

Extremely Rare Bird Western Tragopan Spotted In Kashmir

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: An acclaimed bird photographer from Bangalore has captured Western Tragopan—a globally threatened species of birds in the Kashmir Himalayas, much to the excitement of bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts.

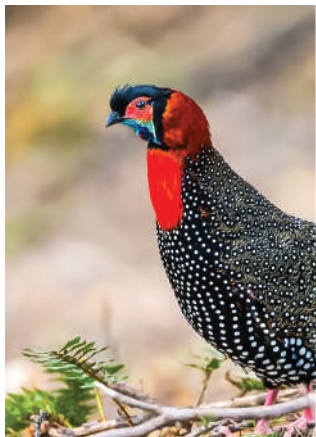
The highly elusive bird Western Tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*) is an extremely rare and vulnerable bird in the world.

The bird was captured by Jainy Maria and Mudasir Manzoor, a

Wildlife Guide and photographer, in a local wildlife sanctuary after 10 days of intense search, an official of wildlife department told Kashmir Observer.

Western tragopan is a medium-sized brightly plumed pheasant found along the western Himalayas from northwestern Pakistan through Jammu and Kashmir into Himachal Pradesh and possibly the western parts of Uttarakhand.

"The bird is not critically endangered but globally threatened," Wildlife Warden, Shopian division, Intisar Suhail



WE KNEW THE BIRD WAS HERE BUT HAD NO PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE so its presence is now confirmed. We can't share the location of the bird as the poacher will go after it."

told Kashmir Observer.

The current population, according to a study, of the species is reported to be between 2500 and 3500 individuals, down

from around 5,000 estimated in earlier studies.

However, the bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts have expressed their concern fearing poaching of the bird.

"We haven't shared the

location of the bird owing to the poaching threats," said Mudasir Maqbool, who was accompanying Maria.

Kashmir Birdwatch, a local bird-watching club in the valley said that it is the first pictorial evidence of the western tragopan in the valley.

"Delighted to share the first pictorial evidence of the western tragopan from Jammu and Kashmir," a post by the group noted. Suhail, who is also one of the co-founders of Kashmir Birdwatch, said that it is a rare sighting but **| More on P10**



A view of River Jhelum with snow capped mountains in the background captured by KO lens man Abid Bhat in downtown Srinagar on Monday

Rare May Snowfall In Kashmir Affects Normal Life

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Unseasonal snowfall in parts of Kashmir brought back the winter-like conditions in the Valley while several incidents of tourists and nomadic people getting stuck due to inclement weather were also reported, officials said.

Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Qazigund areas of the Valley received snowfall early in the morning, making the roads slippery, the officials said.

The weatherman has forecast improvement in weather conditions over the next 24 hours but warned of the possibility of cloudburst or lightning on Tuesday evening.

The day temperature has dropped to around 12 degrees Celsius against the normal of 24 degrees Celsius, the MeT officials said.

While the tourists were in for a pleasant surprise over the



snowfall, the inclement weather caused hardships for the locals.

The unseasonal snowfall led to many nomadic people and their livestock getting stuck. More than 250 sheep were rescued by police and municipal officials at Kurigam in Qazigund area of the Kulgam district after the animals were stuck on an island due to a sudden rise in the water level of a

local stream, they said.

The officials said several nomadic families were moved to safer places in the upper reaches of the district, they said.

A group of eight tourists including women and children were rescued by police near Jawahar Tunnel in Qazigund after their vehicle was stuck in snowfall in the **| More on P10**

Schools Closed In 3 Districts

All schools for students up to class 8 in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts were closed on Monday due to heavy rains, officials said. Fresh snowfall was experienced in the upper reaches of Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi and Ramban districts of the Jammu region while heavy rains hit **| More on P10**

4 Districts On Avalanche Alert

Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) on Monday issued an avalanche alert over higher reaches in four districts for next 24 hours. The DMA said that a 'low' danger level avalanche is likely to occur above 3000 to 3500 metres above sea level over Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban **| More on P10**

Horticulture Dept Issues Advisory For Famers

The department of horticulture on Monday issued an advisory for the farmers affected by the untimely snowfall coupled with hailstorm in several districts of South Kashmir, including Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian. In the advisory, the department has informed the farmers that the untimely snowfall and hailstorm will tell upon the fruit set particularly in those areas where the orchards are in full bloom and it may also result in premature fruit drop and spread of various diseases. **| More on P10**

Y20: KU To Host Delegates From 10 Nations

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: After being chosen from among fifteen premier institutions of India to hold Y20 consultation, delegates from G20 countries and speakers of national and international repute will be attending the Youth 20 event to be hosted at Kashmir University on 11th of this month.

The varsity has chosen Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction as theme for the event, while four panel discussions on important aspects related to the theme

will also be discussed.

Addressing a news conference at Media Education and Research Center (MERC) auditorium hall, Vice-Chancellor Kashmir University, Professor Nilofar Khan said all the necessary arrangements have been finalized in this regard.

She said the youth leaders from G20 countries, national and international level speakers and students from 17 nations including G20 countries as well as others will be participating in the event. **| More on P10**



AS PART OF G20 PRESIDENCY INDIA ASSUMED IN DECEMBER LAST, KASHMIR UNIVERSITY is holding a Y20 event on the theme 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life' on May 11. Organizing this event is a historical occasion for the varsity under India's G20 Presidency."

Banihal-Baramulla Rail Section To Have Double Lane Soon

Agencies

Srinagar: The Northern Railways is likely to expand the existing 135 kilometre long Banihal-Baramulla railway track in Jammu and Kashmir into a double track.

For this, tenders for carrying out a survey have been allocated by the Central government.

Chief Area Manager (CAM) Kashmir Railways, Saqib Yousuf said the Ministry of Railways has invited tenders to start Final Location Survey (FLS) for double lanning of Baramulla-Qazigund section.

"Tenders have been issued for the engineering survey of the Railway line/roadway using modern survey techniques such as Aerial Survey (Aerial Photogrammetric **| More on P10**

AMARNATH YATRA

Aadhaar, Registration Slip Mandatory For Pilgrims

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) on Monday made Aadhaar card and registration slip mandatory for the pilgrims intending to undertake this year's pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in South Kashmir.

This was decided in a meeting chaired by Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shree Board Mandeeep K. Bhandari on Monday with the concerned Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and line departments to review the arrangements for this year's annual pilgrimage, an official spokesperson said.

In the meeting, he said, it was informed that the adding Aadhaar number on the designated portal will automatically fetch the details of the pilgrim.

"It was informed that Each Registration Branch has been allotted a fixed per day/ per route quota for Registering the Yatris," the spokesperson said.

The Technical Team, he said, while giving demonstration, apprised that yatris with eKYC done on permit will not require further KYC verification but the non KYC yatris will be verified during the Yatra before issuance of RFID card.

The spokesperson said that the CEO reviewed in detail the arrangements of sanitation services being **| More on P10**

Rajouri Operation Enters Day 4

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Security forces continued "Operation Trinetra" for the fourth consecutive day on Monday to track down militants hiding in the Kandi forested area in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

A few persons were questioned about the suspected movements of militants. However, security forces are yet to establish any fresh contact with the militants, they said.

"There was no fresh contact with militants hiding in the forested Kandi area. A massive search operation to track down ultras is on," an official said.

Five Army personnel were killed while a major-rank officer was injured in an explosion triggered by the militants in the Kesari hill forest area of Rajouri on Friday morning.

A militant, who is said to be the part of a group that carried out an attack on civilians in Dhangri village of Rajouri early this year, was killed the next morning. His associate was believed to have been injured in the exchange of fire with security forces but managed to slip away, the officials said.

The operation code named "Trinetra" was **| More on P10**

Azad Worried Over Militancy Spread To Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Expressing concern over militant incidents in Rajouri and Poonch, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday said it was disappointing to see militancy expanding to the Jammu region.

He also said the people of Jammu should be cautious against forces who have no contribution in the city's development but play pity politics for their personal gains.

"I am disappointed to see that militancy is expanding to Jammu. It is detrimental to peace," Azad said at a function here in which several prominent leaders joined his party.

He said the poor governance and the lack of accountability in the system is affecting the economy of people and has led to the decline in job opportunities.

Azad said if his **| More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

3.1 Magnitude Quake Jolts Kashmir

An earthquake of 3.1 magnitude jolted the Kashmir valley on Monday as panicked residents rushed out of their homes and workplaces for safety. The tremor, measured 3.1 on Richter scale, had its epicentre in Baramulla district of north Kashmir at a depth of 10 kilometres, the National Center for Seismology said. The earthquake occurred at 14:28 hours of Indian Standard Time, it said. Officials said there were no reports of any **| More on P10**

13 Rescued After Raft Overturns

A raft carrying 13 people turned turtle in Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday after hitting a pillar of a bridge, officials said. All of them, including five women, fell into the river but were wearing life jackets, they said. A rescue operation was immediately launched by the rafting operators and all 13 persons were rescued safely, they added. Twenty-four people, after a visit to the cave shrine of Shiv Khori, were on the river in two rafts **| More on P10**

MiG-21 Crash Kills 3 Civilians

A MiG 21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed on a house in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan on Monday, leaving three women dead and as many others injured on the ground, police said. The pilot ejected from the plane and is undergoing treatment at the Suratgarh military hospital, IG, Bikaner range, Om Prakash said. The pilot made all efforts to avert human casualties and crash-landed the plane on the outskirts of a village, he said "Three women have **| More on P10**

Mortar Shell Found In Samba



An old mortar shell was detected along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Monday, officials said. The shell was found by locals, who informed the Border Security Force (BSF) troops, they said. A bomb disposal squad **| More on P10**

Driver Found Dead Inside Truck

A young driver on Monday was found dead inside his truck in South Kashmir's Qazigund town. 28-year-old Taseer Ahmed Malla was found in an unconscious state inside a truck by locals at Wangund Qazigund near toll plaza on Monday morning, Police sources said. A resident of Panzala Gund in Baramulla, Malla was shifted to Emergency Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Meanwhile, Police have registered a case and started further investigation in this regard.

5 Gamblers Arrested In Bandipora

Police on Monday claimed to have arrested five gamblers in a raid in North Kashmir's Bandipora district. "Bandipora Police today arrested 05 Gamblers at Banyari Ajas.Stake money and trump cards seized. Cognizance taken under relevant sections of Gambling Act in (PP Ajas) PS Sumbal," police wrote on its official Twitter handle. The accused have been identified as Gulzar Ah Dar, Nazir Ah Wagay, Mohd Shafi Dar, Mushtaq Ah Wani and Mehraj u din Parray.



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Srinagar | Tuesday | 09-05-2023

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IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE. SPECIAL JUDGE DESIGNATED UNDER NIA ACT SRINAGAR.

State Through V/S Mst. Rubeena Malik D/o Nazir Ahmad Malik
P/S CIK/SIA Srinagar R/O Panzipora, Tarzoo Sopore & Ors.

FIR No. 19/2022
Offences U/Ss 13.17.18, 39. 40 /UA P Act.
U/Ss 120-B, 121, 121-AIPC
U/Ss, 8/21, 8-A/27-B. 29 NDPS Act.

PROCLAMATION U/S 82 CR.PC

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused Namely Abdul Rashid Bhat S/o Mohammad Bhat R/o Larkipora Padgampora Awantipora.

Whereas, in the above titled challan in case FIR No. 19/2022, Offences U/s 13,17,18, 39, 40 /UA P Act, 120-B, 121, 121-A IPC. 8/21, 8-A /27-B, 29 NDPS Act. of P/S SIA/CIK Srinagar the accused Abdul Rashid Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Larkipora Padgampora Awantipora has been arrayed as one of the accused and general warrant of arrest issued by this court has been returned with the report that the said accused could not be found and it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the accused Abdul Rashid Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Larkipora Padgampora Awantipora is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of Publication of Proclamation failing which proceedings under Section 83 Cr. P. C. shall be launched against him.

Given under my hand and seal of the court today i.e. on 02-05-2023.

S d/-

Additional Sessions Judge Special Judge
Designated Under NIA Act Srinagar
J.O. Code:-JK00116

Announced
02.05.2023

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE. SPECIAL JUDGE DESIGNATED UNDER NIA ACT SRINAGAR.

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Offences U/Ss 13,17,18, 39, 40 /UA P Act,
U/Ss 120-B, 121, 121-AIPC
U/Ss, 8/21, 8-A/27-B. 29 NDPS Act.

PROCLAMATION U/S 82 CR.PC

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused namely, Basharat Ahmad Poswal S/o Mohammad Sadiq R/o Pardakarnab Kupwara.

Whereas, in the above titled challan in case FIR No. 19/2022, Offences U/s 13,17,18, 39, 40 /UA P Act, 120-B, 121, 121-A IPC, 8/21, 8-A /27-B, 29 NDPS Act of P/S SIA/CIK Srinagar the accused Basharat Ahmad Poswal S/o Mohammad Sadiq R/o Pardakamah Kupwara has been arrayed as one of the accused and general warrant of arrest issued by this court has been returned with the report that the said accused could not be found and it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the accused Basharat Ahmad Poswal S/o Mohammad Sadiq R/o Pardakamah Kupwara is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of Publication of Proclamation failing which proceedings under Section 83 Cr P. C. shall be launched against him.

Given under my hand and seal of the court today i.e. on 02-05-2023.

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Offences U/Ss 13.17.18, 39. 40 /UA P Act.
U/Ss 120-B, 121, 121-AIPC
U/Ss, 8/21, 8-A/27-B. 29 NDPS Act.

PROCLAMATION U/S 82 CR.PC

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused namely, Iftikhar Ahmad Sheikh S/o Abdul Lateef Sheikh R/o Amrohi Tad Karnah Kupwara

whereas, in the above titled challan in case FIR No. 19/2022, Offences U/s 13,17,18, 39, 40 /UA P Act, 120-B, 121, 121-A IPC, 8/21, 8-A /27-B, 29 NDPS Act. of P/S SIA/CIK Srinagar the accused Iftikhar Ahmad Sheikh S/o Abdul Lateef Sheikh R/o Amrohi Tad Karnah Kupwarahas been arrayed as one of the accused and general

warrant of arrest issued by this court has been returned with the report that the said accused could not be found and it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the accused Iftikhar Ahmad Sheikh S/o Abdul Lateef Sheikh R/o Amrohi Tad Karnah Kupwara is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of Publication of Proclamation failing which proceedings under Section 83 Cr. P. C. shall be launched against him.

Given under my hand and seal of the court today i.e. on 02-05-2023.

Sd/-

Additional Sessions Judge Special Judge
Designated Under NIA Act Srinagar
J.O. Code:-JK00116

Announced
02.05.2023

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State Through V/S Mst. Rubeena Malik D/o Nazir Ahmad Malik
P/S CIK/SIA Srinagar R/O Panzipora, Tarzoo Sopore & Ors.

FIR No. 19/2022
Offences U/Ss 13.17.18, 39. 40 /UA P Act.
U/Ss 120-B, 121, 121-AIPC
U/Ss, 8/21, 8-A/27-B. 29 NDPS Act.

PROCLAMATION U/S 82 CR.PC

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused namely, Sageer Ahmad Poswal S/o Nazir Ahmad Poswal R/o Amrohi Tad Karnah Kupwara

Whereas in the above titled challan in case FIR No. 19/2022, Offences U/s 13,17,18, 39, 40 /LA Pact, 120-B, 121, 121-A IPC, 8/21, 8-A /27-B, 29 NDPS Act. of P/S SIA/CIK Sr.nagar the accused Sageer Ahmad Poswal S/o Nazir Ahmad Poswal R/o Amrohi fad Karnah Kupwara has been arrayed as one of the accused and general warrant of arrest issued by this court has been returned with the report that the said accused could not be found and it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the serv ice of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the accused Sageer Ahmad Poswal S/o Nazir Ahmad Poswal R/o Amrohi Tad Karnah Kupwara is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of Publication of Proclamation failing which proceedings under Section 83 Cr. P. C. shall be launched against him.

