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0701 –Rev. Misc) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Srinagarfailing which the tender will be rejected out rightly. The issuing date of CDR/FDR uploaded must be between issuing date to Bid Submission end date of NIT. CDR/FDR (Earnest money/Bid security) and relevant bid docur bidder before the fixation of contract.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer Irri. and F.C. Division Srinagai

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids The normal deposits to be deducted as per GFR 2017 rules from running bills to be released after total completion of the work.

5. The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.into acquaint bid submission

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1. 6.1Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 doi with black and white option

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0701-Rev.Misc) in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division

Srinagarand Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Srinagarfailing which the tender will be rejected out rightly Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. The BOQ downloaded should be inclusive of all taxes.

Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/ not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of One year besides the performance security deposited for the Price escalation and Taxes:- The %age guoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account

of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on www.jktenders.gove-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

The Bidder must have to upload (soft copies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-

Valid original Treasury Challan/Receipt (MH.0701-Revenue.Misc).

Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive EngineerIrri and F.C. Division Srinagar.

Registration Card valid & renewed for the year in which bids are invited.

Valid GSTIN Registration Certificate.

Bidder shall furnish proof of latest returns (i.e. latest clearance certificate) in form of:-GSTR-3B of the latest quarter / latest month whichever is applicable to the bidder.

(Note: The GSTR-3B Confirmation status will be checked online. ifGSTR-3B found invalid. The Card will be Barred for further tendering Process in the concerned Division) Other Relevent Documents accordingly NIT.

The lowest Tender will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tending portal before issuance of LOI or Allotment. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of the work and its surroundings before submission of hid. The Departmental material shall be supplied to the contractor as per the stock rate in vogue for financial year 2022-23. (In case of non availability of stocks in divisional

stores the contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer incharge after getting non availability certificate from Executive Engineer and shall not be entitled for any type of excessive rates on this account). 1%(One percent) Labour Cess shall be deducted at the time of payment

The work should be executed within the time limit as stipulated in the NIT.

In case if the contractor fails to execute the work as per condition and time limit prescribed in the NIT. The work shall be put to fresh tenders at his risk and cost, besides

debarring from participation in tendering process. In addition to imposition of penalty as warranted under rules.

21. The Service Tax will be deducted from the gross amount as per the rates in vogue at the time of payment

All other terms and conditions same as laid down in the PWD Form 25Double shall also remain in force. D

No. IFCDS/CS/E-NIT-03/933-53
DIPK-1147/23 Dated: 04/05/2023.

Executive Enginee Irrigation and Flood Division Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Mission Directorate J&K Skill Development Mission

48 Samander Bagh, Lal Chowk Srinagar-190001 (May to Oct)

Bikram Chowk Jammu-180004, (Nov. to April)

(Fr Bashir Ahmad)

email: office.jksdm@gmail.com_

NIT No: 4 Dated: 03-05-2023 Expression of Interest

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir Expression of Interest are invited from the qualified and experienced Companies/ Firms for Design, Development and Maintenance of Management Information System (MIS) for Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission.

The complete Eol tender document with the title of Design, Development and Maintenance of Management Information System (MIS) shall be made available to the interested qualified and experienced Companies / Firms on the website www.jktenders.gov.in.Interested bidders/ Tenderers may view / download the e-bid document and submit their e-bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below.

1.	Date of issue of tender Notice	03/05/2023 5:00PM
2.	Document download / sale start date	03/05/2023 5:00PM
3.	Date of pre bid meeting	10/05/2023 1:00PM
4.	Issuance of Corrigendum/clarifications, if any	12/05/2023 5:00 PM
5.	Start date & Time for uploading of bids	15/05/2023 2:00 PM
6.	Last date and time for uploading of bids	05/06/2023 5:00 PM
7.	Last date and time for submission of EMD and cost of Tender document	05/06/2023 5:00 PM
8.	Date and time of opening of Technical bids	08/06/2023 1:00 PM
9.	Date and time of opening of financial bids	To be announced
10.	No of covers / packets	02 Nos
11.	Bid validity days	90 days
12.	Location (works/service/ items)	Jammu/ Srinagar
13.	Cost of tender document in shape of Demand Draft	Rs 2000/- Non refundable
14.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) in the form of CDR/FDR/BG	Rs 100000/-
15.	Address for communication	As above
16.	Payment mode (online / offline)	Off line

Accounts Officer J&K Skill Development Mission

No: JKSDM/2023/216 DIPK-1139/23 Dated: 04-05-2023.

5. Mohnmnntd Ali Balti S/o Ghulam Ali Balti 7, Mohammad Ali Balti S/oFida Hussain Balti

Office of the Bilgues Jabeen Advocate J&K High Court at Srinagar Office

6 Mohammad Hussain Balti S/o Ghulam Mohammad Balti

All residents of Nilgrath Sonmarg, Ganderbal

All sons of Late Mohammad Hussain Balti

Versus

1. Bashir Ahmad Lone

in the case of: 1 Mohammad Ali Balti

2 Mohammad Hani Balti

4. Mohammad Balti S/o Ghulam Hyder Balti

3. Mohammad Halim Balti

S/o Mohammad Ramzan Ione R/o Mamer Kangan Ganderbal 2. Public at large

...Caveators

In the matter of: Caveat petition on behalf of the caveators with the prayer that in the event of any Suit/appeal or any other proceedings is tiled by non-caveators, the caveators may be given opportunity of being heard before passing of any order in ex-purtc.

May It Please Your Honour.

The caveators humbly submits as under:

That the caveators are the permanent residents of UT of J&K and are filling the instant petition for the protection of their rights.

 That the caveators are the rightful and lawful owner of a land big chunk of land measuring 29 Kanals and 7 Marlas situated Mouza Sonmarg, Ganderbal falling under Khasra Nos.710/480, and land measuring 24 Knnal under Khasra No.480min situated at Mouza Sonamarg, Gandcrbal and land measuring 5 Knnals and 7 Malras falling under Khasra

3. That the caveators apprehnd that the non-cuveator/s may file any suit/appeal or any other proceedings against the caveators and will try to interfere/grab the above said land by obtaining any order in cx-parte by filing the frivolous

proceedings against the caveators. 4. That the caveators have informed the public at large /non-caveators through publication of same in the newspaper. 5. That the caveat is supported by a duly sworn an affidavit.

In the premises, it is therefore, prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to provide an opportunity of being heard to the caveators before passing any order in ex-porte against the caveators in the event of filing of any suit/appeal or any other proceedings is filed by non-caveators against caveators. The same would he in consonance with law and justice.

Caveator through Counsel Adv. Bilgues Jabeen & Associates

Before The Hon'ble High Court Of Jmmu And Kashmir And Ladakh At Srinagar

Caveat Application No. /2023

Non-Caveators

Sonamarg Development Authority

Public At large

Chief Executive Officer,

In the case of

In the matter of: Caveat Application. May it please your Lordships,

Caveat application is respectfully submitted as under. 1. That, That in the interest of administration, the Government

has issued Outsourcing of Assets of Sonamarg Development Authority vide No. CEO/SDA/2023/192-201 dated 02-05-2023, with regard to interested parties are informed to submit applications as per the prescribed format along with DCR in the office of the Soanamarg Dev. Authority w.e.f. 02-05-2023 to 11-05-2023 upto 2.00 PM for participation n the open auction bid for Outsourcing assets of Sonamrg Development Authority. Copy of the same is annexed herewith and marked as Annexure-l.

. I ne caveator apprenends that any person may approach this Hon'ble court and consequently challenge the same on frivo-

3. That, in the eventuality of any writ petition or any other proceedings are filed against the aforesaid notice before this Hon'ble Court, the Hon'ble Court may be kind enough to provide an opportunity to Hear The Caveator Or His Counsel Before Passing Any Ex-Parte Order

Caveator through counsel Ilyas Nazir Laway Government Advocate J&K High Court, Srinagar

Before The Hqn'ble High Court Of Jammu And Kashmir And Ladakh At Srinagar

Caveat Application No. /2023

Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority

Public At large

In the case of

.Non-Caveators

In the matter of: Caveat Application. May it please your Lordships, Caveat application is respectfully submitted as under.

1. That, That in the interest of administration, the Government has issued Outsourcing of Adventure/Recreational Activities at Sonamarg vide No. CEO/SDA/2023/143-44 dated 25-04-2023, with regard to incorporation of adventure/recreational activities at Tourist resort Sonamarg. Copy of the same is annexed herewith and marked as Annexure-I.

2. The caveator apprehends that any person may approach this Hon'ble court and consequently challenge the same on frivolous grounds.

3. That, in the eventuality of any writ petition or any other proceedings are Filed against the aforesaid notice before this Hon'ble Court, the Hon'ble Court may be kind enough to provide an opportunity to hearing to the Caveator or his Counsel before passing any ex-parte order

Caveator through counsel Ilyas Nazir Laway Government Advocate J&K High Court, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I am the owner of the house located at Pazwalpora, Shalimar, Srinagar with electricity Consumer ID 0201030007059 and Installation No 0001840- R1. That I want to transfer the connection from Habibullah Mir S/O Ab Rashid Mir to my name Sajjad Haider Ansari S/o Mustafa Hussain Ansari.

Anyone having objection may file same before the concerned deptt within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Saiiad Haider Ansari Pazwalpora, Shalimar Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that I Khursheed Ahmad Pandit having MetLife Policy bearing No. 20595915 dated June 16, 2011 where in the name of my father was wrongly mentioned as Gh. Mohammad Pandit while the real and actual name of my father is Gh Ahmad Pandit and needs its correction.

If anybody has any issue regarding the same, he shall reach the office of Metlife India Insurance Co. Ltd. 2nd Floor, Hadika Building Complex, Bagat Barzulla, Srinagar.