Given under my hand and seal of the court today i.e. on 02-05-2023.

S d/-

Additional Sessions Judge Special Judge
Designated Under NIA Act Srinagar
J.O. Code:-JK00116

Announced
02.05.2023

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State Through V/S Mst. Rubeena Malik D/o Nazir Ahmad Malik
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U/Ss 120-B, 121, 121-AIPC
U/Ss, 8/21, 8-A/27-B. 29 NDPS Act.

PROCLAMATION U/S 82 CR.PC

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused namely, Abdul Rashid Mir S/o Mohammad Sultan Mir R/o Amargrah Sopore.

Whereas in the above titled challan in case FIR No. 19/2022, Offences U/s 13,17,18, 39, 40/UA P Act, 120-B, 121, 121-A IPC, 8/21, 8-A /27-B, 29 NDPS Act. of P/S SIA/CIK Srinagar the accused Abdul Rashid Mir S/o Mohammad Sultan Mir R/o Amargrah Sopore has been arrayed as one of the accused and general warrant of arrest issued by this court has been returned with the report that the said accused could not be found and it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the accused Abdul Rashid Mir S/o Mohammad Sultan Mir R/o Amargrah Sopore is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of Publication of Proclamation failing which proceedings under Section 83 Cr. P. C. shall be launched against him.

Given under my hand and seal of the court today i.e. on 02-05-2023.

Sd/-

Additional Sessions Judge
Special Judge Designated
Under NIA Act Srinagar J.O. Code:-JK00116

Announced
02.05.2023

DIPK-1229/23

DATED: 08-05-2023

Before the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu And Kashmir And Ladakh at Srinagar

IN THE case of
1. Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh
2. Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh
3. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh
4. Naseema
Sons and Daughter of
Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh @ Ama Sheikh
All Residents of: Rawalpota Asthan pora

(CAVEATOR)

VERSUS
Public at Large

(NON-CAVEATORS)

IN THE MATTER OF:-

Caveat petition in terms of Section 148 A of Civil Procedure Code for providing right of prior opportunity of being heard to the caveators before passing any orders if the non- caveator's choose to file petition, suit, appeal or any other proceedings against an order passed by this Hon'ble Court.
May.it Please your Lordship:
The applicants/Caveators most humbly submits as under:-
1. That the caveators/applicants are the residents of UT of I&K and as such have every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court for the protection of their rights.

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Danish Gul S/O Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/O Old Barzul-lah Srinagar applying for contractor card Class in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam. Any person having objection in this regard may please submit it in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam within three days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

nj

From Office Of The Advocate Mudasir Ahmad And Abrar Hussain And Associates

In the case of
Rubeena Shehzadi and other

(Caveator)

V/S

PUBLIC AT LARGE

(Non-Caveators) In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C
The caveator has reasons to believe/apprehension that the non-caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble High Court Of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation or cooked up story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at his back/exparte against the caveator and in such eventuality the caveator will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order.

nj

Sd/- Advocate

ازنیات پھال

عنوان :- درخواست بغرض اجرائی ڈپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکٹ بچن وارثان جائز

اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول لیکل بغیر سرٹیفکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کا روئی ہے اس بارے میں راقم نے پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے ساکن کی والدہ مومنہ 2022-10-27 کو فوت ہو چکی ہے متوفیہ محکمہ جنوں و شہر بیلا گنگ و طغیر میں کام کرتی تھی۔ متوفیہ کو کلہ کی طرف سے لیبر کارڈ زیر نمبر jk011302764 مورخہ 2020-12-23 اجراء ہوئی ہے۔ متوفیہ کو کنبہ کی مہوراد آمدنی 6600 روپے ہے۔ متوفیہ کے وارثان بذیل ہے۔

زادہ مشتاق 26 سال زیر تعلیم

عاقب مشتاق 19 سال زیر تعلیم

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا عرض ہو تو وہ بعد مشیر اخبار سات دن کے اندر آمد آ پنے عذریا عرض و دلائل حذا کو دفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے میعاد کوئی عذریا عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

اطلاع عام

ہرخاص وعام مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میں نے 2004ء میں گورنمنٹ سیکینڈری سکول ایتھروہ سے نویں جماعت کا امتحان پاس کیا۔ اسلئے مجھے انویں جماعت کی ڈیپانچر سرٹیفکٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذریا عرض ہوگا تو وہ تین دن کے اندر پرنسپل ہائرسکیڈری سکول ایتھروہ کو اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے میعاد کوئی عذریا عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

یاسینہ اختر دختر محمد سلطان گنائی

ساکنہ ہو کھتیری بیروہ

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

بالاجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم

رجسٹرار برتھس اینڈ ڈیٹھس
Fayaz Ahmad Kumar S/o
Ab Gani Kumar R/o Kumar
Mohalla Harwan
بنام ایس۔ ایم۔ بی سرینگر (مسول)

درخواست برادر اندراج کرنے تاریخ فونگی آژان

تاریخ پیدائش 08-06-2020 Ab Gani Kumar

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن اسانک نے عدالت ہدائیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج کرنے تاریخ فونگی دائر کی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسانک منظور ہونے میں 14-05-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے میعاد کوئی عذریا عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر ایصد 08-05-2023

nj

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج میونسپل سرینگر

At Islamabad Meeting, A Key Agreement Between China, Taliban



Agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Taliban agreed with China and Pakistan to extend the Belt and Road Initiative to Afghanistan, potentially drawing in billions of dollars to fund infrastructure projects in the sanctions-hit country.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met in Islamabad on Saturday and pledged to work together on Afghanistan's reconstruction process including taking the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to the Taliban-ruled nation.

"The two sides agreed to continue their humanitarian and economic assistance for the Afghan people and enhance development cooperation in Afghanistan, including through extension of CPEC to Afghanistan," according to a joint statement issued by Pakistan's foreign ministry following the meeting.

Chinese and Pakistani officials have previously discussed extending the project to Afghanistan built under President Xi Jinping's flagship Belt and Road initiative that started almost a decade ago. The cash-strapped Taliban government

has expressed readiness to participate in the project and the prospect of getting much needed infrastructure investment.

The Taliban's top diplomat, Amir Khan Muttaqi, traveled to Islamabad to meet his Chinese and Pakistani counterparts and reached an agreement, his deputy spokesman Hafiz Zia Ahmad said by phone.

The Taliban have also harbored hopes for China to boost investments in the country's rich resources, estimated to be \$1 trillion. The government inked its first contract in January with a subsidiary of China National Petroleum Corporation to extract oil from the northern Amu Darya basin.

The Chinese and Pakistani ministers also stressed on the need to unfreeze Afghanistan's overseas financial assets. The Taliban has been blocked from accessing about \$9 billion of Afghanistan's central bank reserves held overseas on concerns the funds will be used for terror activities.

Frozen Assets
Washington later agreed to release half of it to bolster the economy but put it on hold after the Taliban imposed certain school and work restrictions on Afghan women last year.

Special Flights Help Meet Demand As People Scramble To Leave Manipur

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA/GUWAHATI: Several airlines were operating special flights from Imphal to help people stranded in violence-hit Manipur return home, officials said on Monday, maintaining that this resulted in airfares on the route not rocketing out of control despite the massive jump in demand.

Regional carrier Flybig said it operates a Guwahati to Imphal flight via Tezu six days a week. But, since Saturday it has operated three additional flights between Imphal and Guwahati, on which people from Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Maharashtra returned from Imphal.

"A total of 150 passengers were brought back from Imphal to Guwahati over the three days. On Saturday, people from Arunachal Pradesh were brought back, while people of Meghalaya came on Sunday, and a group from Maharashtra were brought to Guwahati on Monday," Flybig's director of corporate affairs Ajay Jasra told PTI.

"Flybig operates under the UDAN scheme, and our average fare from Imphal to Guwahati is ₹3,500. There is no question of charging more from distressed passengers," he said.

AIX Connect, formerly AirAsia, will also operate a relief flight from Imphal to Guwa-



hati on Tuesday, besides the two regular flights it operates on the route. The special flight will arrive at 11.15 am in Guwahati, an official said.

Alliance Air operated two special flights on the Imphal-Guwahati route on Monday.

The country's largest airline IndiGo said it has operated two special flights from Imphal to Kolkata on Saturday. Air India said it operated two special flights on the Imphal-Delhi route on Saturday and Sunday.

Air India and IndiGo have waived fees for rescheduling and cancellation for all their flights to and from Imphal from May 4 to 7.

According to travel websites on Monday evening, fares of direct flights from Imphal to Guwahati on Tuesday were around ₹11,000, while on the Imphal-Kolkata route, it was around ₹8,000.

Most of the state governments were bearing the cost of air tickets of their people they were bringing back, of-

ficials said.

An Airports Authority of India (AAI) official said various measures were being taken to help people at the Imphal airport, which has seen a huge rush of passengers trying to flee the state amid the ethnic violence that began on May 3.

The AAI has set up a helpdesk at the airport for the stranded passengers.

The Imphal airport served 10,531 passengers between May 4 and May 6, and handled a total of 108 flights, officials said.

The airport, which usually handles 14 flights a day, operated 40 flights on Monday, they said.

Ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur on Wednesday after tribals organised a demonstration in the ten hill districts of the state to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The clashes displaced around 23,000 people and resulted in the deaths of at least 54 people.

Another Explosion Near Golden Temple In Punjab, Second In 3 Days

Press Trust of India

AMRITSAR: One person was injured in a low-intensity explosion that took place on a heritage street near the Golden Temple here today morning, close to the spot where a blast was reported on May 6, police said.

No detonator has been found and it appears that the explosive was kept in a container, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said, adding that it is too early to say whether the blast was someone's "mischief" or there's a terror angle to it.

Police and forensic teams reached the spot soon after the explosion and security was stepped up in the area.

Speaking to reporters here, DGP Yadav, who visited the spot, said one person was injured in the explosion which was reported around 6:15 am.

The explosive was very crudely made and assembled. Though no shrapnel was used,

there was a loud sound, he said.

The officer said the two explosions in the area are being "scientifically investigated".

"Our forensic team is present on the spot," he said. "We have not found any triggering device or any detonator," he said referring to the two incidents.

The absence of a triggering mechanism means it is a crude device. It appears that the explosive was kept in a container, Yadav said on Monday's blast.

"At this moment, we are not ruling out anything... It could be someone's mischief, but it is too early to say whether it is a mischief, or there is a terror angle to it," he said. The DGP said CCTV footage is being scanned and details are being sought from eyewitnesses.

"I want to assure the people that everything is normal and we will maintain peace and harmony. People should not lend an ear to any rumours. Punjab Police is there to keep the state safe and secure," he said.

EC Asks Congress Chief To Clarify, Rectify Social Media Post On Karnataka's Sovereignty

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Monday asked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to clarify and rectify the party's social media post on Karnataka's sovereignty remark attributed to Sonia Gandhi.

The EC letter to Kharge came following a complaint by the Bharatiya Janata Party regarding a tweet which appeared on the official Twitter handle of the Indian National Congress on May 6.

In its complaint, the BJP has alleged, "Karnataka is a very important member state in the union of India and any call to protect the sovereignty of a member state of the Union of India amounts to a call for secession and is fraught with



perilous & pernicious consequences." The BJP also alleged in its complaint to the EC that the tweet is violative of the mandatory oath undertaken by the political parties under section 29A (5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 at the time of registration.

"In view of the above, you are requested to clarify and take rectification measures in respect of the social me-

dia post which has been put up on the INC Twitter handle and attributed to Chairperson, CPP," the EC letter read.

A former Congress chief, Sonia Gandhi is currently the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson.

After Gandhi addressed a campaign rally in Hubballi in Karnataka on Saturday, the Congress tweeted from its official handle: "CPP Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji sends a strong message to 6.5 crore Kannadigas: 'The Congress will not allow anyone to pose a threat to Karnataka's reputation, sovereignty or integrity.'" Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP have attacked the Congress over the remark. PTI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Meets US Counterpart In Saudi Arabia

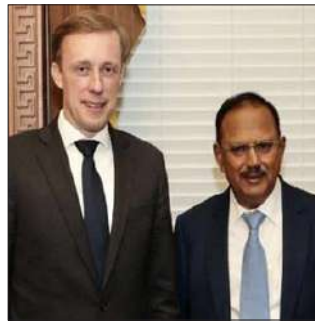
Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON: US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan had a meeting with his Indian counterpart Ajit K Doval in Saudi Arabia on Sunday, the White House said, adding that the two leaders are scheduled to meet again in Australia later this month on the sidelines of the Quad Summit.

This is the first meeting between Doval and Sullivan after they launched the ambitious India US ICET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology) dialogue here in January. Sullivan is currently travelling to Saudi Arabia.

"National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met with Saudi Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, UAE National Security Advisor Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval on May 7 in Saudi Arabia to advance their shared vision of a more secure and prosperous Middle East region interconnected with India and the world," the White House said Sunday in a readout of the meeting.

"Sullivan also held bilateral meetings with the Crown Prince, Sheikh Tahnoun, and



Mr. Doval to discuss bilateral and regional matters. He looks forward to further consulting with Mr. Doval on the margins of the Quad Summit later this month in Australia," the White House said.

With Crown Prince Mohammed, he reviewed significant progress in talks to further consolidate the now 15-month long truce in Yemen and welcomed ongoing UN-led efforts to bring the war to a close, as well as covering a range of other issues.

"Mr. Sullivan thanked the Crown Prince for the support Saudi Arabia has provided to US citizens during the evacuation from Sudan. The four delegates agreed to maintain regular consultations and follow up on the matters discussed throughout the day," the White House said.

Mob Lynches Pak Man At Imran Khan's Party Rally Over Blasphemy Charge



PESHAWAR: A man was beaten to death by a mob after being accused of blasphemy at a rally for former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party, officials said Sunday.

Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Pakistan, where even unproven allegations can stir mobs and violence.

Video of the lynching has been shared widely on social media, with police seen vainly trying to stop a frenzied mob from beating the man.

The incident took place on Saturday in the Sawal Dher area of Mardan city in the country's ultra-conservative northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

Police said a man identified as Nigar Alam was asked to deliver the concluding prayer at a rally organised by Mr Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party when the crowd took offense to his comments.

He managed to flee the

scene, police said, but a mob tracked him down to a relative's house.

"A group of individuals climbed over the wall, barged inside, and beat him to death with sticks and batons," said district police chief Najeeb-ur-Rehman

"The mob was so agitated that it became extremely challenging for the police to even recover the body," he told AFP. Another local police official, Umair Khan, confirmed the incident.

PTI leader Imran Khan was not present at the rally and party officials had no immediate comment on the incident.

According to the Centre for Social Justice -- an independent group advocating for the rights of minorities -- more than 2,000 people have been accused of committing blasphemy since 1987, and at least 88 people killed by lynch mobs for similar allegations.

NEWS MAKERS

Agra Man Arrested For Raping American Woman, 62, After Promising Marriage

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has arrested a man from Agra for allegedly raping a 62-year-old American woman on the pretext of marriage, officials said on Monday.

The accused, identified as Gagandeep (32), owns a homestay in Agra, they said.

The victim, in her complaint, alleged that in 2017 she came to India and stayed at Gagandeep's homestay. Later, they became friends and eventually got into a relationship, police said.

Over the next few years, she kept visiting India to meet Gagandeep and on several occasions, he allegedly had physical relations with her on the pretext of marriage, they said.

The woman further alleged that once he also took her to Surjamal Vihar in Shahdara where he again had physical relations with her. Gagandeep also took her to Amritsar and other places and his family knew about their relationship. However, she later found out that the man was cheating on her, police said.