> Khursheed Ahmad Pandit S/o Gh. Ahmad Pandit R/o Kralpora, Budgam, Kashmir J&K - 190016

Imamia Public Secondary School Meer Behri (DAL)

Run By Educational Trust Kashmir

Alamgari Bazar Zadibal Sriangar-190011

ADVERTISEMENT

Application on plain paper are invited for following posts **General Line Teacher**

Clerk Having Computer Knowledge

Qualification Graduation with Maths

Salary: Negotiable

Oualification: Graduate

Salary: Negotiable

Interested candidates are advised to drop their resume at U/s $\,$ office during office hours i.e 10 AM to 2 PM by 9th of May 2023

> ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر بااجلاس راجامحمه تشليم Bhawan Pandita D/o Omkar Nath

Panaita K/O Kialyei Kalliwall Sgr A/P Tulgz NRI Residency Pandita R/o Kralyer Rainwari Sector 45 Noida through Attorney Tawheeda D/o Gh Nabi Wani R/o Padshahi Bagh Sgr درخواست بمراداندراج كرنے تاريخ پيدائش آزال

ارخ پیرائش 13-01-1979 عارخ Bhawana Pandita اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر ميس سائل اسائله نے عدالت مذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفي بغرض اندارج کرنے تاریخ فوتکی دائر کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کوبذر بعیاشتہار مطلع کیاجا تاہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسائله منظور ہونے میں 2023-05-11 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تح برالصد2023-04-05

ازعدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر بااجلاس راجامحمہ تشکیم محرشفی نجارولد محموم الله نجارسا کنفر دوں آباد بائیاس.ب*ی*ه مالو سربینگر (سائل) **بنام** الیں۔ایم۔سیسرینگر درخواست بمراداندراج كرنے تاریخ پیدائش آزاں

زينب شفيع تاريخ پيرائش 2010-05-50 اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر مين سائل اسائله نے عدالت بذامين ايک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندارج كرنے تاریخ فو تگی وائر کی ہے۔ لہذاعوام الناس کو بذریعیا شتہار مطلع كياجا تاہے کہ

سبت درخواست سائل اسائله منظور ہونے میں 2023-05-12 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تح ريالصد2023-04-05

چيف جوڙيشل مجسٹريٹ سب جج ميونسپل سرينگر

از نیابت هرده شوره با اجلاس ارشادا حملک تضمون: درخواست بروئے چھٹی من جانب *میراحد* ملک ولد عبدا حد ملک ساکنه موضع کھمند ر يوره تخصيل كنزربار بهوله بمراد عطائيIncome Depenence Certificate منحصر آمدنی سندبرآمدنی عبدل احد ملک ولدعبدالصمد ملک ساکنه موضع کهمندربوره (متوفی (05-03-2023 اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔ معامله عنوان المضمون محكمه جل شكتي FBI- Division Tangmarg مورخه 23-03-2020 وچھٹی زیرنم بوFBID/PHE/0559مورنے23-03-23وا تولس چھٹی از دفع Sub Divisional Magistrat گلمرگ زیرنمبری SDM/G/DEP/2023/1577مورخه 2023-03-23موصول بارپورٹ نسبت منحصرآمدنی پسمنده گان آمدنی عبدلاحد ملک ولدعبدالصمد ملک ساکنه موضع تصمند رپوره مورخ23-55-00 کوموئی -اس نسبت قبل اذین ورث جائز سندز برنمبر

3 JK-REV-LHC/2023/0409 مورند2023-04- بحق وارثان جا ئز بخصيل کنزرے اجراء ہوئی ہے۔ بروئے فوتگی سنداجارہ شدہ از Block Development Officer کھمندر اپور فنگمز گئسمی عبدالا حدولدعبدالصمد ملک زیرنمبری D-2023/-05265-00020 مورند D-2023/-05265-00020 كطبعي موت كي وجه بيے فوت ہواہے متو في عبدالا حد ملك مز كو قبل از فو تگي محكمه جل شكتی ڈیژن نگمرگ بحصیت ALM کام کرتاتھا۔متوفی کی آمدنی پر بروئے وارثان جائز بذیل افراد منحصر تھے۔

زوجه متوفى 62سال گھريلو کام پسرمتوفی 37سال مزدوری 3000 آمدنی دختر متوفی 35 sal گھریلوکام

پيتا 19سال 19 6000 پيتى 13سال زيرتيايم پيتا 10سال زيرتيايم رقان مشاق

ں کےعلاہ اور کوئی افراد کنمینہ نبیں بٹلایا گیاہے ۔ لہذا زیر بحث سر نفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی تف کوکوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندرا ندرا پنااعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے

ـ میعاد گذر نے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

Youth Jumps Into Jhelum In Qamarwari, Body Retrieved

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Body of a youth, who jumped into river Jhelum near PC Depo Bund in Srinagar this afternoon, was retrieved after hours of hectic efforts by the river police.

An official said that a man from the Bharthana area jumped into the River Jhelum near PC Depo. He said following the incident, a team was immediately

rushed to the spot to launch a search and rescue operation.

The deceased, officials said. has been identified as Sajid Ahmad, a resident of Bharthana area of Srinagar.

During the search operation, the body of the youth was retrieved and was handed over to his family after legal medico formalities. Meanwhile police have taken cognizance of the incident and set investigation into motion.

MD KPDCL Holds Introductory Meeting With Officers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: The Managing Director (MD), KPDCL, Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary held an introductory appraisal meeting with the officers of the Corpora-

Various issues with regard to working of KPDCL were discussed threadbare along with the roadmap ahead for KPDCL to tread especially in view of important upcoming events like G20 Summit and Shri Amarnath Yatra 2023.

The emphasis was laid to provide uninterrupted power supply to the consumers in general, besides improving the revenue realization and ensuring efficient and timely implementation of

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

Installation of smart meters taken up by KPDCL under various schemes was another vertical discussed in the meeting and strict directions were given by MD, KP-DCL for completion of projects within prescribed deadlines.

MD, KPDCL stressed the need for improving the coordination between the field officers of KPDCL and District Administration for early redressal of public grievances with regard to power supply issues.

Meeting was attended by Chief Engineers Er. Javed Yousuf Dar, Er. Muzaffar M Shah, Er. Lateef A Shah, Technical Officer to MD, KPDCL Er. Rauf, all SEs besides Executive Engineers of KPDCL.

Director Agriculture Visits Vegetable Cluster In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Administra-

tive staff of National Insti-

tute of Technology (NIT)

Srinagar on Thursday orga-

nized a function to accord

farewell to the outgoing Di-

rector Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Se-

hgal who completed his five

tended by Registrar Prof.

Syed Kaiser Bukhari, Dep-

uty Registrar (Accounts)

Nazia Nazir, Deputy Regis-

trar (Admin) Faisal Irshad

Ganai, Asst. Registrar Di-

rector's Office and Legal.

Asst. Registrar (Admin)

Mohammad Hazik.

The function was at-

and half years tenure.

Srinagar: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited vegetable cluster Maloora of Srinagar district and took stock of the agriculture activities in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that under the holistic agriculture development program department is endeavoring for vertical expansion of vegetable cultivation and in this direction various initiatives had already been taken from January this year.

He said the establishment of hi tech poly-houses in all the districts of the valley is one such initiative

Director Agriculture said that for the early marketing season of fresh vegetables, the department and the concerned farmers are working in a coordi nated manner. He said the trials of different vegetable crops laid at different vegetable clusters are showing encouraging results.

NIT Administrative Staff Accords

Warm Send Off To Outgoing Director

Mohammad Iqbal Dar, Asst.

Registrar (Accounts) Shahid

Hamid Najar, Asst. Regis-

trar (Academic) Sheikh Fav-

az Ahmad, Asst. Registrar

S&P, Mohammad Amin, Dr.

Sved Mohsin Shabir (XEN),

Asst. Security Officer Mush-

taq Ahmad and other staff

members were present on

Prof. Sehgal expressed his

gratitude to everyone and

stated that he had joined

NIT Srinagar with a mis-

sion to enhance visibility and make it a hub of aca-

edge that I have acquired

"The skills and knowl-

demic excellence.

In his key speech,

the occasion.



Laborers busy fixing tiles on River Jhelum embankment as part of ongoing works under Srinagar Smart City Project, KO Photo, Abid Bhat

SED To Conduct Supplementary Classes For Poor Performing Students

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The School Education Department Srinagar Thursday said that it will arrange supplementary classes for the students who exhibit weak performance in any subject.

It also said there was a need in improving the learning level of the students and curbing the Indiscipline and absenteeism among the students.

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Srinagar said this in a communiqué regarding the measure to be taken for improvement in the learning level of the students and curbing the Indiscipline and absenteeism among the students The official said that achieving

academic excellence is paramount for the growth and development of students. "It not only prepares them for future success but also contributes to their personal growth," he said. It also said that academic excel-

lence cannot be achieved without reducing instances of absenteeism and promoting punctuality.

'For students who exhibit weak performance in any subject, supplementary periods must be arranged for all classes and schools, and records must be kept for verification

during my time here will

undoubtedly serve me well

in my future endeavors. I am

proud of what we have ac-

complished together at NIT

Srinagar and will always look

back on my time here with

He urged young staff

fondness," Prof. Sehgal said.

members to work with co-

ordination, integrity and ex-

tend support to each other to

make NIT Srinagar as one of

the leading engineering in-

new Director will thrive and

achieve new heights of ex-

cellence and I wish him all

the very best for the future,"

"I am confident that the

stitutes in the country.

Prof. Sehgal added.

by teams appointed by the Chief Education Officer Srinagar," the official said.

According to the official communiqué, the CEO has asked all HOIs to implement the directions effectively to enhance the effectiveness and operation of their schools.

"By reducing absenteeism and promoting punctuality, students will have access to the knowledge and resources necessary to excel in their studies." it reads.

The CEO also said it is imperative for educational institutions to take proactive measures to address issues related to absenteeism and punctuality to ensure that students have the best possible learning experience. "To optimize academic perfor-

mance and reduce incidents of truancy, all Heads of Institutions (HOls) are required to establish committees consisting of four to five members. the official said. The CEO further said that

the committees must be entrusted with the responsibility of addressing concerns related to irregular attendance and unsatisfactory academic progress

It also states that upon identifying students with inadequate attendance or performance, the committee is obligated to communicate with their guardians or parents to inform them of the situation

"HoIs are responsible for determining the number of parents or guardians to be contacted by each committee per day, based on the school's specific requirements and demands," the official said.

The CEO added that with the aid of these communities, HOIs endeavor to ensure the timely and regular attendance of all students, if any student is absent, concerted efforts must be made to bring them back to the classroom.

"Additionally, HOIs may seek the assistance of PRIs, Municipality committee members, senior citizens, or educationists in the locality to encourage students to attend school regularly and punctually," reads the communiqué.

It also said that the HOIs must issue three notices to the parents or guardians of students who cannot be persuaded to return to school by the committee.

"Records of these notifications must be kept on file as evidence of the HOIs or committees' final attempts to bring absent students back to school as per above format," it reads.