On May 4, an FIR was registered under sections 376 (rape) and 328 (causing hurt by means of poison, etc., with intent to commit an offence) of the Indian Penal Code at Vivek Vihar Police Station, a senior police officer said.

"A case was registered and based on the inquiry, accused Gagandeep was arrested from Agra on May 6," he said.

Mamata Banerjee Bans 'The Kerala Story' Movie In Bengal, Describes It As 'Distorted'

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday ordered an immediate ban on the screening of the controversial film 'The Kerala Story' in the state to avoid "any incident of hatred and violence", a senior official said here.

Action will be taken against any theatre found showing the film which depicts how women from Kerala were converted to Islam and recruited by Islamic State (IS) terrorist group.

Earlier in the day, Banerjee described 'The Kerala Story' as a distorted movie, aimed at defaming the southern state.

The move triggered a war of words between the opposition BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress.

The saffron camp accused the government of appeasing the minority community to serve its political interests, while the TMC charged the BJP with trying to create a "communal narrative" across the country ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"To avoid any incident of



hatred and violence and to maintain peace in the state, the CM has directed an immediate ban on screening of 'The Kerala Story' anywhere in West Bengal. There are scenes in this movie which could be dangerous to the peace and law and order of the state. Action will be taken against any cinema hall that violates the ban," the bureaucrat told PTI.

'The Kerala Story', directed by Sudipto Sen, was released across the country on May 5.

Earlier in the day, Banerjee alleged that 'The Kashmir Files' was made to humiliate one section of the society

whereas 'The Kerala Story' was a distorted movie, aimed at defaming the southern state.

Banerjee alleged that the CPI(M) is working with the BJP and hence even being in power in Kerala, it did not protest the screening of the movie.

"I am talking about people and not in favour of the CPI(M) as the party is working with the BJP. It is the BJP which is patronising the film," she said.

"I will tell the Kerala CM that his party is working with the BJP which is actually screening the film, a distorted story," Banerjee said.

The TMC talks about free speech and freedom of expression but, by banning the film, it proved who it is supporting, BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh said.

"The film is against terrorism and IS. The film exposes their modus operandi. Is the TMC supporting terrorism? This has been done to appease a section of the minority community," Ghosh said.

BJP leader and noted actor Rudranil Sen said such stunts won't help the TMC consolidate minority votes in the pan-

chayat polls this year or the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

"The TMC had opposed banning of BBC documentaries (on Narendra Modi), but they too are banning a film. This reflects their double standards," Sen said.

The ruling TMC dubbed the allegations "baseless" and accused the BJP of trying to create a "communal narrative" across the country ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"The state government has already said that this film aims to create division in the society. As the BJP has nothing to project in terms of development ahead of the Karnataka assembly polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, they are trying to create a communal narrative," TMC MP Santanu Sen claimed.

The owner of one of the theatres in Kolkata where the film is being screened told PTI: "The film was getting houseful audiences. It (the ban) will cause a huge loss." He apprehended that there could be demonstrations before the theatre and hoped the law and order situation would be taken care of.

Tamil Nadu Girl Sets Record In State School Exams With 600/600 Score

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI/DINDIGUL: A class XII student in Tamil Nadu created a record on Monday by emerging top-per in the higher secondary examinations while scoring centum in all subjects.

Education Department officials said S Nandhini of Dindigul district achieved the rare feat. The results were declared on Monday by the Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE).

Daughter of a carpenter, Nandhini was studying in a government-aided institution in the district. The student scored centum in Tamil, English, Economics, Commerce, Accountancy and Computer Application, scoring an overall 600 marks, officials added. Speaking to a Tamil news TV channel, she said she wanted to become an auditor.

According to the results declared by the DGE on Monday, 94.03 per cent of the over 8 lakh students who appeared for the class 12 exams in Tamil Nadu have passed.

The pass percentage of girls was 96.38 while 91.45 per cent of the boys cleared the exams.

A total of 8,03,385 students appeared for the exams, held in March-April, with 7,55,451 of them passing.

Last year, the pass percentage was 93.76 per cent. As many as 4,398 differently-abled candidates appeared for the exams and 3,923 of them passed.

Further, 79 out of 90 prisoners who wrote the exams also passed, DGE said.



Avalanche Closes Srinagar-Leh Highway

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Srinagar-Leh highway was on Monday closed for traffic after a snow avalanche blocked the road near the Cafeteria Morh in this central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The Traffic Police informed that the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gomri (SSG) road has been blocked due to a snow avalanche near Cafeteria Morh.

Meanwhile, several vehicles are stranded in the Sonamarg area after the road got closed.

An official said that the men and machinery have been pressed into service to clear the road.

Meanwhile, an official in a statement issued here said that

due to snow slides and minor avalanches at numerous locations along the Zoji La axis, the teams of GREF, the local Indian Army unit and JKP have been pressed into action.

"Indian Army's specially-trained Avalanche Rescue Team along with medical teams is involved in evacuating the stranded tourists," he said.

"Rescue teams are equipped with an emergency medical kit and all stores required for early rescue, are carrying out the necessary relief work. The relief work is still in progress as NH 1 continues to remain closed due to multiple minor avalanches," the statement said—(KNO)

Lifting Covid-19 Emergency Status Big Relief: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With world health organization (WHO) lifting emergency status of Covid-19, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday termed the declaration a big relief.

"This is very encouraging news that Covid-19 emergency is over," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

WHO on Friday last announced that Covid-19 no longer warranted the status of a global emergency, more than 3 years after it raised the disease to its highest alert level.

Dr Hassan said the decision recognizes the falling impact that covid has now on our lives.

We are no longer seeing major surges in infection, severe illness or death. This is because people have developed hybrid immunity from widespread infections and vaccinations.

"The virus has settled now. Infections are less severe and hospitalizations are minuscule," he said.

The DAK President said the end of Covid-19 as a global

health emergency means that countries no longer need to implement public health measures like masking and social distancing.

"WHO decision makes a symbolic end to the pandemic which has had a profound impact on our lives over the last 3 years," he said adding pandemic has affected our health, our economy, our everyday activities and caused devastation through the loss of so many lives.

"We have entered into the endemic stage of Covid-19," said Dr Nisar.

"It is yet another infection joining many other diseases that humanity has learned to live," he said.

"With the transition from pandemic to endemic stage, Covid is going to stay with us, but will no longer be a disruptor of daily family and community life," he added.

DC Bandipora Inspects Road Clearance At Razdan Pass



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad on visited Razdan Pass to inspect clearance work of snow and landslides triggered by recent inclement weather conditions at some spots situated on higher altitudes on Bandipora-Gurez Road, officials said Monday.

According to an official spokesperson, the DC was accompanied by officers from Border Road Organization (BRO), Project Beacon and other concerned officers from MED, Revenue besides others concerned.

Dr Owais expressed satisfaction over the clearance works

being undertaken and applauded the untiring efforts of field staff of BEACON for working in such harsh and inclement weather conditions to ensure connectivity to Gurez Valley.

He further said that Road has been opened for two-way traffic in a regulated manner with requisite precautions and the same is being allowed after taking daily assessment of road and weather conditions.

He further appealed commuters and tourists to embark on the journey to/from Gurez only after ascertaining the status of road from the District Control Room and follow the advisories issued on a daily basis.



A WOMAN JOINED BY HER DAUGHTER walks through the old Zero Bridge in Srinagar on a rainy Monday afternoon.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

G20 Should Keep Eye On J&K Situation: Cong; PDP

Say Govt Wants To Project 'All Is Well In Kashmir'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Opposition Congress and PDP on Monday said the government wanted to falsely project normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir by holding a G20 event while there was an "emergency-like situation" in the Union Territory.

The BJP hit back and asserted that holding of a G20 event proves that Kashmir is now a "peaceful destination".

"The G20 countries should also internally keep an eye on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The democracy has been wiped out here, there is an emergency-like situation created by the BJP," Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani told reporters at a party function here.

He said the government has destroyed the roads in the city and now is putting up hoardings to impress the G20 delegates.

"They are showing the roads to the G20, roads have been destroyed, now only pictures are being put up the G20 should also know about the internal situation in J-K, the lack of democracy, the absence of an (elected) assembly, snatching of the statehood and the division of the state, Wani said.

Wani claimed that he was denied permission to hold public rallies in the Valley but the BJP's like-minded parties are continuously allowed to do so.

"We had applied for permission to hold rallies at Baramulla, Budgam, Kupwara and Kishtwar but permission was not granted. Other parties like Apni party and DPAP are getting permissions continuously," he said.

Wani said it was evident that the government has failed to improve the situation in J and K.

"(Union Home Minister) Amit shah claims to have ended terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. But there is no decrease in target killings. In one month, we have lost 10 soldiers in Rajouri. The BJP only uses Kashmir for election campaigns," he alleged.

PDP leader Gulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said while holding the G20 working group meeting in Kashmir may boost tourism in the valley, the government's main aim was to falsely project normalcy in the Union Territory.

"Holding G20 event is good and it may help to boost tourism here. However, there is no change in the ground situation, particularly after the revocation of Article 370. I think



Abid Bhat/KO

by holding a G20 event here in Kashmir, they want to convey a message globally that all is well in Kashmir," Hanjura told reporters here.

The PDP general secretary said the situation on the ground was not good as two incidents of militancy-related violence happened in Rajouri and Poonch.

"Firstly, I strongly condemn the incidents. It should not happen because the PDP believes guns are not the solution. Issues can be resolved through talks but unfortunately the BJP government cannot digest this. They are not ready for talks. Even, for instance, if war prevails for 100 years, ultimately the solution is through dialogue," he added.

Hanjura said the people in Kashmir were facing problems as authorities have tightened the security measures ahead of the G20 meeting.

On demands for another surgical strike on Pakistan, he said, "After first surgical strike, the situation is as it was. Gun is not the solution the PDP advocates dialogue only. India and Pakistan should come on table for talks along with stakeholders to find a solution."

In response to a question on the involvement of locals in the pooch incident, Hanjura said, "That's the duty of security agencies. If anyone is involved, he should be punished."

He, however, questioned as to how the incident took place in such a huge presence of security forces.

"The BJP is answerable for that. They claim that they made the situation better here, stone pelting is not happening, militancy is over," he said.

On the spat between the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan on the sidelines of the SCO meeting, Hanjura said, "They (two countries) should bring down the bitterness and overcome the hatred. I think Bilawal Bhutto Zardari should not have said what he said and the response he got was also not valid."

BJP leader Altaf Thakur re-

acted sharply to Congress leader Wani's remarks, saying his party was habitual in raising fingers on the democratic set up of the country.

"The Congress is a failed party...they can't see democracy of the country. Vikar Rasool should also understand that he is living in a democratic setup that has freedom of speech. It is because of this democracy he has got this right," Thakur told PTL.

He said holding G20 event in Kashmir proves that the valley is a peaceful destination now where international events can be held.

"G20 event may be a showoff for Congress but for people of J-K and rest of country, this is a big achievement. Twenty countries are coming here which will give boost to economy and tourism of J-K. This will be remembered in history," Thakur added.

National Conference spokesman Imran Nabi Dar said while holding international meetings anywhere in the country was the prerogative of the government, the delegates who are coming to Kashmir too have the responsibility to see the political scenario here.

"No election has been held in J-K since eight years now. Assembly elections, which are due, have been delayed since four years. If we want to convey the message to the delegates that democratic system is being upgraded, why is democracy weakened here (in Kashmir). The government has responsibility that they should understand issues cannot be solved by bureaucratic system for which elected government is required," Dar said.

He also said Jammu should not have been ignored.

"If J-K is promoted through these events, why is one region completely ignored. That shouldn't happen. We are repeatedly saying if they planned this meet here, it should be held in Jammu as well," he added.

The third G20 tourism working group meeting will be held in Kashmir between May 22 and 24.

Power Shutdown In Parts Of Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Power Controller Kashmir has informed that, the power supply to Receiving Stations Nowpora, Achabal, Seelu and Bomai shall remain affected due to facilitating augmentation/twining works on May 09 and 13 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, in order to facilitate urgent preventive maintenance works the power supply to receiving stations Harwan, Shalimar, Brain, Sonwar, Dalgate, BB Cant and Rajbagh shall remain affected on May 10 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to receiving stations Pulwama and Pinglena shall remain affected on May 09 and 10 from 09 am to 5 pm due to carry out Erection of poles for new 33 KV Lassipora-Pulwama Line.

Similarly, in order to facilitate shifting of electrical Utilities the power supply to receiving station Wanpoh shall remain affected on May 09 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, in order to facilitate shifting of electrical Utilities the power supply to receiving stations Brakpora and Dialgam shall remain affected on May 13 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Thieves Steal Iron Made Road Dividers In Sopore

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a strange act, miscreants in Sopore town of northern Baramulla district have stolen the iron-fitted road divider reflectors, installed a month ago across the town.

Locals said that, the road divider reflectors which were installed a month ago across Sopore town were stolen by the miscreants.

"At multiple locations including degree college crossing, Shahdargah etc, the iron-fitted reflectors have been stolen", they said.

A local resident said: "Theft incidents across the town is a great concern, there must be a thorough investigation. Police must intensify night patrolling,

as miscreants are taking advantage of darkness."

Confirming the incident, an official from the executing agency - Roads and Buildings Department, Sopore told a local news agency KNO that miscreants have stolen the reflectors, however, the same will be replaced so that people in particular drivers won't face any inconvenience.

"There are few spots which need installation of reflectors, soon they too will be covered", officials added.

Pertinent to mention here that, the reflectors were installed a month ago after many requests from the general public as the roads across the town were turning out to be the reason for accidents during evening hours.

WEATHER VAGARIES

DC Kupwara Directs Tehsildars To Record Losses

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: In view of inclement weather and intermittent heavy rains and hailstorm in Kupwara district, the Deputy Commissioner, (DC) Kupwara, Dr.Doifode Sagar Dattatray directed all Tehsildars, Revenue Officials and Field functionaries to visit their respective areas, jurisdictions and record/

assess the losses occurred to Agriculture/ Horticulture fields and other properties due to heavy rainfall and hailstorm in the district.

They were further directed to furnish the report immediately for further process.

Meanwhile, concerned officers and officials were directed to remain punctual at their respective duties.

DC Shopian Directs Regular Inspection Of USG Clinics

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lul Has-eeb on Monday emphasized for regular monitoring and inspection of Clinical establishments particularly USG clinics across the district to ensure working of these clinical establishments as per standard norms.

The DC said this while chairing a meeting of the District Advisory Committee (DAC), here.

The committee discussed in detail the various provisions of Pre- Conception and Pre-Natal

Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 and status of registration of USG clinics in the district.

On the occasion, the DC instructed for strict adherence to the Act and installation of CCTVs at the USG clinics.

He also asked for conduct of massive and multi-media awareness campaigns through visual, print and social media across the district in order to give proper fillip to the cause.

CMO, MS, DH, DIO, DSWO, BMOs, concerned specialists and other concerned attended the meeting.

DC Budgam, Director NIFT Inspect Status Of Works At NIFT

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo along with Director National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar Javid Ahamd Wani on Monday visited NIFT Srinagar and took on spot inspection of the establishment of the campus.

During the visit, the DC took review of the overall construction going on at NIFT Campus Srinagar. He directed the ex-

ecuting agency to complete all the construction work within the given timeframe.

He assured the management of NIFT, Srinagar of full cooperation and support of District administration Budgam.

It is apt to mention that National Institute of Fashion Technology Srinagar is the one of the youngest campuses among campuses of the Country. This campus will provide vocational education to aspiring youth who want to pursue careers in fashion and designing.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that the name of my son in municipal records was wrongly mentioned as Sheikh Mohammad Irtaash while as the correct name of my son is SHEIKH MUHAMMAD IRITAASH. Now I intend to get it corrected. In this regard if anybody have any sort of objection he/she may file the same with Municipal Council Shopian within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

Irfan Gul
Father of SHEIKH MUHAMMAD IRITAASH
R/o Kanipora Shopian

FKO

DC Pulwama Holds Interactive Session With Media Persons

Urges Them To Play Role In Nation Building & Positive Change More Vibrantly And Vigorously

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom on Monday held an interactive meeting with media persons of the district, here.

At the outset, the representatives from the print and electronic media based in the district raised issues of public importance.

Speaking on the occasion, DC

said that media is a significant pillar of the democracy for deliverance of transparent and accountable governance to people. He urged Media persons to play pivotal roles in nation building and bringing positive change more vibrantly and vigorously.

Dr Basharat said District Administration is always available and accessible for coordination with all stakeholders who are directly or indirectly engaged in promoting positivity, peace

and wellbeing of people.

He added that media is the connecting link between the people and government and it is the prerogative of the media fraternity to share responsibility in spreading positivity and creation of good will.

He further added that the media has a vital role in countering fake and false news besides highlighting the Govt welfare schemes and flagship programs.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Tuesday | 09-05-2023

India, Pak SCO
meltdown

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Goa has once again highlighted the deep-seated distrust between India and Pakistan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar launched a scathing attack on his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, calling him a “promoter, justifier, and spokesperson of the terrorist industry.” Jaishankar also accused Pakistan of committing acts of terrorism and stated that Pakistan’s credibility “is depleting faster than its forex reserves.”

The meeting was meant to focus on the SCO agenda, but as happens often at the geopolitical events jointly attended by India and Pakistan, the spotlight soon turns to bilateral issues between the two neighbours. Pakistan, once again, raised the issue of the revocation of Article 370 and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Jaishankar responded by stating that Article 370 is history, and the so-called CPEC violates India’s territorial integrity and sovereignty of India. He also called out Pakistan for trying to play the victim card saying it was, in fact, India that was the victim of terrorism emanating from Pakistan. Jaishankar ruled out engagement with Islamabad, pointing out that “victims of terrorism do not sit together with perpetrators of terrorism to discuss terrorism.”

The fact that the meeting failed to achieve any breakthrough in ties between the two countries shows that India and Pakistan cannot normalize relations anytime soon. The trust deficit between the two countries remains deep, and there seems to be no political will on either side to bridge the divide. More so in New Delhi which seems to have given up on any near term prospect of engaging Pakistan.

The SCO summit was an opportunity for the two countries to engage in dialogue and explore avenues for cooperation. However, the meeting has only served to highlight the deep-seated distrust. New Delhi made it clear that as long as Pakistan continued to support terrorism, India will remain on guard and will continue to take measures to defend itself.

The path to normalization of relations between India and Pakistan is fraught with challenges. It requires both countries to move beyond their historical baggage, put aside their differences, and engage in constructive dialogue. However, the SCO meeting offered no such hope.

India does desire normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility, and violence. But Pakistan puts Kashmir above everything else. The positions of the two countries have thus become too irreconcilable to start a dialogue. But it is still possible that, in the interest of regional peace, the two neighbours would transcend their differences and talk to each other. This alone will change the situation in the region for the better.

OTHER OPINION

New king, new
challenges

The event marked the culmination of plans that were set in motion last September upon the passing of King Charles’ mother, Queen Elizabeth II. During the seven decades of her reign, emerging post-colonial nations grew in self-confidence, and some challenged the idea of the Commonwealth, while at home, the traditional public deference to the monarchy faded, requiring the members of the royal family to reposition themselves as good Samaritans working towards the greater good of British society. King Charles, in his prior avatar as the Prince of Wales, was quick to embrace the successive waves of change, particularly when it came to climate change and the environment. As a passionate supporter of sustainable ecosystems and architecture, he has advocated for organically maintained parks and natural reserves in the U.K. Under the aegis of the Prince’s Trust, which operates under a royal charter to help disadvantaged youth in the U.K., more than a million young people had benefited by 2020.

While the new king has made a name for himself in the climate and social welfare spaces, he will have to work hard to tackle rifts within the royal family, potentially deal with an independence movement in Scotland, and face up to the long-standing challenge of Commonwealth nations that no longer wish to have the U.K. monarch as their head of state. Within the Windsor clan, King Charles’s younger son Prince Harry has renounced his royal trappings and moved to California with his American wife Meghan Markle, and his recent novel, Spare, does not mince words in spelling out deep-seated resentment that he claims they felt while at the palace. The King will have to either make peace with the new arrangement forced by Prince Harry or build bridges with his second son. In Scotland, Humza Yousaf has now taken the reins of the Scottish National Party after the long tenure of Nicola Sturgeon. While the party has numerous internal issues to resolve, there is a distinct possibility of another independence referendum, which would pose sharp challenges to the U.K.’s economy and society, particularly in a post-Brexit context. King Charles would also have to engage with Commonwealth nations such as Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis — nations that have signalled their intention to appoint their own heads of state. To tackle and effectively deal with these challenges, King Charles III will have to continue to embrace modern values while carrying the mantle of hoary royal traditions.

The Hindu



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

“
A lot of funds are provided for e-governance in J&K. More than 5 lakh files were digitized in civil secretariat J&K, but when it comes to giving online RTI facility to citizens of J&K, Govt officers are reluctant to do it

Advocacy for Digital
RTI Regime in J&K

Can you believe that a simple application filed under the Right to Information Act (RTI) will act as a strong tool to sensitize not only the local government but also even the Govt of India? Since long, the Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement has been doing advocacy for having an online RTI facility available in Jammu & Kashmir. Many articles were written and videos were made to mobilise the advocacy around the issue. All this work did sensitize the Govt to some extent but no positive results were seen.

One of our committed activists namely Syed Adil from Ganderbal used RTI application as a tool to do advocacy on ensuring RTI goes digital in J&K. Adil sought information about all this from the Govt of India around January end this year. He filed an application before the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITy).

The Ministry forwarded the application under section 6 (3) to Department of Personnel and Trainings (DoPT) Govt of India which works under the Prime Ministers Office (PMO). The DoPT further forwarded Adil’s application to J&K Govt (General Administration Department-GAD) and the Govt had no option but to say in writing that online RTI will be a reality in J&K very soon.

Advocacy on RTI via RTI

It is official now: The Jammu & Kashmir Govt is mulling to provide the facility for online RTI application filing along with filing of the first appeals soon. This was revealed by the General Administration Department (GAD) in a reply provided to Syed Adil, a committed RTI activist and IT professional.

When Govt of J&K was not acting on the ground vis a vis providing online RTI facility for citizens of J&K in spite of assurances from Govt that all offline services would go online from January 15th 2023, Adil decided to seek information on this issue from Govt of India around January end this year. The applicant sought information related to the online RTI facility from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITy) Govt of India. The application filed in the Ministry reads:

“Whether the Central Government or Jammu & Kashmir Administration proposes to set up Online service of RTI Application in Jammu & Kashmir UT if so, the details thereof. If not, the time by which such facilities are likely to be set up or easily available in the said UT – Jammu & Kashmir as LT LG J&K claimed all offline services have been shut down after 15th January 2023? Whether the Central Government or Jammu & Kashmir Administration has also launched ‘RTI Application Services’ on 15th January 2023 if so, the details thereof”

As explained above, the Ministry forwarded the RTI application to the Department of Personnel & Trainings (DoPT) Govt of India who further forwarded it to the General Administration Department (GAD) of J&K Govt.

The GAD vide its RTI reply dated 2.05.2023 told RTI applicant Syed Adil that online RTI filing and first appeal was under active consideration of the Govt.

The response provided by Mohit Raina -Under Secretary who is the designated Public Information

around 3 months to do the advocacy but this advocacy on RTI using RTI application as a tool worked actually.

The RTI applicants continue to seek information under Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI Act) through an offline mode with obsolete methods. The applicants write down an RTI application, take its printout, then go and purchase the Indian Postal Order (IPO) of Rs 10 which isn’t available in local post offices.

For getting this postal order, the applicants have to either go to



Officer (PIO) in General Administration Department- GAD Civil Secretariat Srinagar reads:

“It is informed that the matter with regard to registration of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir with Online RTI portal of Department of Personnel and Trainings (DoPT) GoI, for facilitating the general public to file online RTI applications and first appeals is under active consideration in the GAD in consultation with Govt of India. As soon as the modalities are finalized, the same shall be shared in public domain through designated website www.gad.jk.nic.in”

Online RTI in J&K

In December last year, the J&K Chief Secretary Dr A K Mehta had impressed upon all the Govt offices to make all the offline services online. As per the Govt statement issued on December 16th 2022, the Chief Secretary while reviewing the performance of the Information Technology (IT) Department in a meeting, directed the officers to prepare a list of all the services provided by the Govt departments. The Chief Secretary directed the officers to separate the services still offered through offline mode and prepare a roadmap for offering the same through an online platform with end-to-end digitisation by January 15th 2023. The Chief Secretary during the meeting asked the officers of the IT department to issue advisories to different Govt departments for conducting security audits of their official websites as well without any delay. By January 15th 2023, all the offline services had to be made online but this didn’t happen at all.

Adil filed an RTI application to get information on this after the Jan 15th deadline was over. It took

GPO Srinagar or some bigger post office located in district headquarters. After this, the applicants are in search of a post office to send the application and it takes weeks for the RTI application to reach a Govt office.

On the contrary, this is not the case with central Govt offices. One can file an RTI application on a cell phone and pay application fees online. If J&K is being directly ruled by the centre for the last many years, why are not the same facilities given to people of J&K?

Conclusion

If the J&K Chief Secretary has given clear directions to make all the offline services online by Jan 15th 2023, what is preventing Govt officers from adhering to his orders? More than 2 years back, the then Secretary Information Technology J&K Govt Mr Amit Sharma told me that filing of online RTI applications will be a reality within a few weeks. Mr Sharma said this publicly in a TV debate but again nothing happened. A lot of funds are provided for e-governance in J&K. More than 5 lakh files were digitized in civil secretariat J&K, but when it comes to giving online RTI facility to citizens of J&K, Govt officers are reluctant to do it. Now as the Govt has said in writing that online RTI application filing plus filing of first appeal is under active consideration of Govt, people hope that by May end this would be a reality.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Chairman & Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement



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Self-Styled Seminaries

What if I tell you that Kashmir is turning into a paradise for religious business? You will be shocked to hear that many self-styled clerics have made darsgah (religious seminary) the centre of business.

Earlier, there were only a few Darasghahs in the valley which were well managed by the authorities and the facilities provided to the children were good enough especially for the students.

Every day we see a huge number of vehicles with loudspeaker asking for donations in city streets and villages too, have we ever wondered why people from one district go to another district to collect donations?

Because new small seminaries are being built by self-made clerics to earn their livelihood as it costs no money to run your own seminary.

Children are being treated like animals in such seminaries. I once saw that children were washing their clothes with cold water on bank of a stream in the bitter cold in Bandipora district of North Kashmir. When I spoke to them, one of them said that they use the same cold water daily for bathing and wudu (ablution) etc as their Darasghah lacks proper infrastructure. The seminary they were staying in was poorly built and one of the student was standing on the road side with a receipt book from the same Madrasa to collect donations

from commuters.

Who forced them to study there when we have so many good Madarasas in the valley as well as in Bandipora district?

Every child has the right to live happily, self styled religious clerics treat students in such Madarasas like animals.

Recently, a case where teachers was booked for beating a minor student was reported. Thus, times have changed; corporal punishment is banned in schools, daycare and alternative child care institutions, but alas! no one dares to talk about the hardships faced by minors in these seminaries.

Such Darasghah lack proper registration and get no funds from

any Madrasa organizations. Self styled clerics force student to collect donations.

Article 24 of the Indian constitution clearly states that, “No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or employed in any hazardous employment.”

When there are laws and regulations for everyone in the world, why are these self-made clerics are set free to do whatever they want?

Such a small self-made seminary should be regulated by the Waqf Board or the administration only with terms and conditions.

Ab.Basit Khawaja

In Praise of Silence

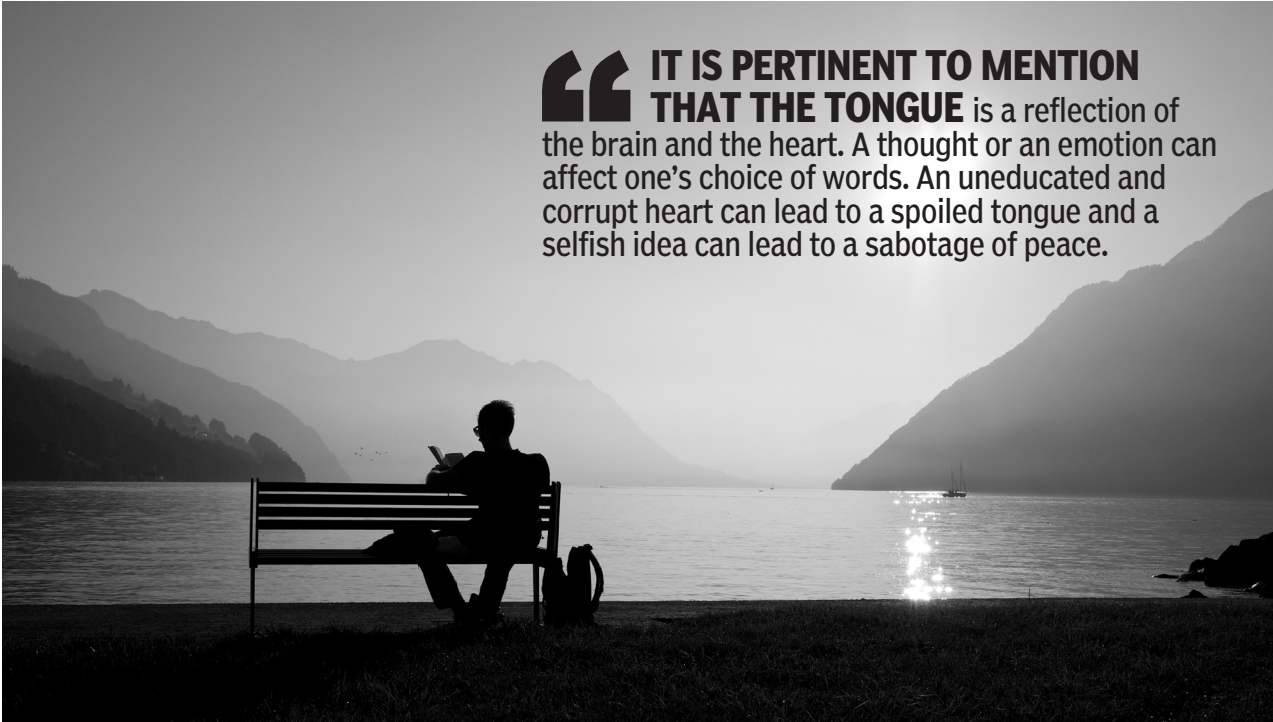
Firdous Ahmad Mala and Rouf Ali

EXPRESSING oneself is both an art and a skill. Not all are versed and acquainted with it. Being good at rhetoric and eloquence can make success and popularity come to fruition. However, when nuances of words become nuisances, it is better to sing songs with no lyrics. And one must remember that silence is better than a misuse of the tongue.

A lot of wise people have broken their silence in praise of silence. In the words of Will Rogers, "Never miss a good chance to shut up." One must acknowledge the fact that though it seems counterintuitive, yet silence is sometimes louder and more powerful than speech. This is more suitably the stance to take when one knows not what words to substitute for silence. In the absence of a good and well-knit speech, silence could be a more befitting choice. In the words of Ansel Adams, "When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence."