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243

PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 4:06 **ZUHR** 12:28 5:19 **ASR** 7:20 Magrib ISHA 8:51

This Day In History

- 1260 Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire
- 1494 On 2nd voyage to New World Christopher Columbus sights Jamaica, landing at Discovery Bay
- 1640 English Short Parliament rises 1646 - King Charles I surrenders in Scotland
- 1762 Russia & Prussia sign Treaty of Saint Petersburg ending the Seven Years War
- 1789 French Estates-General meets for the first time since 1614 at Versailles, summoned King Louis XVI
- 1862 French army intervenes in Puebla, Mexico: Cinco de Mayo
- 1864 Battle between Confederate & Union ships at mouth of Roanoke
- 1864 Battle of Wilderness, Virginia (Germanna Ford, Wilderness Tavern)
- 1877 Indian Wars: Sitting Bull leads his band of Lakota into Canada to avoid harassment by the United States Army under Colonel Nelson Miles
- 1920 German-Latvian peace treaty signed 1920 - Polish troops occupy Kiev
- 1921 Miniature newspaper published (Brighton Gazette 10 x 13 cm)
- 1932 Japan & China sign a peace treaty 1936 - Italian troops occupy Addis Ababa
- 1942 British assault on Diego Suarez, Madagascar
- 1942 US begins rationing sugar during WW II
- 1943 Postmaster General Frank C Walker invents Postal Zone System
- 1944 Mahatma Gandhi freed from prison 1944 - Soviet offensive against Sebastopol, Crimea
- 1945 Netherlands & Denmark liberated from Nazi control 1945 - Uprising against occupying SS troops in Prague
- 1945 World War II: Admiral Karl Dönitz, leader of Germany after Hitler's death, orders all U-boats to cease offensive operations and return to their bases
- 1948 1st squadron of jet aircraft aboard a carrier 1955 - Indian parliament accepts Hindu divorce
- 1955 US performs nuclear test at Nevada test Site
- 1955 West Germany is granted full sovereignty by its three occupying powers 1956 - World championships of judo are 1st held in
- Tokyo 1957 - Adolf Scharf elected president of Austria
- 1964 Separatists riot in Ouebec
- 1965 First large-scale US Army ground units arrive in
- South Vietnam
- 1972 Alitalia DC-8 crashes west of Palermo Sicily;
- killing 115

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Project Circle Division 1St, Srinagar

Subject: - e-Auction Notice/ sale of the marked Fruit Bearing Trees coming under the alignment of NH-444 By Pass Pulwama From Chainage Km 17.400 to Km 22.550through e-Auction on the basis of "As it is where it is" at different

Reference: - This office e-Auction Notice No.01 of 2023-24 dated 27.04.2023

Under endorsement PCD-1st/E-auction/607-615 dated: 27-04-2023.

EXTENTION NOTICE

The bid submission end date for the subject work floated for tenders vide this office e-Auction Notice No. referred to above which were scheduled on 04-05-2023 upto 1:00 Pm is here by extended and the details whereof given as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	06-05-2023upto 11.00 A.M
2	Date & time of opening of Bids	06-05-2023 at 12:00 PM in the Office of the
	(Online)	Executive Engineer R&B Project Circle Division 1st

The other terms and conditions of the afore said E-auction notice shall remain un-altered

No:869-78 DIPK-1129/23 dated: 04-05-2023

Sd/-**Executive Engineer R&B Project Circle Division 1st** Srinagar

Secy RDD Inaugurates 2-Day Training Program For Officers, Officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur today inaugurated a two-day training program on "Decentralized Planning and the processes involved in Plan Formulation" for officers and officials of the department here at Government Polytechnic College in Gogji Bagh.

Director Panchayat, Khalid Majeed, ACDs, BDOs, Panchayat Inspectors, Panchayat Accounts Assistants, and Panchayat Secreon the occasion. During the program, the Commissioner

Secretary emphasized the importance of the GPDP formulation and the participation of line departments in the Gram Sabha meetings for preparing a holistic and comprehensive developmental plan for Gram Panchayats that meets the aspirations of the locals. She also underscored the need for organizing training programs for Chief Planning Officers (CPOs) of districts so that planning is done in an efficient manner.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical

Email:midhadipora@gmail.com Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender Short Term e-NIT No. 08 of 2023-24

Irrigation Division Shadipora

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Shadipora, invites tenders by e-tendering mode in single cover system on percentage rate basis. Registered Experienced Electrical workshop holders/Firms/contractors/SSI unit holders are eligible for below mentioned work.

S. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs.)	Earnest money @2% in the shapeof CDR/FDR	Tech. Sancti on No.	Time of Completion	M.H of Account t
01	Shifting of the HT Line along with tubular poles from its existing location of Babdub Sar to Zadoo Ajas of MISD Hajin	221000.00	200.00	4420.00	50 of 05/2023	10 days	M&R
	Positio	n of fun	ds: A	vailable			

Key Dates of the Tender

The Bidding documents consisting of specifications, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) and other details can be seen / downloaded from the official website www.iktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given below:

	Submission of performance security (PS)	Executive Engineer MID Sha	
e.	Date & time of opening of Bids	18/05/2023 at 11:00 A.M in t	he Office of the
d.	Bid Submission End Date	17/05/2023	(1500 Hours
c.	Bid Submission Start Date	04/05/2023	(1100) Hours
a.	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	04/05/2023	(1100 Hours)

- 1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0701- Rev. Misc in shape of Treasury Challan/ receipt or e-Challan to be pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer Mechanical irrigation Division
- 2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days

No:MIDSh/Ts/484-88

DIPK-1125/23

dated: 04-05-2023

3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from thewebsit

Executive Enginee Mech. Irrigation Division Shadipora

From KO Archives

KU Controller Exams Dies After Fall

Observer News Service

RINAGAR- Controller of Examinations in Kashmir University Dr. Abrar Hussain Khan today reportedly fell to his death from third floor of a building during an inspection on the campus at Hazratbal here, official sources said.

Khan was inspecting (he third floor of a building, under construction and to be used as a store for examination material when he walked over a fragile fibre glass which broke down, the sources said.

They said Khan hit the cupboards before hitting the concrete floor and died on the spot. Police has taken cognizance of the incident and investigation has been initiated in this regard, a senior-police official said.

Kashmir University will remain closed for the day on Thursday to mourn the untimely death of Dr Abrar.

Dr Abrar Hussain who was professor of law had acted earlier in the capacity of Dean Faculty of Law.

He had also served the university in various other capacities including as its Registrar and Chairman Distance Education (Kashmir Observer, 05 May, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Friday | 05-05-2023

Karnataka Polls

he Congress party in its manifesto for Karnataka Assembly polls has promised to ban organizations that promote hatred among communities. And surprisingly enough, the party has made it clear that if voted to power it would ban the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's youth wing, Bajrang Dal, equating it with the banned Islamic outfit Popular Front of India (PFI). The party also pledged to repeal "anti-people laws" passed by the BJP government in the state within a year of coming to power. The party's manifesto includes five guarantees related to free electricity, financial assistance to women heads of households, food grains, unemployment benefits, and free travel for women. Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge has promised to implement these guarantees in the first cabinet meeting on the first day of government formation.

But whether such promises will help Congress win the election remains to be seen. There are indications though, that the party is poised to do well in the polls relative to the BJP. The opinion polls about election have given the party an edge over the BJP. The poll, conducted by CVoter in March, projected between 115 and 127 seats for the Congress in the 224-member assembly, with the BJP a distant second at somewhere between 68 and 80 seats. Zee News Opinion Poll, on the other hand, was favourably disposed towards the BJP. But even that ddidn't give a cake walk to the BJP, something that should be cause for concern for a party that is perceived to command a majority of support in the country.

A lot rides on the outcome of the polls in Karnataka, more so, as it would set the stage for the 2024 general elections. Around ten Assembly elections are scheduled to be held before the national polls. Among them, the elections in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telengana will be very consequential. The BJP will hope to win all of them. Should the party suffer reverses in the majority of these states, this may not bode well for its 2024 chances. But despite the reverses, it could still carry the day as happened in 2019 when the saffron party secured a landslide in general elections despite losing state polls in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

The elections in these major states represent the last chance for the opposition, especially Congress, to hurtle back into the reckoning. For now, Congress can take heart from the victory in Himachal. But a win in Karnataka could position it once again as a national party that the wider opposition respects and the BJP takes more seriously in the run up to 2024.

OTHER OPINON

Focus on Borders

efence Minister Rajnath Singh's message to his visiting Chinese counterpart General Li Shangfu. that Beijing's violation of border agreements had "eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations", has once again served as a reminder of how the two neighbours remain far apart in their assessments of what ails their relationship, and how to fix it. Thursday's talks, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers Meeting in New Delhi, saw both sides reiterate their respective stands on the border issue but no meeting of minds. The Defence Minister underlined India's position that the development of ties is premised on peace on the borders. While India has continued to convey a sense of urgency to resolve the Line of Actual Control (LAC) crisis, the Chinese Defence Minister, on the other hand, called on India to "take a long-term view" and "place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations", a divergence from India's stand that the rest of relations is predicated on peace along the LAC. Rajnath Singh conveyed to Beijing that if normalcy is to be restored in ties, disengagement in the two remaining friction points will need to be followed by de-escalation. This includes the eventual de-induction of the estimated one lakh troops from both sides that have remained deployed in forward areas for close to three years — a situation not seen along the India-China border in more than three decades.

The disengagement process has itself been long and tortuous. Over the past three years, buffer zones have been established in some of the five friction areas where the two sides disengaged. In two other areas, Demchok and Depsang, Beijing has dragged its feet, slowing down the initial momentum of the Corps Commander meetings. The 18th round, held days before the Chinese Defence Minister's arrival and after an unexplained four month-delay following the previous round, did not yield a joint statement, suggesting stark divergences remain on how to move forward. De-escalation, meanwhile, remains a far-off prospect. This new normal along the LAC, with large deployments in close proximity as well as an on-going race to build more forward infrastructure, appears here to stay, leaving the borders in what the Indian Army Chief has described as a "stable but unpredictable" state. Regardless of Beijing's wishes to downplay the seriousness of the border situation and relegate it to an "appropriate" position, managing the LAC should certainly remain the priority for both sides to prevent the recurrence of the clashes of 2020. India and China cannot restore normalcy in relations under the shadow of lingering unpredictability

The Hindu

Keeping Up: Teacher's Need to Upgrade

How can we expect the modern learner to be prepared for 21st -century careers when they are not being taught 21st century skills?

Mushtaq Ahmed Rather

kills and competencies will determine the future rather than mere possession of degrees in the 21st century and there will be intense competition between human intelligence and Artificial intelligence (AI). Traditional jobs are increasingly going off the track due to disruptive innovation and technology. The 21st century will truly be knowledge based and technology driven and teachers need to shift focus on continued skilling, reskilling and upskilling to prepare modern learners for 21st century challenges and opportunities.

Education is not static but evolves and changes with time. It should be used as a tool that will facilitate sustainable living and also provide opportunities to think critically, innovate and provide solutions towards local challenges that have global relevance.

The 21st century has necessitated a global shift towards inquiry, creativity, critical thinking, green inventions, passion, communication skills and leadership. Today's age requires learners to move away from being mere recipients of black and white information to becoming co-creaters of knowledge. The evolving global scenario fuelled by emerging technologies and changing aspirations of the modern learner has thrown new challenges and demands for the existing education system. Keeping in view the emergence of these challenges and demands, the current lot of teachers have to search new ways and means to come up to the expectations of the modern learner.

In the existing century, the focus has entirely shifted on the students, therefore, a teacher has to establish and create learning experiences in a stress free environment wherein students can analyze and explore complex real life problems with the assistance of varied resources at their disposal and devise their own innovative alternative solutions to mitigate these complexities through collaboration and innovation

In order to live up to the expectations of their students, teachers obligatorily need to have mastery of the latest teaching pedagogies that will mediate and catalyze critical and risk taking ability in students . With such mass scale transformations taking place in each and every sphere of life in the current century, it is inevitable on part of the teacher to up skill and fine polish his teaching approach . Therefore teachers need to up skill themselves on a continued basis if they have to prepare their students for tomorrow. The New Education policy (NEP) 2020 was enacted with the sole intention to address the aspirations of 21st century learners. The ultimate aim of NEP 2020, formulated after a gap of 34 years, is firmly rooted in the 21st century.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us realize the significance of life skills rather than blindly relying and acknowledging academic skills in pre-covid era. Life skills encompass a conglomerate of abilities and qualities such as critical thinking, communication skills, problem solving, adaptability, creative thinking and more. The acquisition of such life defining skills among modern learners is a distant reality unless the teachers are well versed and fully equipped. But are our teachers equipped to impart them to the modern learner? The gap between students' needs and teachers' skills is poles apart. How can we expect the modern learner to be prepared for 21st -century careers when they are not being taught 21st century skills? Our teachers need to be extensively trained and up-skilled thoroughly in domain specific knowledge, abilities and skills as well as in new pedagogical interventions. Not all of yesterday's subjects are relevant to today's students. Likewise yesterday's teaching methods, strategies and techniques will not be as effective and catalyzing with modern learners because the way modern learners receive, assimilate and process information has



66

Teachers can reflect

on their pedagogical practices through their students and colleagues. Teachers of 21st century need to do periodic skill based assessments and evaluations which will help them improve pedagogical skills as per latest trends and on desired modern learner aspirations. It will truly facilitate teachers in creating a need-based upskilling plan that can surely give vent to their teaching careers to the next level

changed altogether.

Technological advances in education have led to hybrid learning models that present an opportunity for students to skill themselves in digital education. The current blended education balances traditional teaching with digital modes, and will further pave the way for more integrated and technology led interventions. This transformation will ensure a continuity of education processes and introduce a cloud-based integrated platform that will bring all the stakeholders together.

Educational institutions across the globe have initiated creating 21st century learning environments in their premises on a mass scale and India should not lag behind in the race.

The union cabinet has approved a new scheme to transform more than 14000 schools throughout the country as lead schools to acquaint modern learners with 21st century skills and to achieve the objectives of NEP 2020 which are in sync with these skills. This centrally sponsored scheme has been launched with this intention to train teachers on the contours of innovative pedagogy, world class

infrastructure and fine handling of technological driven educational tools in selected schools. These schools will strive towards ensuring quality education and create individuals equipped with key 21st century skills. This centrally sponsored initiative will be implemented with a total project cost of 27360 crore , with 18128 crore being the central share, for ensuing five years from 2022-23 to 2026-27. In these specially designated schools teachers are expected to shift to more experiential, holistic and integrated , play or toy based , learner centered , discussion based flexible and enjoyable pedagogical approach.

Additionally, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai in collaboration with UNICEF India and SCERT Jammu and Kashmir had offered an extensive online training program on the theme "Constructive Teaching and Learning with Technology" to a selected lot of 300 teachers in first phase in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir during the academic year 2021-2022 . During this virtual training program, teachers were practically taught in a lucid manner on how to integrate technology in curriculum and pedagogy. The teachers were introduced to a newer concept of TPACK, which is a collaborative framework that integrates three core knowledge areas: technological areas, content knowledge, and pedagogical knowledge. The essence of TPACK is how these areas work together to upgrade modern learner's motivation and learning outcomes .TPACK is the assemblage of three knowledge areas which work in coordination to address modern learner's 21st century learning needs .In the virtual training program, teachers were given assignments to use technological tools to create new knowledge and how it can be replicated by teachers with their students so that they actively integrate technological tools and be co-creators of new knowledge rather than being mere passive recipients of Information and Technology tools (ICT).

On part of the teachers, reflecting on teaching practices lies at the heart of continuous professional development and stimulates self –awareness. Teachers can reflect on their pedagogical practices through their students and colleagues. Teachers of 21st century need to do periodic skill based assessments and evaluations which will help them improve pedagogical skills as per latest trends and on desired modern learner aspirations. It will truly facilitate teachers in creating a need-based upskilling plan that can surely give vent to their teaching careers to the next level.

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



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, spaceand 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

Simple Pleasures

ESPITE living in the digital age, there are some habits which many of us simply cannot give up. Preferring to read a printed book over the online version is one such. There are multiple reasons why a large swathe of Indian readers always prefer hard copy of books to online reading. Psy-

chologically, the 'ownership' factor could be a key reason, besides the nice feeling you get while touching a new book, its fragrance, pleasure of turning the pages, easy portability, leisure reading – all make a physical book comfortably win over an e-book. However splendid the cover image of an e-book may look on screen, it is

still an image rather than a physical thing. Another major disadvantage with an e-book is that you cannot look at more than one page at once. In fact, a study from West Chester University of Pennsylvania reveals that students who read on iPads had lower reading comprehension than when they read traditional printed books. A good

physical book is like a full course of a sumptuous meal, whereas an e-book is just fast food. Said the noted American novelist Harper Lee: "The book to read is not the one that thinks for you, but the one which makes you think."

 $Ranganathan\ Sivakumar\\siva19kumar@gmail.com$



BEYOND THERAPY

Clinical Psychologists as Mentors and Life Coaches for Teenagers

Wasim Kakroo

s adolescents navigate their way through the emotional, psychological, and social challenges of growing up, they need guidance and support from adults who can help them make sense of their experiences and develop the skills they need to thrive. Clinical psychologists can play a vital role in this process by serving as mentors and life coaches for teenagers. In this article, I will discuss why your teenager needs the mentorship of a clinical psychologist in today's world.

Role of Clinical Psychologists as

Clinical psychologists are experts in human behavior and mental health. They are trained during their m.phil degree at medical college, to help people understand and cope with a wide range of psychological issues, including anxiety, depression, and stress. But their role extends beyond diagnosing and treating mental health problems. Clinical psychologists can also serve as mentors to help teenagers navigate the complex social and emotional land-

scape of adolescence. One of the key ways that clinical psychologists serve as mentors is by providing a safe and non-judgmental space for teenagers to explore their feelings and experiences. Adolescents often feel overwhelmed and confused by the many changes and challenges they face during this time. They may struggle to express themselves or find it difficult to talk to their parents or peers about their concerns. A clinical psychologist can offer a confidential and supportive environment where teenagers can feel comfortable sharing their

thoughts and feelings. Through these conversations, clinical psychologists can help teenagers develop a deeper understanding of themselves and their emotions. They can help them identify patterns of behavior and thought that may be holding them back or causing them distress. They can also offer practical strategies and tools for coping with difficult situations, managing stress, and building resilience.

Another important role that clinical psychologists can play as mentors is helping teenagers develop a sense of purpose and direction. Adolescence is a time of transition and exploration, and many teenagers struggle to find their place in the world. Clinical psychologists can help teenagers clarify their values



and goals, explore their interests and passions, and identify their strengths and weaknesses. By helping teenagers develop a sense of purpose and direction, clinical psychologists can help them feel more confident and empowered as they navigate the challenges of adolescence.

Role of Clinical Psychologists as Life Coaches

In addition to serving as mentors, clinical psychologists can also serve as life coaches for teenagers. Life coaching is a process that helps individuals identify their goals and create a plan for achieving them. It differs from therapy in that it focuses on the future rather than the past and is more action-oriented.

As life coaches, clinical psychologists can help teenagers identify their strengths and weaknesses, set realistic goals, and create a plan for achieving those goals. They can help teenagers develop the skills and strategies they need to overcome obstacles, manage their time effectively, and stay motivated. They can also offer support and accountability as teenagers work towards their goals.

One of the key benefits of life coaching is that it can help teenagers develop a sense of agency and control over their lives. Adolescence is a time when many young people feel like they are at the mercy of their circumstances. They may feel like they have little control over their academic or social lives, or that their future is determined by exter-

ADOLESCENCE IS A TIME WHEN MANY YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY ARE AT THE MERCY **OF THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.** They may feel like

they have little control over their academic or social lives, or that their future is determined by external factors beyond their control. Life coaching can help teenagers develop a sense of ownership over their lives and their choices

nal factors beyond their control. Life coaching can help teenagers develop a sense of ownership over their lives and their choices. By helping them set goals and create a plan for achieving those goals, life coaching can help teenagers feel more in control of their future.

Another important benefit of life coaching is that it can help teenagers develop resilience and adaptability. Adolescence is a time of rapid change and uncertainty, and teenagers who are able to adapt to new situations and bounce back from setbacks are more likely to thrive. Life coaching can help teenagers develop the skills and mindset they need to navigate these challenges. By helping them develop a growth mindset, practice self-compassion, and learn from their failures, life

coaching can help teenagers develop the resilience and adaptability they need to succeed.

Providing a Safe and Supportive

Clinical psychologists can provide a safe and supportive environment for teenagers to discuss their concerns and issues. Often, teenagers may feel uncomfortable discussing their problems with friends or family members, and may benefit from a confidential and non-judgmental space to express their feelings. Clinical psychologists can offer this space, and can help teenagers to work through their issues and find practical solutions to their problems.

Building Healthy Relationships

Another important role of clini-

use. They can guide them on how to use social media safely and responsibly, as well as teach them how to recognize and respond to cyberbullying. They can also help teenagers develop a healthy body image and self-esteem, despite the constant barrage of unrealistic beauty standards they may see on social media.

cal psychologists as mentors and life

coaches is to help teenagers develop

healthy relationships. This involves

teaching teenagers about healthy communication, conflict resolution,

and boundary-setting, and helping

them to navigate the complexities

of peer relationships and romantic

partnerships. By developing these skills, teenagers can build stronger,

more fulfilling relationships, and

reduce their risk of experiencing

relationship-related stress, abuse

in relationships or resultant mental

Addressing the impact of social media

Social media has become an integral part of the lives of teenagers.

It has its benefits, such as connect-

ing with friends and family, but it

also has its downsides, such as in-

creased exposure to cyberbullying

and unrealistic beauty standards. Clinical psychologists can help

teenagers develop healthy habits when it comes to social media

health issues.

Educating about substance abuse

Substance abuse is a significant concern among teenagers, and clinical psychologists can play a crucial role in educating them about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. They can help teenagers understand the risks associated with substance abuse and the impact it can have on their mental and physical health, as well as their relationships and future

opportunities. Clinical psychologists can also help teenagers develop healthy coping strategies to manage stress and anxiety, which can help reduce the likelihood of turning to drugs and alcohol.