Strangely enough, the tongues seem to be outnumbering the ears. All tongues seem to be wagging like anything. Most ears appear to have been deafened. And all but a few ears seem to have been lent to the tongues. The art of listening ought to be mastered naturally and this skill must be harnessed before one masters the skill of speaking.

Misunderstanding is often a result of hasty judgements, unverified reporting and irresponsible misuse of the tongue. Delaying judgements, scrutinizing reports and



responsibly choosing one's words is the need of every hour. Silence is a panacea to a plethora of behavioral ailments.

To Francis Bacon, "Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom." To Thomas Carlyle, "Speech is silver, silence is golden." And to Lau Tzu, "Silence is a source of great strength." It seems difficult to overstate the importance of silence in a restless and mad-

dening world.

Now, if by silence, we mean discipline, the tongue is not the only organ to watch out for. The heart is to be silenced from wanting the unrealistic and desiring the immoral; the eye is to be silenced from watching the immodest and goggling the opposite; and the hand is to be silenced from making objectionable gestures and

grabbing what belongs to others.

It is pertinent to mention that the tongue is a reflection of the brain and the heart. A thought or an emotion can affect one's choice of words. An uneducated and corrupt heart can lead to a spoiled tongue and a selfish idea can lead to a sabotage of peace. A spoiled tongue spits more venom than saliva. It has the potential to wreak ev-

ery kind of havoc. One must remember that a spark neglected could burn the house.

Having praised silence, one should not and must not take it to mean that one must always be a mute spectator and not be well-versed with the judicious and artful use of the gift of gab. One may, on a jocular note argue that silence is sometimes a thing that is detested the most for a newborn's silence and the silence of a loved one can be signs of danger and that of frustration. The reader, however, needs to understand that silence is more often a virtue than a vice.

Rumi is said to have said, "The quieter you become the more you are able to hear." As a middle path, silence and speech ought to be used complementary to each other. An intelligent role-play of silence and speech is precisely what the doctor prescribes. The Greek polymath, Pythagoras is reported to have said, "A fool is known by his speech; and a wise man by silence."

Let silence be the default, especially when your words are no likely to be better. Let words be the choice when they are likely to result in more good than harm. Regarding the need to exercise silence, Federico Fellini said, "If there were a little more silence, if we all kept quiet, maybe we could understand something." In the words of Charles Colton, "When you have nothing to say, say nothing." And as per Epictetus, "Keep silence for the most part, and speak only when you must, and then briefly."

The authors are Assistant Professor Govt. Degree College Sopore and Sr. Assistant professor Govt. Degree College Sopore respectively

Unrealistic Beauty Standards for 'Beautiful' Kashmiri Women?

Sarah Koul

TYPICALLY, Kashmiri women are perceived to have a fair white complexion and bright red cheeks, the perfect example of standard beauty. But what we mostly don't realize is that Kashmir is situated in the South-Asian geographical belt, which implies that naturally, people have an inherent tendency to have more melanin, which is the main component in brown skin. Here in Kashmir, if you are slightly brown skinned, you will be constantly asked if you're Kashmiri or not, because god forbid a Kashmiri woman be brown skinned. Kashmiris use the word 'gyeshoum' meaning 'brown skinned', as a slur to describe someone as undesirable.

Kashmiris fret brown skin so much that it is impossible to find skin products as a brown skinned person here, for example- while buying a concealer, even at one of the best supermarkets in Kashmir, the only option you have is white — as if brown skin does not exist. Moreover, the salespersons have the audacity to tell you that brown products will make you look wheatish and ask you to opt for white products to conceal your skin colour.

"Don't be out in the sun for too long", "Don't play outdoor sports too often, you will catch a tan", "Don't eat too much of your favorite dessert, you could gain some pounds", are some statements that most of us often get to hear, in some instances on a daily basis. From a very young age, women are exposed to a variety of unrealistic beauty standards imposed upon them by society. Throughout history, women have felt the pressure to measure up to these standards which are lauded and labeled as beautiful.

In the early years of our childhood, we mostly looked at an ice cream as a source of utmost delight and happiness but as we grow older, we only come to think of it as a source of few calories that could make us look fat. This constant worry of gaining a few pounds eventually eradicates every such sense of joy which we earlier related to food that made us happy.

Although it is significantly important to have a healthy lifestyle, it is important for us to understand that a flat stomach is not an indication of good health and that body toning is simply an aesthetic practice. In innumerable instances, the idea of a



toned body emphasizes more on appearance rather than health and physical well-being. In Kashmiri society, it is inherently impossible to live in peace in your body. People are constantly fat shamed and if not, then shamed for being too skinny or dark-skinned. The list just goes on.

In 21st century, with easily accessible social media platforms these unrealistic 'ideal' body types have consumed more and more of young women's minds. Social media has also provided a stage for ceaseless body shaming and criticizing people for their appearance has become an over-looked evil for society.

Body shaming is a phenomenon that almost everyone has to face, in many instances from their family and friends. "You are too heavy for a young girl", "You are too skinny, men should be more muscular", "You are so skinny you could get carried away by the wind", "Young women shouldn't be so fat, stop eating that!", are some of the very common phrases we hear daily, even from people who are close to us.

We mostly tend to confuse self-hate with self-care pertaining to the ideals set by the society, which require us to shun every other practice of self-care except the ones that make us look more attractive. This materialistic idea of self-care is a silent mental assault- seeing oneself as just as an entity that needs to be constantly spruced up becomes a significant predictor of substandard mental health. These unrealistic body standards create an extreme sense of pressure among teenage girls to achieve a 'perfect' body, the idea of which is perpetuated through impractical photos of women portrayed in the media. Underweight and photoshopped- models or 'ideals of beauty' are everywhere, acting as examples of what young girls should aspire to look like.

While growing up young girls often find themselves in an amalgam of various standards they feel they need to measure up to in order to look 'prettier' and 'perfect'- small waist, clear skin, silky hair- the quintessential perfect woman. But it is clearly evident that these standards are

very utopian, unrealistic and unachievable- having clear skin is a myth, real skin is textured has pimples, scars, pigmentation and facial hair- contrary to the made up and photo-shopped looks of otherwise 'beauty' and 'fashion' icons. Not just body type and weight, young girls face criticism for the color of their skin too- colourism exists in almost every sphere of the society, there is a rigid sense of perception that correlates lighter skin tone with beauty and femininity — even in the 21st century. Colourism is widely prevalent in Indian society, where fairer skinned women are considered to be beautiful and brown skinned women mostly have to hear unsolicited advice on skin whitening procedures. It is humorously ironic that in a country colonized and tortured upon by white people, the standard of beauty is white skin, while most of its population is brown skinned.

Western beauty ideals, including fair skin, dominate the world, while it is clearly factual that people belonging to different races have different skin and hair. Colourism is so deeply imprinted on people's minds that they knowingly or unknowingly pass it on to the next generation.

For instance, cartoon and animation is the very first interaction a child has with media, and media has unrequited power to deeply influence a human's mind, it is mostly observed that animations feature 'fairies' and 'princesses' as fair skinned and 'villains' as dark skinned. This representation makes a child recognize white skin to beauty and positivity and dark skin to ugliness and negativity. Although in the contemporary time, media has adopted a more liberal approach which gives representation to skin of all colours, but the ratio of non-white skin depiction is fairly unequal. This sense of relating white skin to 'beauty' and 'superiority' roots back to the colonial era where white people had an unspoken privilege over people of colour, the phenomenon has a very dark history that we are all aware of. Yet for Indian society, white skin is somehow essential, as if the effects of colonization are still prevailing.

Having a normalized yet unrealistic societal standard drilled into your mind as soon as you start to grow, can have serious mental and physical consequences, which

is quite prevalent in young girls. Social media, magazines, and the entertainment industry keep introducing high and unachievable standards, making people think that they need to look a certain way for society or the masses to perceive them as beautiful or desirable. Even if they try to achieve these, there is always criticism behind everything.

Women can wear makeup but not too much, they should look 'natural', should be slim but not too slim, almost everything a woman does, criticism is instantly derived.

While makeup is very popular among young girls, it has unhealthy implications too- more often, they feel the need to wear makeup to hide their 'flaws' which are inherently normal but not acceptable by the society, it becomes more of a mask for them behind which they hide their insecure self- they never get to admire who they really are. Having to mask up almost every day, to hide their real skin makes them think low of themselves, as if there is something wrong with who they really are and end up with extremely low self-esteem, low confidence and often body dysmorphia. Young girls mostly end up hating their normal features like scars, discolouration, body shape and push them to the edge of mental crises.

Why are these images slammed and forced upon women? The society leaves no stone unturned to burden women with stereotypes and expectations, which mostly put women under constant pressure. Human civilization should have been past these ignorant notions of treating another human differently owing to how the person looks, way long ago.

These standards are not just mere standards but chains imprisoning women from being able to express themselves freely, to be comfortable in their own skin, these standards strip women off the very basic right of existing unfiltered. Women and young girls need to realize that there is no harm in not accepting these standards, they don't stand for beauty or grace but are yet another societal norm made up to hold back and put women down.

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer

Sons Of Women With PCOS 3 Times More Likely To Develop Obesity

Press Trust Of India

Sons of women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) are three times more likely to develop obesity, a new study has shown.

The study from Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, said that it highlighted a previously unknown risk of passing PCOS-related health problems across generations through the male side of a family.

The study is published in the journal Cell Reports Medicine.

Using registry data and mouse models, the researchers determined if and how PCOS-like traits are passed from mothers to their sons.

Just over 460,000 sons born in Sweden between July 2006 and December 2015 were included in the registry study. Of these, roughly 9,000 were sons of women with PCOS.

The researchers then identified which of the children were obese.

"We discovered that sons of women with PCOS have a threefold risk of



Credit: iStock Photo

obesity and of having high levels of "bad" cholesterol, which increases the risk of developing insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes later in life," said lead researcher Elisabet Stener-Victorin, professor at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Karolinska Institutet.

Studies in mice confirmed these findings,

where the researchers examined male offspring of female mice that before and during pregnancy were fed either a standard diet or a diet rich in fat and sugar, and were exposed to high levels of the male sex hormone dihydrotestosterone during pregnancy to mimic the pregnancy of normal weight individuals and obese women with PCOS.

The male mice were then fed a standard diet until adulthood when their fat distribution and metabolism were examined.

"We could see that these male mice had more fat tissue, larger fat cells, and a disordered basal metabolism, despite eating a healthy diet," said Stener-Victorin.

To investigate the re-

productive function of the offspring and whether physiological characteristics could be passed on from generation to generation, the first-generation male mice were mated with healthy female mice that were not exposed to male sex hormones or a diet rich in fat and sugar.

The whole process was repeated in the second generation to reach the third generation which is the first generation not to be affected by the mother condition.

The experiments showed, the researchers said, that obesity and high levels of male hormones in the woman during pregnancy can cause long-term health problems in the male offspring because their fat tissue function, metabolism, and reproductive function deteriorate, which in turn affects future generations.

"These findings may help us in the future to find ways to identify, treat and prevent reproductive and metabolic diseases at an early stage," said Stener-Victorin.

New Android Malware Discovered That Steals Your Passwords, 2FA Codes

IANIS

A new Android malware known as 'FluHorse' has been discovered, which targets users in Eastern Asia with malicious apps that look like legitimate versions with over 1,00,000 installs.

According to Check Point Research, these malicious apps are designed to extract sensitive information, including user credentials and Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) codes.

FluHorse malware targets multiple sectors in Eastern Asia and is typically distributed via email.

In some cases, high-profile entities such as government officials were targeted at the initial stages of the phishing email attack.

One of the most concerning aspects of FluHorse is its ability to go undetected for long periods of time, making it a persistent and dangerous threat that is difficult to detect.

According to the report, FluHorse attacks start with targeted and malicious emails sent to high-profile individuals, urging them to take immediate action to resolve an alleged payment issue.

Usually, the target is directed to a phishing website through a hyperlink included in the email. Once there, they are prompted to download the pho-

ney APK (Android package file) of the fake application.

The FluHorse carrier apps mimic 'ETC,' a Taiwanese toll collection app, and 'VPBank Neo,' a Vietnamese banking app.

On Google Play, both legitimate versions of these apps have over a million downloads.

Moreover, the report said that upon installation, all three fake



apps request SMS access in order to intercept incoming 2FA codes in case they are required to hijack the accounts.

The fake apps mimic the original user interfaces but lack functionality beyond two to three windows that load forms that capture the victim's information.

Following the capture of the victims' account credentials and credit card information, the apps display a "system is busy" message for 10 minutes to make the process appear realistic while the operators act in the background to intercept 2FA codes and leverage the stolen data.

Can Right Music Prevent Virtual Reality Headaches? Find Out

ANI

Listening to music might help reduce the dizziness, nausea, and headaches that virtual reality users may suffer after using digital gadgets, as per a study.

Cybersickness -- a type of motion sickness from virtual reality experiences such as computer games -- significantly reduces when joyful music is part of the immersive experience, the study found. The intensity of the nausea-related symptoms of cybersickness was also found to substantially decrease with both joyful and calming music.

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh assessed the effects of music in a virtual reality environment among 39 people aged between 22 and 36. They conducted a series of tests to assess the effect cybersickness had on a participant's memory skills reading speed and reaction times.

Participants were immersed in a virtual environment, where they experienced three roller coaster rides aimed at inducing cybersickness. Two of the three rides were accompanied by electronic music with no lyrics by artists or from music streams that people might listen to which had been selected as being calming or joyful in a previous study. One ride was com-

pleted in silence and the order of the rides was randomised across participants.

After each ride, participants rated their cybersickness symptoms and performed some memory and reaction time tests. Eye-track-



ing tests were also conducted to measure their reading speed and pupil size. For comparison purposes the participants had completed the same tests before the rides.

The study found that joyful music significantly decreased the overall cybersickness intensity. Joyful and calming music substantially decreased the intensity of nausea-related symptoms. Cybersickness among the participants

was associated with a temporary reduction in verbal working memory test scores, and a decrease in pupil size. It also significantly slowed reaction times and reading speed. The researchers also found higher levels of gaming experience were associated with lower cybersickness. There was no difference in the intensity of the cybersickness between female and male participants with comparable gaming experiences.

Researchers say the findings show the potential of music in lessening cybersickness, understanding how gaming experience is linked to cybersickness levels, and the significant effects of cybersickness on thinking skills, reaction times, reading ability and pupil size. Dr Sarah E MacPherson, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, said: "Our study suggests calming or joyful music as a solution

for cybersickness in immersive virtual reality. Virtual reality has been used in educational and clinical settings but the experience of cybersickness can temporarily impair someone's thinking skills as well as slowing down their reaction times. The development of music as an intervention could encourage virtual reality to be used more extensively within educational and clinical settings."

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT D.H.PULWAMA

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Terms & Conditions:

1. The rates should be quoted per piece and inclusive of all taxes/GST.
2. The rates should be written legibly and without cutting/over writings.
3. No conditional tenders will be accepted.