Enhanced interpersonal skills

Adolescents who receive mentorship from a clinical psychologist are more likely to develop strong interpersonal skills, including communication, empathy, and conflict resolution. These skills are essential for building healthy relationships with peers, family members, and others in their lives

Improved academic performance

Clinical psychologist's mentorship can help teenagers develop better study habits, time management skills, and self-discipline. By setting goals and developing strategies for achieving those goals, teenagers can improve their academic performance and achieve greater success in school.

Increased resilience

Adolescents who receive mentorship from a clinical psychologist are better equipped to handle the challenges and setbacks of adolescence. By learning coping strategies, practicing self-compassion, and developing a growth mindset, teenagers can develop the resilience they need to overcome obstacles and thrive in the face of adversity.

When to Seek Help for Your Teenager's **Mental Health**

It's important to recognize the signs that your teenager may be struggling with their mental health, as early intervention can be key in preventing the development of more serious mental health issues. These signs can include changes in mood or behavior, difficulty sleeping or eating, withdrawing from social activities, or expressing feelings of sadness or hopelessness. If you are concerned about your teenager's mental health, it's important to seek the advice of a mental health professional as soon as possible.

 $The \ author \ is \ a \ licensed \ clinical$ psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

In Defence Of Nostalgia

Ross Douthat

olumbia University professor Mark Lilla, a perspicacious liberal critic of the contemporary right and left, has an essay in the latest issue of Liberties Journal analysing the appeal and perils of nostalgia. The appeal is universal, he argues: Like late-middle-aged adults flipping through vacation pictures that "remind us, or delude us into thinking, that family relations were once simpler and happier than they are now," almost every society finds itself mythologising and romanticising its own origin or past. But the peril is inherent in the romance: No less than the utopian futurist, the backwardlooking romantic is tempted to violently wrench the present out of joint, to sacrifice lives and treasure on the altar of a "lost wholeness," a fantasy of never-was.

Lilla illustrates this peril with a long discussion of the role that nostalgia and imagined pasts played in the rise and shape and savagery of National Socialism in Germany. The Hitlerian politics of nostalgia wasn't confined to fantasies of Teutonic purity, he notes; the Nazis laid claim to the heritage of Greece as well, with Adolf Hitler himself "drawing a parallel between the Spartan practice of abandoning handicapped children in the wild' and his regime's "industrialisedscale eugenic cleansing." And that kind of invocation, the conscious linkage of the ancient world to the modern present, was itself an imitation of the spirit of Augustanage Rome, whose cultural project embodied most of all by Virgil, was to "redirect nostalgia for the past toward the future and raise the prospect of leapfrogging over the present to arrive at a utopian world

In this sense, Lilla argues, "the ideologies of modern fascism are all heirs to the Aeneid."

I think this is true, but the nature of its truth suggests a necessary counterpoint to Lilla's critique or maybe an extension and complication of his argument, since I doubt he would fully rule out a constructive role for nostalgia in human civilisation. Because Virgil's "Aeneid" is, after all, one of the central artistic works of Western history, and the larger Augustan Age is likewise well remembered for good reason. So the influence of both Virgil and his era runs down through time through countless channels: Renaissance art, 18thcentury poetry, early modern political theory, neoclassical architecture and more. The fascists were heirs to Augustan Rome not because of an affinity between their worldviews, but because Augustan Rome had a lot of would-be heirs.

And it had all those heirs and imitators because the phenomenon Lilla describes, the redirection of nostalgia for past greatness toward a vision of the future, is an essential part of human civilisation-building. It is not that you have the steady march of progress on the one hand and on the other, people throwing themselves backward into fantasies of lost arcadias as some kind of

escapist alternative. The relationship is much more complicated. What we think of as moral and cultural progress is often dependent on backward glances, rediscoveries and recoveries that enable escapes from the cul-de-sac of presentism, the repetitions of decadence. Or alternatively, nostalgic rediscoveries are often necessary to humanise and tame the excesses of progress, to maintain continuities that might otherwise be shattered by social or technological shifts.

The nostalgia of Victorian pastoralists like John Ruskin, whom Lilla refers to, would be an example of the second category - with Gothic-revival architecture and the Arts and Crafts movement as necessary humanising forces amid the turmoil of the new industrial society.

For an example of the first category, you could look at the Italian Renaissance, the founding of the State of Israel or the Meiji Restoration in Japan. Or for that matter, you could just look around: The American republic, our oh-so-modern and liberal home, was itself founded upon a lot of the backward-looking impulses (toward ancient Greece, toward the Hebrew Bible and the Anglo-Saxons) that Lilla identiwas a new order for the ages, but what was the Freemasonry, whose symbols decorate our legal tender, if not an example of invented tradition, no less than any Nazi myth of Aryan antiquity?

The point being, what was fundamentally wrong with the Nazis was not that they were interested in the restoration of imagined glories; it's that they were moral monsters who included mass murder among the glories of the past. Or to take Lilla's formulation about nostalgists "leapfrogging over the present to arrive at a utopian world to come," the problem there is the utopianism, the belief in a perfect society that necessarily requires the elimination of anything and anyone that doesn't fit. It's not the idea of going backward in the hopes of leapfrogging ahead, of trying to find somewhere new and different via some kind of connection with antiquity.

Which brings me around to our own era. Lilla concludes his essay with a warning that "political nostalgia" is now "filling the vacuum left by the abandonment of progressive ideologies like socialism and democratic liberalism" — with implicit references to Western populism and explicit ones to India's Hindutva movement and the civilisational ambitions of Moscow and Beijing.

But one can go back and read an exemplary Lilla essay from nine years ago, before the populist surge, when he was writing on the emptiness and willful historical

ignorance of a libertarian-inflected neoliberalism at the end of history, and gain a slightly different perspective on our situation. Here's some of what Lilla wrote then:

"Never since the end of World War II, and perhaps since the Russian Revolution, has political thinking in the West been so shallow and clueless. ..

Try to convey the grand drama of political and intellectual life from 1789 to 1989 to young students today — American, European, even Chinese students — and you are left feeling like a blind poet singing of lost Atlantis. Fascism for them is "radical evil," hence incomprehensible; how it could develop and why it appealed to millions remains a mystery. Communism, while of course it was for "many good things," makes little sense either, especially the faith that people invested in the Soviet Union. ...

Ours is a libertarian age by default: whatever ideas or beliefs or feelings muted the demand for individual autonomy in the past have atrophied.

Our libertarianism ... is supremely dogmatic, and like every dogma it sanctions ignorance about the world, and therefore blinds adherents to its effects in that world. It begins with basic liberal principles — the sanctity of the individual, the priority of freedom, distrust of public authority, tolerance — and advances no further. It has no taste for reality, no curiosity about how we got here or where we are going."

If this is really where we've ended up, then maybe it's not

quite right to say that liberal and democratic ideals have been rashly thrown over for the sake of a dangerous nostalgia. Maybe the circumstances Lilla described in 2014 made some kind of retrospective yearning or questing more or less inevitable — as a natural response to a landscape where progress seemed to have ended in boredom. repetition, intellectual sterility, liberal democracy as a dogma rather than a practice, all under the stewardship of what Lilla, then, called a leadership class of "self-satisfied abstainers removed from history."

He would draw a distinction, I suspect, between the neoliberal vapidity he described in that essay and the more robust form of democratic liberalism he posits as an alternative to nationalist nostalgia now. But maybe robustness within democratic liberalism is dependent, as the more conservative kind of liberal has long argued, on a pre-liberal inheritance for both stability and vigour, and when that inheritance is spent, liberalism alone does not suffice for its rebuilding. In which case, the quest for a usable past, the invention and reinvention of tradition, is essential to any forward-looking movement, left-wing as well as right-wing — because as much as history is subject to mythologisation and falsification, it's still more accessible than the unknown future, still the most powerful cultural material we have.

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

Will examine validity of extrajudicial divorce like 'Talaq-e-Hasan', not go into individual matrimonial disputes: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Thursday it will examine the larger constitutional issue of challenge to the validity of extrajudicial divorce like 'Talaqe-Hasan' among Muslims.

'Talaq-e-Hasan' is a form of divorce by which a man can dissolve the marriage by pronouncing the word 'talaq' once every month over a threemonth period.

Under Talaq-e-Hasan, a divorce gets formalised after the third utterance of the word 'talaq' in the third month if cohabitation has not resumed during this period. However, if cohabitation resumes after the first or second utterance of talaq, the parties are assumed to have reconciled.

A bench of Chief Justice DY

Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, which was hearing a batch of eight pleas challenging extrajudicial divorce, including one filed by Ghaziabad resident Benazeer Heena, however, said it will not go into individual matrimonial disputes.

"Since the court is seized of a constitutional challenge, it is clarified that the petitioner (Heena) and the ninth respondent (her husband), who have already approached diverse forums to address their matrimonial issues and thus any issue unrelated to the constitutional issue will not be taken on record." the bench said.

It asked advocate Kanu Agarwal, appearing for the Centre, to prepare a tabulated chart on the relief being sought in other petitions in the batch and place it before the court on the next date of hearing.

At the outset, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Heena, said at the last hearing her husband was asked to be present and now an affidavit has been filed which has all the facts related to the matrimonial dispute that needs to be struck off the record.

Advocate MR Shamshad, appearing for the husband, said the courts below have asked her to file income related documents which she has not and is espousing a personal grievance in the form of a PIL.

"Has she been given Talaq or not? If she has been given Talaq, she can very well challenge it. We have to see what the basis for the challenge is," the court said

Divan contended the matrimonial aspect is irrelevant to the constitutional issue at hand.

Shamshad said all the petitions in the batch have sought extrajudicial divorce to be held illegal, and a plea with similar prayer had earlier been rejected by the apex court.

Agarwal said the generic prayers in the pleas are regarding constitutional validity of the provisions of the 1937 Shariat Act

"We will not go into matrimonial disputes here..we are on the challenge to the extrajudicial divorces like Talaq-e-Hasan and we will look into it," the bench said.

HDFC Bank plans to expand its presence in semi-urban, rural locations

Srinagar: HDFC Bank has planned to expand its presence in the semi-urban and rural locations (SURU) of the country. As a part of this strong push, it intends to add more branches and launch customised products for this market segment.

The Bank proposes to add more than 675 branches in the current financial year in these locations to take the total number to close to 5000. As of March 31, 2023, it had 52 per cent of its 7821 branches in SURU areas.

The Bank has launched an industry first, customised programme 'Vishesh', for the SURU areas. This is a unique programme as it offers a blend of financial and wellness benefits and is tailored to provide a premium banking experience to customers in semi-urban and rural geographies.

The key features of the 'Vishesh' programme are Dedicated Personal Banker, Or Bharat

Banking Ki Pa

Spreading awares
the frauds
asics of bankin
the holes
the ched

Extendable to 8 family members, Gold loan and valuation, Daily Hospicash benefits, Annual Preventive Health Check-Up, One annual complimentary and cashless Health check-up, Unlimited Tele Health consultation and Offering a host of Agritech services.

"As a bank we believe Bharat is critical for tomorrow's India and improving rural lives is key to India becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Our unique customer engagement model and differentiated propositions for customers in semi-urban and rural geographies position the bank to play the role of an ideal partner to enrich rural lives," said Arvind Vohra, Group Head-Retail Branch Banking.

"Today, large sections of Indians living beyond the metros and Tier 1 cities seek the same standard of living and banking products/financial services as in urban India. HDFC Bank has been at the forefront when it comes to catering to this need. Launching customised products like 'Vishesh' is one more step in this direction," he added.

Apart from launching new products and services, the Bank has a unique customer engagement model, felicitating rural seniors such as sarpanches, teachers, and key officials as they play a key role in the growth and progress of villages.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

More Women In Srinagar

they are mostly regarding mental disorders, panic or anxiety attacks, depression or OCD, or issues related to those suffering bipolar

People can speak to the counsellors in three languages -- Kashmiri, Urdu and English.

The centre functions round the clock. Hussain said the Tele MANAS initiative is a game changer because a person cannot always

travel to a hospital for mental health issues.
Giving details about the operations at the centre, the psychiatrist said that if an issue is not resolved by counsellors, it is referred to the next level, where they are handled by clinical

psychologists.
If the issue is still not resolved or if some patients need medications and treatment, they are referred to psychiatrists who do the assessment and treatment over phone, he said.

Bilawal Bhutto

I expect the SCO CFM meeting to be successful," Bhutto Zardari told reporters.

Before leaving for Goa, the Pakistani foreign minister said,"My decision to attend this meeting illustrates Pakistan's strong commitment to the charter of the SCO."

"During my visit, which is focused exclusively on the SCO, I look forward to constructive discussions with my counterparts from friendly countries," he said.

The Pakistan foreign minister's visit to India is the first such trip from Islamabad since 2011. Then Pakistan foreign minister Hina Rabbani Khar visited India that year. Khar is currently serving as the minister of state for foreign

In May 2014, former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited India to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in

In December 2015, former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Pakistan, and days later Modi made a brief visit to that country.

The invitation to the Pakistan foreign min-

ister to attend the SCO meeting was sent in January, days after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered to hold bilateral talks between India and Pakistan.

In an interview with UAE-based Al Arabiya news channel, Sharif had said Pakistan has learnt its lesson after three wars with India and now it wants to live in peace with India, if "we are able to resolve our genuine problems."

However, Pakistan's Prime Minister's Office later said negotiations are not possible without India revoking its 2019 actions on Kashmir.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India in August 2019 announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation of the state into two union territories.

J&K HC Refuses

administration in July following allegations of paper leak and malpractice.

The CBI is investigating the sub-inspector recruitment scam.

"I am of the considered opinion that at this stage when the investigation is yet to be completed, it is the fittest case where bail ought not be granted and the petitioners/accused too have failed to carve out a strong case for bail in their favour," the judge said in his 10-page order on Wednesday.

Kumar and his son had sought bail from the high court after their earlier application was rejected by the chief judicial magistrate, Jammu. In their latest application, the petitioners claimed the records of the case clearly reveal that there is not an iota of evidence of their role in the leak of the question paper and that they have not committed any offence.

Senior additional advocate general and CBI counsel Monika Kohli vehemently opposed the bail plea on the grounds that they, along with other accused, have indulged in a criminal conspiracy with officials of JKSSB and M/s Merit Trac Bengaluru, the company assigned the task of conduct of written examination.

She said they are among 33 accused persons indicted in the case and have played a "key role" in the scam.

"The investigation conducted so far has revealed that M/s Merit Trac Bengaluru was awarded (the contract for) conducting the written examination for the post of sub-inspectors in J&K and during the conduct of the examination, petitioners entered into criminal conspiracy with other accused based in Haryana for leak of question papers and sale of the same to

the candidates in lieu of money.

"Petitioners/accused are highly influential persons and may influence the prosecution witnesses, whereby, the investigation may be prejudiced and more so the career of hundreds and thousands of aspirants have been marred/spoiled, the investigation is underway and more accused are likely to be arrested for sustained interrogation," Kohli said.

She said that if the petitioners are enlarged on bail it will be difficult for the investigating agency to unearth the inter-state gangs operating in several states.

Agreeing with the CBI counsel, the judge said recruitment scam in government services undermines public confidence in the system and causes grave injustice to the deserving and meritorious candidates.

Kumar is accused of arranging vehicles on March 25, 2022 for transportation of candidates, including his son, from Jammu to Karnal for providing leaked question paper in lieu of money and was in constant touch with other accused persons.

On health issues of Kumar, the judge said the administration is under legal obligation to provide all medical facilities to the petitioners in judicial custody, if required.

Security Bunkers

The task to facelift and renovate the existing security bunkers as part of beautification in the valley has been given to Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL)

Army Chopper

were evacuated to the command hospital in Udhampur, where the technician Craftsman Pabballa Anil - succumbed to his injuries, the Army said.

General Officer Commanding-in-chief of the Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi paid rich tributes to the technician.

"#LtGenUpendraDwivedi, #ArmyCdrNC & All Ranks #NorthernCommand offer tribute to supreme sacrifice of CFN (Avn Tech) Pabballa Anil, in the line of duty during operational flying of ALH MK III near #Kishtwar #JammuKashmir & offer deepest condolences to the bereaved family," the Army's Northern Command tweeted.

Pabballa Anil, 30, hailed from Rajanna Sircilla district in Telangana.

Defence sources said the condition of both the pilots was "stable".

Locals in the area rushed to the site and helped rescue the injured men. Some videos showing Kashmiri-speaking locals comforting the injured while they awaited evacuation to hospital drew praises on social media.

The wreckage of the helicopter was

The wreckage of the helicopter was found on the banks of the river, said Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmad Poswal.

He had earlier put the time of the incident at around 10.35 am.

For people in the area, helicopters are the only mode of transport during winter. Helicopters are also the only source of supplies, including rations.

There was some confusion earlier in the day over how many people were on board.

The helicopter crash in Kishtwar district was the fifth such incident in Jammu and Kashmir since 2021.

On January 25, 2021, Army helicopter Dhruv crash-landed in Kathua district's Lakhanpur near Punjab border, killing one pilot and injuring another.

On August 3, 2021, Army aviation squadron's

Rudra helicopter crashed into Ranjit Sagar Dam on Kathua-Pathankot border, killing both the pilots - Lt Col Abheet Singh and Captain Jayant Joshi. While the body of Singh was retrieved from the dam on August 15, Joshi's mortal remains were fished out on October 17.

On September 21, 2021, the Army's Cheetah helicopter crash-landed in dense forests near Patnitop in Udhampur district, killing both the pilots - Major Rohit Kumar and Major Anuj Rajput.

On March 11, 2022, the Army's Cheetah helicopter crashed in Gurez sector of north Kashmir's Bandipora district, killing its co-pilot Major Sankalp Yadav and injuring the pilot, a Lt Col-rank officer.

Love Given

happy that his apology was considered by the government and he was provided with the visa to perform the last rites of his mother, whose body is lying in a mortuary for the past week.

Earlier, Love shared a copy of his visa on Facebook with the message, "Thank you India for taking me off the blacklist so that I may go and attend my mother's funeral. God bless".

The only son of JKNPP founder Bhim Singh has apologised to Prime Minister Modi for participating in an anti-government protest in February last year that led to him being blacklisted by the High Commission.

In an open letter to the prime minister, Love said that he regrets throwing eggs and stones at the High Commission during the February 2022 protest and requested the prime minister to intervene so that he could return and perform the funeral of his mother Jay Mala (64).

Mala, a Supreme Court lawyer, died on April 26 and her body has been kept at the mortuary of Government Medical College (GMC) hospital in Jammu after Love requested it be kept there till he returns to perform the last rites.

This comes even as his relatives are engaged in a tussle to take control of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), which has been in disarray following Bhim Singh's death on May 31, 2022. Love could not attend his father's funeral as well.

"Praise Shiva! Mom, I will be there tomor-

row! Promise. Thank you Prime Minister Narendra Modi and everyone for your loving support to get me back home for my mom's funeral. Peace & #Love ProfBhim Singh," he said in another post on Facebook. According to Love, he was blacklisted by India

According to Love, he was blacklisted by India after the British police arrested him following a protest outside the Indian High Commission in London on February 14, 2022.

In the open letter to the prime minister on

Tuesday, Love said he deeply and sincerely regrets his actions and apologises for his mistake of throwing eggs and stones at the High Commission.

"I will be deeply thankful if you could kind-

ly forgive me and allow me to visit Jammu to perform the last rites of my mother -- I need to reach Jammu urgently as everyone is waiting for my arrival to perform the last rites," he said, adding it was also the wish of his mother.

Mentioning the Indian High Commission's denial of approval for his travel, he said, "I assure you that henceforth there will be no such act by me against my Nation which I love very much and am very much proud of."

Burn Fat, Not

stations with 1000 cycles will come up after every one kilometer across the city soon," CEO Smart City said.

Mehran Khan Division Head for Chartered Bikes said off-road cycling besides reducing travel time will provide a safe, healthy and congestion free trip to the cycle riders.

"A total of 100 chartered docking yards are popping up in Srinagar. 30 more stations will be made functional within the next couple of days. 1000 cycles will be made available for the consumers on these 100 docking stations across Srinagar," he said, adding, the users could unlock the cycle only after downloading chartered applications online.

Regarding per trip charges, he said the cycles have been deployed at all five stations on the riverfront and the user initially has to pay as per the usage.

LG Greets People

yourself have profoundly impacted the humanity. May this joyous festival of Buddha Purnima usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for everyone," the Lt Governor said.

2 People Killed In

ordered, they added. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has expressed grief over the loss of lives in the blaze and has conveyed his condolences and sympathies to the kin of those who have died in the accident and the injured.

"Anguished by the loss of lives due to the fire

"Anguished by the loss of lives due to the fire incident at a hotel in Sanasar. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," Sinha said

The LG spoke to the Deputy Commissioner and directed him to render all assistance to the kin of victims.

NIA Raids In

The houses of persons affiliated with proscribed outfits and those involved in militancy were searched, they added.

On Tuesday, the NIA swooped in at 12 locations in Jammu and Kashmir as part of its investigation in a Pakistan-backed militancy conspiracy case.

Out of the 12 locations, 11 were in the Kashmir Valley -- eight in Pulwama district and one each in Kulgam, Anantnag, and Budgam districts -- and one was in Poonch district of Jammu region.

CRPF Inspector

attacks in Dhangri village on January one this

Police Officer's

thereby posing a threat to peace and order, the officials said., adding his detention under the PSA was issued by the district magistrate.

Sharma did not change his behaviour in spite of being booked in several FIRs and arrested by police in these cases, they said.

The officials said twelve cases are pending

against the accused in various police stations.