No: MS/DH/Pul
DIPK-1212/23
Dated: 08-05-2023

Medical Superintendent
DH Pulwama

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD(PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/08/2023-24 Dated: - 06-05-2023

Executive Engineer PCD PHQJ&K JAMMU/SRINAGARon behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time Allowed for opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Remodeling / Up-gradation of Police station Trial P.D. Awantipora under improvement of basic facilities Programme (by way of construction of 5*5 lavatory block with septic and soakage).	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	14.33lacs	1000/-	28660/-	60days	17-05-2023	"A","B","C" &"D"
2	Remodeling / Up-gradation of Police Station Tulaal Bandipora under improvement of basic facilities Programme	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	12.98 lacs	1000/-	25960/-	60 days	17-05-2023	"A","B","C" &"D"

1. Date of Publishing 08-05-2023 at 1400 hours.
2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1430 hours on 08-05-2023
1. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 09-05-2023 to 16-05-2023 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 17-05-2023 on line.
- ii. The complete bidding process will be on line.
- iii. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 17-05-2023 at 1100 Hrs.
- iv. The lowest bidder i. e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.
- v. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24 (2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others).
- vi. The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.
3. Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.
4. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
5. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
6. Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
7. The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
8. No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
10. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- i. The interested bidder can download the NIT/ bidding document from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- ii. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.
- iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
- iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2 (III).
- v. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
- vi. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.
- vii. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.
- viii. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
- ix. Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded on line.
11. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
12. No construction material shall be supplied by Police Construction Division, PHQ; However, the brands of the material will be approved by Engineer In-charge of the concerned site in consultation with Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K.
13. In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020/2022 in vogue with contractor's Tender appreciation/depreciation.
14. Any item of work not advertised in the rate list but found necessary during execution of work should be got approved by the competent authority before proceeding further beyond the allotment and payment for the same shall be made on sanctioned schedule of rates 2020/2022 and LMR with contractor's overall appreciation/ depreciation.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/ Sgr.

No:- e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2023-24/2588-95
DIPK-1258/23 Dated: 08-05-2023.

LIST OF IMPORTANT DATE

PRESS NOTICE
NOTICE FRESH INVITING E-TENDER
e-NIT No:- EE-PCD/PHQ/08/2022-23 DT: 06-05-2023

Name of work:- I.	Mentioned column no. 02 of NIT
2. Completion Period for construction:	See column no. 7 of NIT
3. Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Bid	Date 8 th Month 05 th Year 2023
4. Period of downloading Tender Documents :-	From Date 8 th Month 05 th Year 2023 Time 1430 Hrs Places(s) http://jktenders.gov.in
5. Period of Receiving Bids on line	Date 9 th Month 05 th Year 2023 Time 0900 Hrs
	To Date 16 th Month 05 th Year 2023 Upto 1600 Hrs
6. Time and date for opening Technical Bid/ Bids on line	Date 17 th Month 05 th Year 2023 Time 1100 Hours
7. Time and Date of opening Financial Bid on line	Shall be communicated
8. Place of opening Bids	Place: Office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar.
9. Last Date of bid validity	Date 16 th Month 08 th Year 2023
10. Officer Inviting Bids	Executive Engineer, PCD (PHQ) J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. Designation: Executive Engineer
	Address:- Police Construction Division, J&K Jammu / Srinagar.



Russia Says It Has Billions Of Indian Rupees That It Can't Use

Bloomberg

MOSCOW: Russia has accumulated billions of rupees in Indian banks which it can't use, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Friday, pointing to a ballooning trade surplus with the South Asian nation.

"This is a problem," Lavrov told reporters in Goa on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting. "We need to use this money. But for this, these rupees must be transferred in another currency, and this is being discussed now."

India's total exports to Russia shrunk 11.6% to \$2.8 billion in the first 11 months of the 2022-23 financial year, while imports rose nearly fivefold to \$41.56 billion, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. That surge came as refiners have scooped up discounted Russian oil in the past year that's been shunned by the West in response to President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Imports of Russian crude by India reached a record 1.68 million barrels a day in April, up sixfold on a year earlier, according to Vortexa Ltd, a data intelligence firm.

The Kremlin initially encouraged India to trade in national currencies following sanctions

on Russian banks and a ban on transactions using the SWIFT messaging system.

But volatility in the ruble soon after the war began meant plans for a rupee-ruble mechanism for oil imports were abandoned. India has resisted pressure from the US to scale back relations with Moscow since the invasion of Ukraine.

'Frozen Funds'

The imbalance in trade for Russia means "the volume of 'frozen funds' can reach tens of billions of dollars," said Alexander Knobel, director of the Institute of International Economics and Finance of the Ministry of Economic Development. "The situation is aggravated by India's historically high aggregate trade deficit, which reduces the possibilities of clearing settlements with third countries."

Russia is India's largest supplier of weapons and military hardware, though defense supplies to the South Asian nation have stalled for lack of a payment mechanism that doesn't violate US sanctions.

Indian payments for weapons amounting to more than \$2 billion have been stuck for about a year as New Delhi has been unable to settle the bill in dollars because of concerns about falling foul of secondary sanctions, while Russia is reluctant to accept rupees for purchases.

Stop Sale Of Tickets Immediately, DGCA Tells Go First



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI- Skies are getting more cloudy for the cash-starved Go First with aviation regulator DGCA on Monday directing the airline to immediately stop ticket sales, lessors seeking deregistration of another 13 planes and the NCLT yet to give its ruling on the voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings plea.

On Monday, Go First requested the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for an early decision on its plea for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings before the two-member bench headed by tribunal President Ramalingam Sudhakar.

Another bench which heard the petition of an operational creditor SS Associates Services Pvt Ltd seeking insolvency proceedings against the carrier said the matter needs to be listed before the bench headed by the president.

As uncertainties rise over the future of the no-frills airline, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed

the carrier to immediately stop bookings and sale of tickets till further orders.

The regulator has also issued a show cause notice to the budget carrier under the relevant provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, for its failure to continue the operation of the service in a safe, efficient and reliable manner, the source said.

In a setback to the ailing airline, lessors have so far sought the deregistration of 36 planes of Go First.

As many as 28 planes or more than half of the airline's fleet are grounded due to non-supply of engines by Pratt & Whitney (P&W), the airline's chief Kaushik Khona said on May 2.

Earlier, Go First suspended ticket sales till May 15 and cancelled flights till May 12. The cash-strapped carrier has not flown since May 3, a day after filing for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings before the NCLT.

The source said the DGCA has asked the airline to submit its reply within 15 days of the receipt of the show cause no-

tice, and further, a decision on the continuation of its Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) will be taken on the basis of the reply submitted by it.

With liabilities worth Rs 11,463 crore and a financial crunch, the airline has sought voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings as well as an interim moratorium on its financial obligations.

The lessors of the carrier have opposed Go First's plea for an interim moratorium contending that it would have "harmful and serious consequences".

The carrier has total liabilities of Rs 11,463 crore to all creditors, including a default of Rs 3,856 crore towards operational creditors. The dues towards aircraft lessors are Rs 2,600 crore.

Meanwhile, the NCLT on Monday issued a notice to Spicejet on a petition filed by an aircraft lessor, seeking initiation of insolvency resolution proceedings against the budget carrier and the next hearing is scheduled for May 17.

The petition was filed by Air-castle (Ireland) Ltd.

Lessors Seek Deregistration Of 36 Go First Planes

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: In less than week of cash-strapped Go First cancelling all its flights, lessors have sought deregistration of a total of 36 planes with requests coming for taking back 13 more aircraft on Monday.

With the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) yet to pronounce its verdict on Go First's petition seeking voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings, the airline on Monday requested the tribunal for an early decision saying lessors have started deregistering aircraft.

The tribunal agreed to look into Go First's request. Lessors have approached the Directorate General of Civil

Aviation (DGCA) to deregister another 13 aircraft of Go First, as per an update with the regulator on Monday.

Earlier, lessors applied for deregistration of Go First's 23 planes.

On May 2, also the day when the Wadia group-owned airline filed for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings, its Chief Executive Officer Kaushik Khona told PTI that of the total 55 aircraft in its fleet, 28 planes were on ground due to Pratt & Whitney engine issues and remaining 27 were operational.

Go First has not been operating flights since May 3.

Earlier on Monday, the DGCA directed the airline to immediately stop bookings and sale of tickets directly or

indirectly till further orders.

Besides, the regulator has issued a show cause notice to the budget carrier under the relevant provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, for its failure to continue the operation of the service in a safe, efficient and reliable manner, according to a source.

The DGCA has asked the carrier to submit its reply within 15 days of the receipt of the show cause notice, and further, a decision on the continuation of its Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) will be taken on the basis of the reply submitted by it, the source added.

Earlier, the airline has suspended the sale of tickets till May 15 and cancelled flights till May 12.

Why Panel Commissioned By Power Ministry Calls For Ban Of Diesel Four-Wheelers By 2027?

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India should by 2027 ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheelers in cities with over 10 lakh population and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles, according to a report commissioned by the oil ministry.

The report of the committee headed by former oil secretary Tarun Kapoor also suggested phasing out motorcycles, scooters, and three-wheelers with internal combustion engines by 2035.

There should be no diesel city buses addition in urban areas in about 10 years, the panel which submitted its report to the government in February this year, said.

The government is yet to accept the report. "EVs may be promoted as the

"Diesel-driven four-wheelers may be eliminated as soon as possible. Therefore, a ban on diesel-powered four-wheelers in all million-plus cities and all towns with high pollution has to be enforced in five years, i.e. by 2027," the report said.

For transitioning to EVs, CNG as a transition fuel (up to 10-15 years) has been emphasised.

"Vehicles with flex-fuel capabilities and hybrids may be promoted in the short and medium terms. This can be done through the application of fiscal tools like taxation," it said.

To boost electric vehicle use in the country, the report said the government should consider a "targeted extension" of incentives given under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles scheme (FAME) to beyond March 31.



optimal solution in preparing for phasing out internal combustion engine two/three wheel vehicles by 2035. In the intermediate period, policy support for ethanol-blended fuel with an increasing blend ratio needs to be given," the report said.

It called for four-wheelers, including passenger cars and taxis, to partially shift to electric and partially to ethanol-blended petrol with almost 50 per cent share in each category.

The report favoured new registrations of only electric-powered city delivery vehicles from 2024 and suggested higher use of railways and gas-powered trucks for the movement of cargo.

These steps will help India achieve the goal of cutting its emissions to net zero by 2070.

Net-zero, or becoming carbon neutral, means not adding to the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Govt Bans Apple Imports If Its Price Is Less Than Rs 50 Per Kg



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Monday banned the import of apples if its imported price is less than Rs 50 per Kg.

The directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification that the imports are free if the price is above Rs 50 per kg.

"Import of apples...is prohibited wherever the CIF (cost, insurance, freight) import price is less than equal to Rs 50 per Kg," DGFT said in the notification.

The minimum import price condition shall not be applicable for imports from Bhutan, it added.

In 2023, India imported apples worth USD 296 million against USD 385.1 million in 2022.

The main countries which export apples to India include the US, Iran, Brazil, UAE, Afghanistan, France, Belgium, Chile, Italy, Turkey, New Zealand, South Africa and Poland. Imports from South Africa rose 84.8 per cent to USD 18.53 million during April-February 2022-23.

Similarly from Poland, the inbound shipments of apple increased by 83.36 per cent to USD 15.39 million. However, imports declined from countries like the US, UAE, France and Afghanistan.

Indian Financial System Well Protected, Regulated: Seth

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Indian financial system is well protected and regulated despite the daunting global financial situation, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said on Monday.

Briefing media on the meeting outcome of the 27th Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Seth said "The Indian financial sector is well protected, well regulated but at the same time, we have to be cautious and be on our toes as soon as early warning indicators are there." There are a set of indicators which provide early warning indicators so that the stresses are noticed well in time to take the corrective measures, he said.

Asked if the spillover of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank and liquidity pressure faced by Credit Suisse was discussed, he said, it was not specifically brought but there's no spillover coming.

About the Government Se-



curities (G-Sec) market, he said the effort is to have a seamless experience for potential with the use of technology. "Whether they (potential investors) come through the RBI infrastructure... or the Sebi infrastructure route, hitherto which was not possible but today with the use of technology (it) is possible," he noted.

On the G-sec market, he said, "With the use of technology, how a seamless experience can be provided to potential investors, whether they come through the RBI infrastructure, which is the market infrastructure route, or the Sebi infrastructure route, hitherto which was not possible but today with the use of technology is possible".

So all stakeholders should

work in a time-bound manner to create a seamless environment for investment, he added.

The council also deliberated on early warning indicators for the economy and our preparedness to deal with them, reducing the compliance burden on the regulated entities in the financial sector by improving regulatory quality, debt levels of corporates and households in India, simplification and streamlining of KYC framework to meet the needs of Digital India, he said.

Besides, the seamless experience for retail investors in government securities, Bimakrit Bharat - Unique Value Proposition to take insurance to the last mile and support required in terms of resolving inter-regulatory issues for GIFT IFSC to play a strategic role in Atmanirbhar Bharat was also discussed.

The council also took note of the activities undertaken by the FSDC Sub-Committee chaired by the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and the action taken by members on the past decisions of the FSDC.

Sensex, Nifty Rebound Over 1% Amid Rally In Global Markets

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded more than 1 per cent while Nifty reclaimed the 18,200 level on Monday, boosted by heavy buying in banking, financial and auto stocks amid a rally in global stock markets.

Besides, continuous foreign fund inflows further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 709.96 points or 1.16 per cent to settle at 61,764.25, as 27 of its components advanced and 3 declined. During the day, it jumped 799.9 points or 1.31 per cent to 61,854.19.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 195.40 points or 1.08 per cent to end at 18,264.40 with 42 of its constituents gaining and 8 closing with losses.

"Benchmark Indices commenced the week on a strong note rising over a percentage with heavy weights led by Reliance, Bajaj twins and HDFC twins even as other biggies in the banking space contributed their bit.

"Mid and small indices too rallied smartly as most sectoral indices ended in the Green in today's trade with the Nifty scaling past the 18,250 mark. Market Breadth during the day was largely good as evident in the Advance-Decline ratio," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said.

RBI's Gold Reserves Rise To 794.64 Tonne At March-End 2023

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank's gold reserves increased by 34.22 tonne year-on-year to reach 794.64 tonne at March-end 2023, showed central bank data on Monday.

The Reserve Bank held 760.42 metric tonnes of gold (including gold deposits of 11.08 metric tonnes) at the March-end of 2022.

"As at end-March 2023, the Reserve Bank held 794.64 metric tonne of gold (including gold deposits of 56.32 metric tonne)," the central bank said in its Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves: October 2022 - March 2023. While 437.22 tonne of gold is held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), 301.10 tonne of gold is held domestically.

In value terms (USD), the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased from about 7.06% as of September-end 2022 to about 7.81% as of March-end 2023, the report said. During the half-year period, reserves increased from \$52.66 billion as of September-end 2022 to \$57.45 billion as of March-end 2023.

Forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights



and reserve tranche position in the International Monetary Fund.

Although both the US dollar and Euro are intervention currencies and the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) are maintained in major currencies, the foreign exchange reserves are denominated and expressed in US dollar terms.

Movements in the FCA occur mainly on account of the purchase and sale of foreign exchange by the RBI, income arising out of the deployment of foreign exchange reserves, external aid receipts of the central government and changes on account of revaluation of the assets.

As of March-end 2023, out of the total FCA of \$509.69 billion, \$411.65 billion was invested in securities, \$75.51 billion was deposited with other central banks and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), and the balance of \$22.52 billion comprised deposits with commercial banks overseas.

Panama Papers: ED Seizes Over Rs 41-Cr Valued Prime Real Estate Of Zavareh Poonawalla

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday seized three properties at a prime location in Mumbai, valued more than Rs 41 crore, as part of a foreign exchange violation probe against Zavareh Soli Poonawalla whose name figured in the Panama Papers.

Zavareh Poonawalla is the brother of Cyrus S Poonawalla, the founder and CMD of vaccine major-- Serum Institute of India (SII). The company and its promoters are not linked to this case.

In a statement, the federal probe agency said Zavareh Poonawalla and his family member are accused of "remitting foreign exchange abroad by mis-utilising the provisions of the LRS (Liberalised Remittance Scheme)".

The Enforcement Directorate

(ED) seized three immovable assets located at the Ceejay House in Mumbai's Worli area to the extent of Rs 41.64 crore under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the statement said.