As the accused's activities amounted to

As the accused's activities amounted to propagating and creating feelings of terror among communities, he was ordered to be detained under section 8 of the Public Safety Act and has been lodged in jail, they said.

Timber Smuggler

in timber smuggling for the past two decades. "He was several times summoned to Divisional Forest Office Bhaderwah and Range Office Neeru, but the notorious smuggler, also known as 'Veerappan of Bhaderwah', remained at large and never turned up. Instead, he used to intimidate the forest officials," Shekhar said. His dossier was prepared and sent to the

deputy commissioner, Doda for taking a final call. DC Vishesh Paul Mahajan passed orders for his detention under the stringent J-K Public Safety Act 1978, the DFO said.

"Accordingly, police laid multiple nakas in and around Bhadarwah Valley, beside cordon-

ing off the Halian area. Finally, the notorious smuggler was arrested late in the evening," the official said, adding the accused was shifted to District Jail, Bhaderwah.

Shekhar said some other persons from Tanta and Jaie area of Chirala Range, Rajpura Jatoota area of Bhalessa Range and Thanhala area of

Neeru Range are also indulging in timber. We

have prepared half a dozen dossiers and strict

action against them too is on the cards, he

added.
District Magistrate, Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan has imposed a ban under Section 144 of CrPC on sale, purchase and use of portable chain saw (mechanical cutters) in Doda.



Passport Office To Hold Special Drive For Nominated Govt Officials

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Passport Office Srinagar is organising a Special drive on Saturday for government officers and officials deputed for duties for Hajj- 2023

Regional passport officer Kashmir and Ladakh, Davinder Kumar said that applicants applying for official passports nominated for Hajj deputation 2023 are requested to attend Regional Passport Office Srinagar on May 06 (Saturday) to process

their Passport applications. Applicants applying for Official Passport are requested to bring all the requisite original documents & photocopies thereof with them on Saturday, he said.

This special drive is only meant for the government Officers/Officials, who have been nominated on deputation to perform their duties during Hajj 2023, he said, adding that the drive is not for the general public. (KDC)

J&K State Taxes Department Bags SKOCH Award 2023

Dept Honoured In Finance Silver Category For The Successful Implementation Of GST

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The State Taxes Department of Government of Jammu and Kashmir has bagged the SKOCH Award 2023 in Finance Silver category for the successful implementation of GST.

The award is a recognition for the State Taxes Department and the taxpayers who have been an integral part in the implementation of the GST across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Commissioner State Taxes ,Dr. Rashmi Singh highlighted the achievements of department and the various innovative measures taken by Additional Commissioner Kashmir Shakeel Maqbool, Additional Commissioner Jammu, Namrita Dogra; Additional commissioner Tax Planning J&K, Ankita Kar, and efforts put by all the officers and officials of the State Taxes Department, J&K for translating the concept of One Nation One Tax of GST regime into practical action and for rooting implementation of GST in a pragmatic way.

During the award process, the department first got order of merit certificate based on its first round of presentation and thereafter final judging was done on final presentation delivered today by Commissioner with queries responded to by both the

Additional Commissioners. The innovative strategies applied by the department for outreach and awareness were appreciated by the forum besides approach of State taxes department in combining a promotive approach along with preventive and bringing better convergence of all stakeholders that was highly applauded.

Pertinent to mention, the SKOCH Awards 2023 recognized outstanding initiatives and efforts in the fields of governance, finance, health, education, and other domains.

The SKOCH Awards have become an annual event which honours individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the development of India through innovative and sustainable solutions. The awards aim to encourage the spread of best practices, promote the culture of innovation, and recognize excellence in governance.

This year, the Skoch Awards recognized several noteworthy initiatives, including those aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure, promoting financial inclusion, empowering women, enhancing digital literacy, and fostering sustainable agriculture, who have worked tirelessly to bring about positive change in their communities.

Ghulam Nabi Azad Calls On LG



SRINAGAR: Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Chief Minister of J&K and Chairman, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bha-

Azad discussed with the Lt Governor various important matters with regard to the development of Jammu Kashmir and welfare of the people.

CUK's DCJ Observes World Press Freedom Day

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Department of Convergent Journalism (DCJ), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) observed the "World Press Freedom Day" by organising a lecture on "New Media and Standalone Journalism," by Prof. Dev Vrat Singh, former Head & Dean, Deptt of Mass Communication, School of Mass Communication and Media Technologies, Central University of Jharkhand, a spokesperson said Thursday

Addressing the participants comprising the faculty members and the students, Prof. Dev Vrat Singh, said, the occasion emphasizes the importance of unrestricted journalism and advocates for the fundamental right of freedom of speech.

He said the day serves as a reminder of the critical role that journalists play in holding the powerful accountable and ensuring that the masses have access to impartial information. In his presentation, the speaker discussed changes in journalism in the light of Information Technology and highlighted the significant role played by the social media platforms including Facebook, twitter, Instagram and YouTube in highlighting the public issues instantly.

He, however maintained, that the news groups on the social media platforms should necessarily get the official version, before uploading the news content.

"There have been several instances wherein the credibility of the social media news groups has taken a hit as they failed to follow the ethics and principles of journalism in letter and spirit," he said. After the address, the speaker also interacted with the faculty and staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean Academic Affairs and Dean School of Media Studies, Prof. Shahid Rasool, described media as an important pillar of democracy and said the day is being observed to emphasise the value of press freedom and the difficulties faced by journalists in their work.

"The purpose of the Day is to raise awareness about press freedom, the necessity of defending journalists' rights, and the need to support independent, free media," he said. He further added that the freedom of speech should not be misused by anyone for their vested

Head DCJ, Dr. Arif Nazir Zargar, who conducted the proceedings, said, World Press Freedom Day serves as a reminder of the significance of the right to freedom of speech, which is a basic human right recognised in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He said the theme for the year 2023 is "Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights." Sr Asst Prof. Dr John Babu Koyye, proposed the vote of thanks.

2 Militants Killed In **Baramulla: Police**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two militants were killed in an encounter with government forces in the Baramulla district of North Kashmir on Thursday, police said.

Acting on specific input about the presence of militants in the Wanigam Payeen Kreeri area of Baramulla district in north Kashmir, government forces launched a cordon and search operation there early Thursday morning, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants fired upon a search party of the forces, who retaliated.

In the exchange of firing, two militants were killed, the

Policeman Injured In Anantnag Attack

SRINAGAR: A policeman was injured after militants opened fire at security forces in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said.

Militants attacked a security forces' party in the Bijbehara area of the south Kashmir district in the evening, they said. The officials said a policeman received minor injuries

while taking cover, adding he was shifted to a hospital. The area has been cordoned off and a hunt launched to nab the attackers, they said.

He identified the slain militants as Shakir Majid Najar & Hanan Ahmad Seh from Shopian district. Both joined militancy in the month of March 2023.

materials. Incriminating arms and ammunition, including an AK 47 rifle and a pistol, were recovered from the site of the encounter, he said.

This is the second encounter in the last 24 hours in the Valley after a brief lull.

Two militants were killed when encounter took place after the security forces foiled an infiltration bid near the Line of Control (LoC) in Machil sector of Kupwara district on

Won't Allow Enemy To Disturb Peace In Valley: Army

'Troops Braving Sub-Zero Temperature Stood Under Open Sky For 48 Hours To Eliminate Infiltrators'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Following the killing of two militants in Machil sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, Army on Thursday said that they are ready to foil any attempt made from across the border to push infiltrators into the Valley to disturb peace.

Addressing a press conference at Z Gali, Brigadier Vinod Singh Negi said that operation in Machil sector on May 3 was conducted successfully leading to elimination of two infiltrators.

He said that intelligence agencies were regularly receiving inputs about possible infiltration. "It was learnt that infiltrators will be pushed from across the border. After inputs by the police, a high alert was sounded on May 01." he said.

additional ambushes were deployed at possible target places and a special operation group of J&K police was also involved in this operation. The Brigadier also said that

the operation was conducted under challenging conditions as troops braved cold weather conditions and low visibility. "Braving continuous snow,

rain, overflow of water channels and challenging atmosphere, the operation was conducted successfully. Brave troops remained under open sky for more than 48 hours waiting for the infiltrators." he said

The Brigadier said that on May 03 an ambush spotted and killed two infiltrators. "They were fired at and two of them were killed. Entire area was searched and war like stores along with eatables He said that following inputs with Pakistan markings were

recovered."

He added that regularly efforts are being made from the other side of the border to disturb peace here. "All such efforts have been foiled. We are fully alert and every infiltration will be foiled," he said while praising the troops deployed at forward areas.

Meanwhile, SSP Kupwara while addressing the press conference said that they will continue to foil any attempts of the enemy. "Alert troops are deployed at LoC. We continue to work jointly with the army and No one can cross the LoC and disturb peace here," he said

Two militants were killed in an encounter in Machil sector on Wednesday as security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Kupwara district—(KNO)

Kupwara Admin Ropes In Clergy In Its War Against Drugs

Ulemas Conference Held For Sanitization, Spreading Awareness

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The District Administration Kupwara has roped in different religious leaders, Ulemas of Masjids and other religious institutions of Kupwara district to spread awareness at grass roots level about the negative impact of drug abuse in the society.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray a Conference of Ulemas, Imams (religious leaders) was held Thursday at the conference Hall of DC Office complex Kupwara

The Well attended Conference was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gh. Nabi Bhat.

Addressing the conference, ADC appealed to religious leaders, Ulemas and Imams to use their voluntary services for spreading awareness about drug abuse and its consequences in

He appealed to Molvis to aware people to eradicate the drug menace and deliver the sermons particularly on Fridays and after every prayer so that awareness about negative effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking menace is generated and spread at the ground level and Drug Addict Patients are properly identified, treated and rehabilitated.

ADC said that the District Administration is focusing on a multi-pronged strategy to combat menace of drug abuse in Kupwara district. Police has launched a massive crackdown on drug peddlers, drug traffickers to break the supply chain of drugs and District Administration is counseling, treating and rehabilitating the drug abuse victims.

Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Kupwara on the occasion said that Drug-Free-Kupwara is a challenge in which every individual has to play his or her vital role. Raising concerns on the alarming situation in

substance abuse, ACR Kupwara said that Kashmir Valley is slowly becoming India's drug hub. A recent study has revealed that J&K is currently at the number two position among the top drug abuser states in the country. Several Ulemas and Imams

also expressed their concern over the rising drug abuse and its consequences. They reaffirmed that they will play their role in disseminating awareness to people about negative impacts from the podiums of Masjids and other religious places, so that youth are safeguarded from dangerous exposure to different kinds of drug abuse.

While welcoming the District Administration's efforts to invite them for this noble cause, different Religious Leaders said that they are ready to help the District Administration to eradicate this menace and make the Kupwara drug-addiction and drug trafficking free.



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

RE-TENDERS Stage contract Civil and Plumbing works (2022-23) at IUST campus, Awantipora: The work contract Civil and Plumbing works (2023-24) at IUST campus, Awantipora" published vide No IUST/EW/23/TEND/SCP/08 Dated: - 03-04-2023 is Re-tendered.

ENIT No & Date Class of Contract No: IUST/EW/23/TEND/SCP/08A; Date: 04-05-2023 Providing and Fixing of Iron Grill for Windows & Collapsible steel Shutter for Main Doors in Indus Hostel at IUST: The work "Providing and Fixing of Iron Grill for Windows & Collapsible steel Shutter for Main Doors in Indus Hostel at IUST Campus" published vide E-NIT No:

IUST/EW/23/TEND/IHG/01 Dated: - 09-01-2023 & Re-tendered IUST/EW/23/TEND/IHG/01A Dated: - 15-02-2023 is again Re-tendered. **ENIT No & Date** "B,C & D" Land Development works at IUST Campus-II: The work "Land Development works at Campus-II Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora" published vide E-NIT No:

IUST/EW/23/TEND/LD/04A Dated: - 02-03-2023 is again Re-tendered. **ENIT No & Date** No: IUST/EW/23/TEND/LD/04B; Date: 04-05-2023 The rest of the terms and conditions remain same as per the Tender Documents.

Bid submission Start Date: 04-05-2022 Bid submission End Date: 10-05-2022 upto 6:00 pm Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy): 11-05-2022 (From 10:00 AM Up to 4:00 PM) Bids shall be opened at IUST on 12-05-2023.

IUST/EW/23/TEND/LD/04

Tender document can be downloaded from website: (https://jktenders.gov.in.) Detailed Re-Tender Notices are available on university website www.iust.ac.in

Dated: - 15-02-2023 & Re-tendered vide E-NIT No:

Muslims In Handwara Join KPs To Celebrate **Ganesh Chaturthi**

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri Pandits in north Kashmir's Handwara sub-division Tuesday celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with the active support from the local

Muslim community.

Ganesh Chaturthi is a Hindu festival commemorating the birth of Hindu god Ganeesha. The festival is marked by the installation of Ganesha's clay idols. On this day Hindus seek his blessings given that Ganesha is known as god of wealth, sciences, knowledge, wisdom and prosperity.

Vice President Sanathan Dharam, Surinder said that this occasion is celebrated every year and special prayers are held. "On this special occasion, we also held fist prayers at Razdan Mandir which has been renovated. The religious idol installed there was specially imported from Jaipur," he said.

"People have been very supportive here. Even before the migration they would join us in numbers to take out the rally. They would even offer basil water, fruits and many other things to us," he said. "Brotherhood

between the pandit and Muslim communities here is exemplary. People here have always been very cooperative and supportive in every manner."

About the support from administration, he said that they have provided all the basic immediate requirements here. Also, he said the army has been very supportive.

Aijaz Ahmad, a local, said that everyone here is happy with seeing pundits celebrating their day with brotherhood and harmony. "Last year people from both pandit and Muslims communities together took out a rally. We welcomed them wholeheartedly. This will have a greater impact across the region, encouraging everyone to live together," he said.

He also said that Kashmiris are incomplete without pandits.

Ghulam Mohiuddin another local said that both pandits and muslims brothers and everyone are happy with the reunion. "People have changed, Kashmir has changed for good. We want them to live with us. Everyone has come here to welcome them. Locals in numbers have joined them to celebrate this occasion," he said—(KNO)

AMARNATH YATRA

DC Bandipora Visits Shadipora Transit Camp



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed visited Yatra Transit Camp at Shadipora Sumbal to review the arrangements and other facilities for pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2023, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

Dr. Owais, on the occasion, inspected the upgraded facilities for the convenience of the stay of yatries during the SAJY-2023.

The DC was informed that all necessary arrangements, including facilities of drinking Yatra Transit Camp have been put in advance besides the deployment of sufficient staff at the camp. Dr. Owais also inspected

other completed works at the transit camp, including langar facility, prefabricated huts, etc. and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements put in place. He stressed upon the con-

cerned to ensure cleanliness, sanitation, hygiene, and medical facilities at transit camps round the clock. Dr Owais directed the con-

cerned agencies for macadamization of the inner links with water and electricity, etc. at the camp timely.

SKUAST-K Holds Counselling-Cum-Motivational Session At Wadura, Campus

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: One day counselling session-cum motivational speech on new age management was held at Faculty of Agriculture Wadura on Thursday.

The event was organized under the aegis of IDP-NAHEP by Career Counselling & Placement Cell, FoA, Wadura. motivational Renowned

speaker Mr. S. N. Tripathi (IAS) 1985 batch, former Special Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, Secretary Ministry of Parliamentary affairs, former Director General IIPA was the chief Guest and speaker on the occasion.

He motivated the students to learn how to overcome challenges/hurdles and shared secrets of success in achieving prosperity/high living standards. He advocated infusing investments in education particularly focusing on learning of soft and technical skills in addition of degrees. Event was attended by all the Heads of Divisions, Faculty members and PhD/PG/ UG/ UG students of this Faculty.

A plantation drive was also organized on the side-lines of the event. Prof. Tariq Raja Head, Division of Statistics welcomed the Guest and Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K, Wadura presented vote of thanks.

Messi Receives Offer From



DYSS Holds Para Sports Events Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of Para Sports Week celebration, which began on May 2, 2023, the Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) offices across Kashmir Valley organised various sports events for speciallyabled persons on Thursday.

The events were held at Srinagar, Sopore, Anantnag. At Abhinandan Home, Solina, Srinagar, more than 150 students participated in different sports events which included Volleyball, Chess, Carrom and recreational games.

The activities are being conducted by the Zonal Physical

Education officers of Zone Batamaloo and Amirakadal.

At Anantnag, sports events for specially-abled students were held for ZPEO Zone Bidder and Vailoo at HSS Develgam. Competitions in Carrom, Chess, Tug of War and Rope Skipping were conducted for both boys and girls, in which 52 students participated.

In Zone Baramulla and Zone Sopore, sports events in Carrom, Mass PT, Self Defence, Tug of War, Sack Race, Badminton, Seerat Conference and recreational activities were conducted for specially abled children. More than 100 students participated on day two of the event.

Inter-School Sports Events Organised At Pulwama



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Zonal Level Inter-School Competitions for boys and girls of all age groups in the disciplines of Carrom, Chess and Table Tennis began on Thursday at Hockey Turf, Government Boys Higher Secondary Pulwama.

A total of 300 participants, 109 boys and 200 girls drawn from various educational institutions of the district participated in the competition.

On the occasion, Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, Kashmir, Waseem Raja was the chief guest.

The Joint Director interacted with the participants and said that the students of Pulwama are talented and can easily compete in all sports activities.

The competition was organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Pulwama under the patronage of Joint Director Youth Services, Kashmir.

IPL: Can RR Throw GT Off Their Perch?



Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: Gujarat Titans will be eager to move on from their underwhelming batting display when they take on an inconsistent Rajasthan Royals, which will challenge the Hardik Pandya-led side for the top spot, in the Indian Premier League in Jaipur on Friday.

Both teams are coming off losses and will look to get back to winning ways.

Gujarat Titans are perched atop the points table with 12 points despite their five-run loss to Delhi Capitals, while the Royals are on the fourth spot and have 10 points.

The Sanju Samson-led side has ample talent but has been unable to hold on to a winning run recently. Rajasthan have lost three games and won as many in their last six fixtures.

In their last match against

Mumbai Indians, the muchfeared bowling department failed to defend 212.

Pace spearhead Trent Boult. all-rounder Jason Holder, spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Sen all leaked runs. They would hope for a better show at home on Friday.

The Royals can take solace from the fact that they emerged victorious earlier in the season against GT.

Rajasthan have the firepower in their batting line-up to pile up runs. Young Yashasvi Jaiswal is enjoying a fine run but the team needs the trio of Jos Buttler, Sanju Samson and Shimron Hetmyer to fire. They will have their task cut out when they are up against the potent GT bowling attack, led by Mohammed Shami and the wily Rashid Khan.

A win for Rajasthan, who have a Net Run Rate of +0.800,

will catapult them to the top of the table.

The Titans, on the other hand, have to get over their lacklustre batting display against the Capitals where they failed to chase down 130.

It was a day when the likes of in-form Shubman Gill and David Miller failed and skipper Pandya, who anchored the innings, took the onus of the loss on himself as he failed to accelerate towards the end.

The bowling, however, was on point against the Capitals. Veteran Shami continues to make it look so easy with subtle movement of his fingers around the seam at the delivery. He sizzled with the new ball and will look for an encore.

The spin department is led by the ever-reliable Rashid, who has another Afghani Noor Ahmad to complement him. Match starts 7.30 IST.

Saudi Club Al-Hilal: Source **Agencies** Lionel Messi has received a formal offer to join Saudi

Arabian club Al-Hilal next season, a source close to Argentina's World Cup-winning captain told Reuters on Thursday.

The offer from the Saudi club is the only one Messi has received so far, the source added. Argentine media have reported that the offer is worth around \$400 million a year. Al-Hilal did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside of normal business hours.

The 35-year-old Messi has also been linked in the media with a move back to boyhood club Barcelona, with the United States' Major League Soccer club Inter Miami also being touted as a possible destination. He was suspended by his current club Paris St Germain at the start of the week after making an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia, French sports daily L'Equipe reported on Tuesday, adding that PSG had decided against exercising an option to renew his contract for a third season.

Messi is a Saudi ambassador for



tourism and his long-time rival, Cristiano Ronaldo, signed for Saudi club Al-Nassr in December in a deal reported to be worth around \$220 million per year. A second source close to Messi told Reuters the suspension was imposed after the forward told PSG he would not stay in Paris following this season and felt the club lacked a project.

The source added that PSG had no training scheduled on Monday and the decision to hold a session was taken only after Messi was already in Saudi Arabia. A source close to PSG denied this, telling Reuters Messi travelled without permission from the French club and despite there being a training session scheduled on Monday.

The source did not comment on whether Messi had already told PSG he intended to leave at the end of the season

Haaland Inches Close To Breaking Century Old Record

Agencies

The Norwegian goal-scoring machine Erling

Haaland is closing on a 94-year-old Manchester City club record held by Tommy Johnson after becoming the leading goal scorer in a single season of the Premier League. Haaland's exquisite finish over

the head of Lukasz Fabianski against West Ham took him to 35 Premier League goals to date, which took him past the pre-

vious record of 34 which was jointly held by Alan Shearer and Andrew Cole.

> As of now, four more league goals will see break Johnson's long-standing Club record. On May 4, 1929, Johnson scored his 38th goal of the 1928/29 First Division (then top flight) campaign in

a 1-1 draw against Liverpool at Anfield, which established the Manchester City record that has stood for nearly a century.