Zavareh Poonawalla and his family "used the maximum permissible limit (as available under the LRS) and from the year 2011-12, they remitted money abroad via mis-declarations under the pretext of 'family maintenance' and 'self-maintenance' etc", the agency said.

"However, none of their family members was residing abroad or holding NRI status," it alleged.

The entire funds remitted by (Zavareh) Poonawalla, whose name was found in the Panama Papers revelations regarding offshore entities, and his family members under LRS were invested into British Virgin Islands-based Stallast Limited,

the ED said.

Dubbed the 'Panama Papers', an investigation of a stockpile of records from Panamanian legal firm Mossack Fonseca by Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) in 2016 had named several world leaders and celebrities who allegedly stashed away money abroad in offshore companies.

Investigators have said not all people whose name figured in this list were offenders.

The ED found that funds remitted by Zavareh Poonawalla and his family members were utilised by Stallast Limited to "purchase" four apartments in the Paddington area of central London. Multiple FEMA contraventions were seen in these transactions, it alleged.

The ED said besides "mis-declarations" in remittances, Zavareh Poonawalla and his

family members also "wrongly" claimed these investments as foreign portfolio investments. In reality, the foreign entity was completely controlled by them and thus, they did overseas direct investment in a foreign wholly owned subsidiary without due permission of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the agency said.

The foreign assets were not declared to the RBI, and they continued to hold the foreign assets and are in continuous enjoyment of the same, it alleged.

"The properties abroad were acquired through the funds remitted under LRS to avoid reporting requirements to RBI and thus, (Zavareh) Poonawalla mis-utilised the LRS," the ED said.

"Therefore, the equivalent value of properties held by them in India have been seized under the provisions of Section 37A of the FEMA," it said.

DC Pulwama Reviews Mineral Mining Scenario In DLTFC Meeting

Says Adherence To Scientific Management Of Mining Is Imperative

Pulwama: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a meeting of the Multi Departmental District Level Task Force Committee for Geology and Mining to discuss and review the status of mineral mining in the district.

Initially Additional Deputy Commissioners, Pulwama, Tral and Awantipora apprised the chair and participants about the latest status of the mineral- mining scenario in the district and gave some suggestions for complete ban on instances of illegal mining.

Giving details, DMO informed that a total of 10 mineral blocks have been e-auctioned, 04 are operational and rest are awaiting environmental clearance from JKEIAA.

The DC while speaking on the occasion, asked for mapping of mineral mining areas

keeping in view the impact assessment. He also called for the need to streamline the extraction of minerals in the district.

He added that scientific mechanisms in place should be adhered to deal with the issue of mining. Outlining the importance of the District level Committee constituted for the purpose, he impressed upon the concerned to prescribe SOPs and take all the necessary steps needed for enforcement of the same. He emphasized submitting reports about illegal mining on a weekly basis and stern action against those involved in illegal mining in the district.

The DC asked the members of the District level Task Force Committee to work in close coordination and liaison in the best interest of checking illegal mining in the district to control this menace of illegal mining from the district forever.

He further directed the DMO to make a detailed plan highlighting the role of Police, Revenue, Forest, Irrigation and Flood Control departments so as to check illegal mining, transportation and dumping of minerals in the district.

DC also passed directions to police to extend all possible support needed to the checking squads of the district for ensuring a blanket ban on the instances of illegal mining.

DMO was also directed to establish Nakas/check points at the sensitive points to keep a strict and close vigil on illegal transportation and storage of minerals.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Tral and Awantipora, ASP Pulwama, ACR, DFO and DMO, representatives from Irrigation, Flood Control and other concerned officers.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Extremely Rare

the bird was already here.

"We knew the bird was here but had no photographic evidence so its presence is now confirmed," Suhail said, adding "we can't share the location of the bird as the poacher will go after it."

The significance of the Tragopan, Suhail said, is that the bird is very colourful and glamorous. "It is a very shy bird who doesn't come out usually and is found in western Himalayas only" he added.

Western Himalayas are spread to Pakistan and northern India which includes Kashmir.

An official from the wildlife department told Kashmir Observer that the department was planning for a long time to get photographic evidence of the bird and they did it finally with the help of Jainy Maria.

According to a study conducted by a group of scientists and wildlife experts, there is an urgent need to plan long-term monitoring and initiate appropriate measures to conserve the species.

The study titled as "Distribution and Conservation Status of the Western Tragopan melanocephalus in Jammu and Kashmir, India" reveals that the major reasons for its global decline are habitat degradation is livestock grazing, fuel wood collection, disturbance by grazers and mushroom collectors, hunting and trapping for meat.

The study further noted that in J&K, historically, western tragopan has been reported from Rampur, Uri, Keran and Lolab areas, and also the southern slopes of the Pir Panjal Range.

Records of western tragopan have also been obtained from Kishtwar (part of which is now the Kishtwar National Park (NP), Padder and Bhaderwah, which fall in the Chenab Valley of the UT.

The study also noted that J&K is one of the strongholds for the species.

"The modelling of habitat also showed that there is a reasonably good potential tragopan habitat in the state, although its presence needs to be confirmed through field surveys,"

Rajouri Operation

continuing when the last reports were received, they said.

The security forces carrying the operation were armed with surveillance equipment, sniffer dogs, drones and metal detectors, the officials said.

Sources said three security-cum-cordons have been activated in and around large chunks of the zeroed in area in the Kandi forest.

Rajouri and Poonch districts in Jammu region, which were declared "terrorism-free" more than a decade ago, have been rocked by a series of deadly attacks since October 2021, resulting in the killing of 35 people, including 26 soldiers.

Azad Worried

party comes to power, he will ensure equitable development of Jammu, Chenab and Peer Panchal regions.

He lamented over the growing incidents of violence, saying militancy is in nobody's interest.

Y20: KU To

We are expecting 17 delegates from nine foreign countries to participate in the event. Four delegates each are from Russia and Indonesia, while two each are coming from the US and Brazil. One participant each is coming from Turkey, Japan, South Korea, Nigeria and Mexico," Khan told reporters here ahead of the event scheduled on May 11.

She said the University of Kashmir was chosen from among 15 premier institutions of India to hold the Youth20 consultation under the G20 presidency.

"As part of G20 presidency India assumed in December last, Kashmir University is holding a Y20 event on the theme 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life on May 11. Organizing this event is a historical occasion for the varsity under India's G20 Presidency," she added.

VC KU said since the event is of national importance, the varsity has placed all necessary logistical and other arrangements very well in advance.

"This engagement and involvement of youth in conversation and dialogue on climate change is one big intervention that India's G20 presidency has made. This theme was also opted in view of the enormous research work our university has been conducting in the area of climate change," she said, adding "I am glad to inform all that KU has been awarded the Center of Excellence in Glacial Studies in the Western Himalayas by the Depart of Science and Technology.

She said the research work done by Kashmir University on climate change has been published and acknowledged globally.

"This mega event being held in Kashmir University under the country's G20 Presidency reflects our deep commitment to further tread the path of academic excellence with great determination and sustained focus," she said, adding I am confident that this event will further encourage our faculty, research scholars and students to pursue their academic goals with greater vigor.

Rare May

early hours of the day, the officials said.

Rainfall over the past 24 hours in most parts of the Valley, and snowfall in some areas, has sent the mercury plummeting and people had to pull out their winter clothes again.

Schools Closed

several other districts.

In view of the flooding situation triggered by heavy rains, schools were closed by authorities in Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts.

"All schools, both government and private, up to the middle level (Class 8) in Ramban district

shall remain closed today in view of heavy rains," said Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mussarat Islam.

Traffic continued to ply as usual on Jammu-Srinagar national highway despite inclement weather in several sectors, officials said.

Fresh snowfall was witnessed in Marwah, Wardwan, Dacchan, Simpathan of Kishtwar and Mahu Mangat area of Ramban, upper reaches of Doda and Reasi districts, they said.

Due to fresh snowfall, a cold wave condition was triggered in the region.

"Due to prevailing weather conditions, Sinthan and Margan road in Kishtwar district shall remain closed today. General public requested not to venture out un-necessarily near rivers and nallas", a district advisory said.

Dozens of nomads along with over 70 cattle were rescued from Margan's top area by the army and police as they were trapped in the fresh snowfall, they said.

Some nomadic families along with cattle are stuck up in Mahoo and Khari belts in Banihal, they said.

The fresh snowfall has badly affected the agriculture and horticulture sectors in the region, they said.

The plain area witnessed heavy rains in various districts of the region. In Banihal, 40.2 mm of rainfall was experienced during the past 24 hours, they said.

As a precautionary measure amid the ongoing rains, the administration has ordered for closure of all the schools, government and private included, in the district, officials said.

However, if there are any exams, those shall be held as per schedule, they said. Schools were also shut in Kishtwar district, they said.

4 Districts On

and Baramulla districts.

People living in these areas have been in the meantime advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders.

Horticulture Dept

In view of this, the advisory says, farmers are advised to shake the trees immediately and should not allow the snow to accumulate on the branches.

The advisory asks farmers to drain-out the accumulated snow/rain water through drainage channels and spray fungicides immediately, after the improvement of weather.

The department has suggested a number of fungicides to prevent damage to the orchards.

It has also suggested the farmers remove the fallen fruitlets and leaves from the orchards immediately, spray during dry and cool hours and use mist sprays.

Banihal-Baramulla

survey or Aerial LiDAR) and DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System)", he said.

There is a single-track line from Baramulla to Qazigund and the project, if approved, will

double the capacity of the Railways.

CAM said that after the proposed survey, the capacity of the trains and the number of the trains will increase tremendously. "The capacity of the trains will be doubled," he said. He said the work is expected to start soon.

Asked if fresh land was being allocated for the project, Saqib said, only after the survey gets completed, it is the Railways that will determine whether additional land is required for the project--(KNO)

Aadhaar, Registration

put in place for the convenience of the pilgrims at base camps, langar sites and en-route to the pilgrimage.

Bhandari, he said, sought details from Director Rural Sanitation, Director Urban Local Bodies about the preparedness.

"The Director Rural Sanitation informed that the tenders have been floated for installation of mobile toilets. Over 940 toilets at Baltal axis and 1345 toilets at Pahalgam axis would be set up at Baltal axis and manpower of 1370 would be deployed for managing these toilets including sanitation workers, supervisors and other staff," the spokesperson said.

To keep the Yatra camps and tracks clean, he said, the CEO instructed the concerned departments to appoint nodal officers at key locations to keep a close watch on cleanliness and sanitation operations in all camps and along the track and particularly littering of waste and plastic materials.

According to the spokesperson, the Director ULB also informed about the arrangements to be put in place at various locations en-route Kathua to Ramban.

"It was informed that the tenders have been floated for the installation of mobile toilets for the ease of the pilgrims. The CEO directed Deputy Commissioners to share requirements in their respective districts along with location details for installation of toilets," he said.

He further said that the Commissioner JMC apprised the CEO that anticipating higher number of yatris coming for the Yatra this year, the Municipal Corporation would install additional 120 toilets at yatri niwas and other locations in the Jammu city.

"The CEO issued directions to all the concerned departments to ensure the involvement of the Engineers of Jal Shakti while installing toilets to make sure that there was no shortage of water during Yatra days," he added.

While reviewing the mechanism for solid waste management, Bhandari, the spokesperson said, instructed the CEOs of Pahalgam Development Authority, Sonamarg Development Authority and the heads of the other agencies to take advance steps for scientific disposal of the bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes, including plastic waste.

"The camps and track must be totally free from any waste to avoid damage to the environment and inconvenience to the pilgrims

during the Yatra," he said.

"The CEO emphasized upon the need to make adequate arrangements well in advance by working in close coordination for smooth conduct of the Yatra," he added.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, Ramban, Director Tourism Jammu, Additional CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Director Rural Sanitation, Director Urban Local Bodies and concerned officers while Commissioner Secretary Rural Development Department, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Ganderbal alongwith concerned officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

3.1 Magnitude

damages due to the quake.

13 Rescued

enjoying the recreational activity when they hit the bridge in Baradari area.

"Mata Vaishnodevi and Lord Shiva saved us. It took over half an hour to rescue us. We went into the water and the strong current took us a long distance, but we held each other's hand and stayed together," a woman said.

MiG-21 Crash

died in the incident and three others are injured," he said.

In a statement, the IAF said, "A MiG-21 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Suratgarh during a routine training sortie today morning".

"The pilot ejected safely, sustaining minor injuries. An inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident," it said.

The Suratgarh Air Force station is in Ganganagar district which is close to Hanumangarh.

SP, Hanumangarh, Sudheer Chaudhary said the plane crashed on the house of one Ratti Ram, killing his wife Basho Kaur and two other women identified as Leela Devi and Banto Kaur.

Burn injuries led to the death of the women, he said, adding three people were also injured.

According to initial reports, the house of Ratti Ram was completely damaged besides some nearby houses.

A local resident said he heard a loud sound and saw a parachute coming down.

Within seconds, the plane crashes on the house of Ratti Ram and wood stored in the house caught fire.

"Local people immediately started efforts to douse flames with the help of water and sand. Fire brigade and police reached the spot and the women were taken to a hospital," the local resident told reporters in Hanumangarh.

Soon after the incident, locals gathered at the spot in large numbers.

Mortar Shell

was later called to defuse the shell.

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

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'Samad Was Desperate To Show His Worth To Team'

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: Sunrisers Hyderabad batting coach Hemang Badani said Abdul Samad redeemed himself with a match-winning effort against Rajasthan Royals as past failures were "hurting" the Jammu and Kashmir batter inside.

The 21-year-old has been with SRH since the 2020 season but given them little return on investment. However, he repaid the faith on Sunday night with a 7-ball 17 in SRH's chase of 215. SRH needed four runs off the final ball of the game and Samad smashed Sandeep Sharma for a straight six, having being caught off a no ball the previous delivery.

Glenn Phillips had brought back SRH in the game with a 7-ball 25.

The win keeps SRH alive in the tournament.

"It is a great win for us because it gives us momentum. A few games could have been a different for us, especially the last game against KKR in which

we needed 9 off the last over. We could not finish that. Also the game against Delhi at home should have been finished by us," Badani said.

"It will give a lot of belief to guys like Samad as we would have felt he missed out on a couple of times and to have done it here, the next time he will bat differently in a similar situation," Badani revealed. Samad was gutted after the loss to KKR.

"I have to give full marks to Samad. He was the first one to come up to me after the last game and said 'I should have finished the game'. He took ownership of it. He didn't finish well and was unhappy about it."

"He was thinking that 'I am a retained player and I want to show the team that I am worth its time and investment'."

"A few sides have tried doing certain things against him and we have worked on that. One of them did come off this evening," added Badani.

2nd Kashmir International FIDE-Rated Chess Championship From June 10



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Chess Club announced on Monday that it will organise "2nd Kashmir International FIDE Rated Chess Tournament" at Indoor Sports Complex Polo Ground from June 10 to 15, 2023.

The championship will be held in collaboration with All J&K Chess Association and under the aegis of J&K Sports Council.

"The tournament is approved by All India Chess Federation under the AICF event code: 321392/2023. The details and Brochure of the tournament is available at <https://aicf.in> and <https://www.fide.com>. Players

can register themselves up to May 30, after which late fee will be charged," the Kashmir Chess Club said in a statement issued by its Press Secretary/PRO Gohar Rashid.

"Till date some 41 players have already registered themselves and there is mandatory for every player to have an AICF registration for the current year. Those who don't have AICF registration can apply through <https://prs.aicf.in/new-register>," the statement added.

"It is expected as per the queries 200 players from all corners of India will take part. Some Bangladeshi and Nepali players are also expected to be part of the event," it concluded.

IPL 2023: Rohit's Form A Concern As MI Play RCB



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: With the race for the play-offs intensifying, captain Rohit Sharma's form with the bat and bowling in the death overs will be a huge concern for hosts Mumbai Indians when they take on Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL 2023 match in Mumbai on Tuesday.

With 184 runs in 10 matches at a forgettable average of 18.39 and a solitary half-century, Rohit is enduring a second consecutive poor season with the bat.

For the sixth-placed Mumbai Indians to move up in the points table, it is imperative

that their best batter in the line-up fires.

Rohit's role in this IPL has been to provide brisk starts at the top, and at times he has had some success too, but consistency has deserted the right-arm batter whose early dismissal in huge chases has only added pressure on a relatively new batting line-up, which fortunately, from MI's point of view, has delivered too.

In last year's IPL, which also was MI's poorest in terms of performance as they finished last, Rohit averaged a little over 19 while scoring 268 runs in 14 matches.

MI tried taking pressure off

Rohit by sending him at No. 3 in their last game against Chennai Super Kings, but it was a move that worked for none of the parties involved. The MI captain registered his second consecutive duck and fourth single-digit score on the trot while an otherwise firing Glenn fell for six at the opening slot.

On the other hand, RCB will hope that their troika of Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell fire at the top, since whenever they have done so collectively, the team has found itself mostly on the right side of the results.

Match: Starts at 7.30pm IST.

Ishan Kishan Named As KL Rahul's Replacement In WTC Final Squad

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan has been named as replacement for the injured KL Rahul in India's WTC final squad.

In a statement posted on their Twitter handle, BCCI wrote: "The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Ishan Kishan as KL Rahul's replacement. Rahul suffered an injury to his right upper thigh while fielding during Match 43rd of TATA IPL 2023 between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore on 1st May. After consultations with specialists, it has been decided that Rahul will undergo surgery at the earliest followed by rehab at the National Cricket Academy for the same. He is ruled out of the upcoming ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia."

India face Australia in the June 7 to 11 WTC final, at The Oval, in London.

Many were of the thought that veteran stumper Wriddhiman Saha, who is having a great IPL, would get a call-up for the one-off game but Kis-



han's selection showed that Shiv Sunder Das's committee has gone with continuity.

"Kishan was the designated second keeper for Border Gavaskar Trophy. There was no discussion on Wriddhiman Saha," a source privy to development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The national selectors also raised a few eyebrows by not picking up India A skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran as a standby for the one-off final when the Bengal opener is apparently fit and fine.

Ruturaj Gaikwad, known

more for his exploits in the IPL for CSK, has been named in the standby list although Easwaran has a far better record at the India A level.

India's squad for WTC final: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, KS Bharat (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Ishan Kishan (wk).

Standby players: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Mukesh Kumar, Suryakumar Yadav.



Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Back BCCI On Moving Asia Cup Out Of Pakistan

Agencies

The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have supported the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over the matter of moving this year's Asia Cup tournament out of Pakistan. As per Geo News, both countries are willing to host the continental cricketing affair in case it is moved out of Pakistan.

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president Jay Shah last year announced that the 2023 edition of the tournament will be held at a neutral venue, instead of Pakistan. If Pakistan decides to not participate in the Asia Cup, ACC could consider replacing them with United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the tournament.

Jay Shah, the current ACC president and secretary of BCCI, has also assured broadcasters that losses suffered due to absence of Pakistan in Asia Cup 2023 will be compensated dur-

ing a series involving India in future.

BCCI has been asked by the Centre to adopt a strict stance on the matter during the next ACC meeting. The governing body of cricket in India is also unlikely to accept the hybrid model proposed by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for the Asia Cup, under which India would have played its matches at a neutral venue.

Earlier, Najam Sethi, the chairperson of the PCB Management Committee, called for a rational approach to solve the crisis looming over the country's hosting of the Asia Cup and its participation in the ICC Cricket World Cup later this year, which will be held in India. Talking to the media at the occasion of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) meeting, Sethi said that Pakistan's chances to travel to India for 50-over World Cup are low. (ANI)

Messi Back In PSG Training After Club Lifts Suspension

Agencies

PARIS: Lionel Messi returned to training Monday with his Paris Saint-Germain teammates after the club lifted his suspension.

The French team announced Messi's return on its website, posting a picture of the former Barcelona player running with a ball at the club's training ground.

PSG did not officially say whether Messi's disciplinary punishment had been revoked, but a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that the Argentina star resumed his training after the suspension was lifted.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

The move suggests that the World Cup winner will be available for PSG's next league game against Ajaccio on Saturday, barring an injury.

With four games left to play, PSG tops the league standings with a six-point lead over Lens.

PSG had not specified the length of the suspension, though French media reported it to be two weeks.

Messi missed practice last Monday while he was on a promotional trip to Saudi Arabia, and the French club announced his suspension a day later. Messi



apologized to the club and his teammates for traveling without PSG's permission.

Messi, who joined PSG in August 2021, is not expected to extend his contract with PSG beyond this season.

Reports have linked him to Inter Miami in Major League Soccer, a return to Barcelona, and a lucrative move to Saudi Arabia.

Messi joined PSG after winning every major title with Barcelona. The Catalan club that Messi called home from the age of 13 couldn't afford to keep him because of large debts and the Spanish league's financial regulations.

Man City's Haaland Takes On Real Madrid's Attacking Trio In CL Semis

Agencies

MADRID: Two of the best attacking teams in Europe face off in the Champions League semifinals this week, with Manchester City's record-seeking Erling Haaland going against Real Madrid's red-hot trio of Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Karim Benzema.

It will be a rematch of last year's semifinal, when Madrid got the better of a City team that didn't have Haaland in the squad. City fell short of European success yet again, while Madrid went on to win a record-extending 14th title.

The addition of Haaland could be the difference-maker for Pep Guardiola's team this time. The 22-year-old Norwegian scored 12 of City's 26 goals in the Champions League this season. He is five short of Cristiano Ronaldo's single-season record of 17 goals for Madrid in 2013-14.

Haaland added a new dimension to a City attack that played most of last season without a striker. Instead of focusing on always dominating possession,



Guardiola has been happy to use Haaland as a weapon on the counterattack at times. The striker has a Premier League-record 35 goals this season, and 51 in total in all competitions.

Madrid will stick to the formula that has worked well in recent years, with Vinicius, Benzema and Rodrygo taking turns to lead an attack that scored 25 goals in the Champions League this season — 15 of them coming from the trio. They scored eight of the team's 10 goals in the knockout stage alone.

Last season, Vinicius, Benzema and Rodrygo combined for all six of Madrid's goals as it advanced

past City 6-5 on aggregate in the semifinals. Rodrygo scored the two late goals that took the second leg to extra time at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Rodrygo is coming off a two-goal performance in the 2-1 win over Osasuna that gave Madrid the Copa del Rey title on Saturday. Vinicius had an assist and continued to play at a top level. Benzema had a hat trick in Madrid's 4-2 win against Almeria in the previous Spanish league round.

With the Copa title secured and the league out of reach, Madrid can fully focus on the match-up against City.

City will enter the semifinals still in the middle of

a tight title race in England. Guardiola had to play some of his top players — including Haaland and Kevin de Bruyne — for the full 90 minutes in the 2-1 win over Leeds on Saturday.

Madrid eliminated two other English clubs in the Champions League this season — Liverpool in the round of 16 and Chelsea in the quarterfinals. City advanced past Leipzig in the last 16 and Bayern Munich in the last eight. Madrid is making its 11th semifinal appearances in 13 seasons and is trying to win its sixth title in 10 seasons. City played in its first Champions League final two seasons ago, losing to Chelsea. (AP)

AC Milan Faces City Rival Inter Milan In Champions League Semifinal

Agencies

MILAN: The Milan teams are back. AC Milan faces city rival Inter Milan in the semifinals of the Champions League, but only one will get the opportunity to reach the Champions League final and compete for European soccer's top prize.

The victor will face either Real Madrid or Manchester City in the final.

Three-time European champion Inter was the last Italian club to lift the trophy, when it won an unprecedented treble of the league, Italian Cup and Champions League under José Mourinho in 2010.

Milan won the last of its seven titles in 2007.

"To be part of a club like this is a dream," Milan defender Fikayo Tomori said in an interview with The Associated Press. "To go and play in the San Siro, seeing it on the Champions League nights ... it's such an iconic stadium, such an iconic sort of club."

"The fact that two Italian teams are in the semifinals ... it's obviously good for



the league, good for Italian football. We're obviously focusing on us. We want to be the best."

Milan hosts Inter on Wednesday before the return leg the following Tuesday. Both games will be at the San Siro as the teams share the stadium.

"We got two really exciting games coming up," Tomori said. "Two games that we can really show ourselves, prove ourselves and you know, we can hope-

fully add to the history of this club."

Since the Milan teams' last triumphs in Europe, there have been slumps on the field and turmoil off it, with both clubs changing ownership several times and coaches even more frequently.

However, after years of mediocrity, Inter and Milan ended lengthy waits for a Serie A title before finally making it back to the top level of European soccer.

COACHING CHANGES

Inter has had 14 different coaches since Mourinho left the Nerazzurri after winning the Champions League — an average of more than one a year.

Rafael Benítez replaced Mourinho but he lasted a matter of months before being fired. The rest of the list includes Claudio Ranieri, Roberto Mancini and Antonio Conte. Current Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti steered Milan to the Champions League trophy in 2007 — and also in 2003 — but he quit just two years later.

Since then there have been 10 different coaches in the Rossoneri hot seat. The incumbent Stefano Pioli was also in charge of Inter in the 2016-17 season.

Inter is now coached by Simone Inzaghi, who has emerged as somewhat of a cup specialist. He steered both previous clubs Lazio and Inter to the Italian Cup trophy and the Nerazzurri are back in the final of this year's competition.

Inzaghi also led Inter to back-to-back Italian Super Cup titles to match the two he won with Lazio.

Mystery China Spacecraft Returns To Earth After 276 Days

BEIJING: An experimental Chinese spacecraft returned to Earth on Monday after staying in orbit for 276 days, China's state media reported, completing a landmark mission to test the country's reusable space technologies.

The uncrewed spacecraft returned to the Jiuquan launch center in northwest China on Monday as scheduled, according to state media. No details were given on what the spacecraft was, what technologies were tested, how high it flew, and where its orbits had taken it since its launch in early August 2022. Images of the craft have also yet to be released to the public.

The test marks an "important" breakthrough in China's research into reusable spacecraft technology that will provide a more con-

venient and inexpensive way to mount future space missions, state media reported.

In 2021, what may have been a similar spacecraft flew to the edge of space and returned to Earth on the same day in a mission that was also kept largely under wraps. It landed on Earth "horizontally," according to China's main space contractor at the time.

Commentators on Chinese social media have speculated that Beijing has been developing a spacecraft like the US Air Force's X-37B, an autonomous spaceplane that can remain in orbit for years.

The uncrewed and reusable X-37B returned to Earth in November last year in its sixth and latest mission, after more than 900 days in orbit.



Farmers Break Through Barricades to Join Wrestlers' Protest

New Delhi: Several farmers broke through police barricades on Monday to join the wrestlers' protest against Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh here even as Delhi Police denied any untoward incident at the site. Purported videos showed farmers climbing the barricades and even dragging and pushing some of them away in a bid to enter the protest venue.

Hours later, the police barricades, which were damaged during the hustle, were welded together and placed at the site as part of a precautionary measure to ensure that no untoward incident takes place.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Pranav Tayal said some farmers were "in a hurry" to reach the dharna site.

The barricades were removed to escort the farmers into the site and the meeting was being held peacefully, he added.

"A group of farmers were escorted to Jantar Mantar. At entry barricades they were in a hurry to reach the dharna site and some of them climbed the barricades which fell down and were removed by them. Policemen kept the barricades aside to facilitate their entry," the DCP said in a tweet.

"The protestors have reached the dharna site and the meeting is going on peacefully," he added.

Police insisted that there was no clash with the protesters and

that the cops at the site were facilitating the protesters and ensuring a peaceful gathering.

"All are requested not to believe in fake news. The protestors at Jantar Mantar are being facilitated. Entry is being regulated through DFMD to ensure safety. Please remain peaceful and abide by the law," a tweet by Delhi Police's official Twitter handle said.

Farmers in large numbers reached the site to express their solidarity with the protesting wrestlers. Demanding justice for female wrestlers, the farmers, carrying their union flags, raised anti-Modi slogans. Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi also joined the protesters and addressed them. Taking to Twitter, she shared pictures from the protest site and demanded justice for the wrestlers.

"In solidarity with our women wrestlers. Justice needs to be served, the Govt should stop shielding the accused," she tweeted.

In a statement, Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said thousands of farmers gathered at Bangla Sahib Gurudwara around 11 am and marched on foot towards Jantar Mantar. Farmer leaders said they stand united with the wrestlers and that they will work under the leadership of protesting wrestlers. Today they will have to fight to save the honour of the daughters of this nation as well as their agriculture at the same time, the leaders said.

"A case under the POCSO Act has been registered against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Singh. Yet he has not been called by Delhi Police for questioning. He is being shielded by BJP leaders. These female wrestlers are our daughters and we will fight for their honour," a farmer leader said.

The wrestlers are on a sit-in at Jantar Mantar since April 23 demanding action against the WFI chief over allegations of sexual harassment against him.

In last week of April, Delhi Police registered two FIRs in connection with the sexual harassment allegations levelled by women wrestlers against Singh. The first FIR pertains to allegations levelled by a minor which has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act along with relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code concerning outraging modesty, according to a police officer.

The second FIR has been registered for carrying out comprehensive investigations into the complaints by adult complainants under relevant IPC sections pertaining to outraging of modesty, the officer said, adding investigation into both the FIRs was being taken up in right earnest.

Delhi Police has recorded statements of all the seven complainants in the case, including the minor girl.

In A First, An Arrest Over ChatGPT In China After Fake Train Crash News

Beijing: Chinese police have detained a man for allegedly generating fake news of a train crash and disseminating it online using artificial intelligence technology, in what was reported to be China's first arrest for misuse of ChatGPT.

Police in northwestern Gansu province said in a statement on Sunday that a suspect surnamed Hong had been detained for "using artificial intelligence technology to concoct false and untrue information".

The case first caught the attention of the cyber division of a county police bureau when they spotted a fake news article that claimed nine people had been killed in a local train accident on April 25, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday.

The cybersecurity officers in Kongtong county found the article simultaneously posted by more than 20 accounts on Baijiahao, a blog-style platform run by Chinese search engine giant Baidu. The stories had received more than 15,000 clicks by the time it came to authorities' attention, it said.

The Gansu public security department said Hong was suspected of the crime of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", a charge that normally carries a maximum sentence of five years. But in cases that are deemed especially severe, offenders can be jailed for 10 years and given additional penalties, the Post reported.

This is the first time the public has been made aware of an arrest

by Chinese authorities after Beijing's first provisions to regulate the use of "deepfake" technology officially took effect in January, it said. The police said they traced the origins of the article to a company owned by the suspect Hong, which operated personal media platforms registered in Shenzhen in Guangdong province in southern China. Some 10 days later a police team searched Hong's home and his computer and detained him.

The statement said Hong confessed to bypassing Baijiahao's duplication check function to publish on multiple accounts he had acquired. He input the elements of trending social stories in China from past years into ChatGPT to quickly produce different versions of the same fake story and uploaded them to his Baijiahao accounts, it said.

While ChatGPT is not directly available to Chinese IP addresses, Chinese users can still access its service if they have a reliable VPN connection. Chinese IT outlets were experimenting with their versions of the ChatGPT after Microsoft and Google announced their innovations. China closely monitors its social media through firewalls, especially Sina Weibo, which has over 592 million users to ensure no critical content against the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).

China's top internet regulator has long voiced concern that unchecked development and use of deep synthesis technology could lead to its use in criminal activities such as online scams or defamation.

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