

Y20 CONSULTATION

Climate Change Can't Be Fought From Conference Tables Alone: LG

Says, J&K Has Planted More Than 15 Million Trees In Last One Year Increasing Green Cover To 55 Percent

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that the youth will lead the world in offering pragmatic solutions on climate change and other global challenges of the 21st century, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday called for adopting a balanced & holistic approach between development and nature to manage the challenges of accelerated growth and ecological sustainability.

"Youth will lead the world in offering pragmatic solutions to climate & global challenges of the 21st century. I believe the young generation will synergise innovative ideas and actions to preserve natural resources and also become stakeholders in policy making for sustainable development," Sinha said.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the Youth-20 (Y20) Consultation on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of



Life' at the University of Kashmir here on Thursday.

The LG said that the massive participation in this Y20 Consultation Conference signals the encouraging prospect of a new energy in a global partnership on environment, development and our collective effort to

ensure equity, global prosperity and better quality of life for all.

Welcoming the national and international delegates, Sinha said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear to the global family that climate change cannot be fought from conference tables alone.

"It has to be fought from the dinner tables in every home," he said.

He further said that PM Narendra Modi has called upon the global community to transform the effort of tackling climate change into a mass movement and promote an environmentally **| More on P10**

NIA Raids Continue For Second Day

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency on Thursday carried out raids at 11 locations in Budgam and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir in a militant funding case linked to the proscribed group Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI).

"A total of 11 locations came under NIA's scanner in Thursday's searches in the case in which the JeI is accused of engaging in separatist and secessionist activities even after being declared an unlawful association under the UA(P) Act since its proscription on 28th February 2019," the agency said in a statement. The NIA had earlier charge-sheeted four people in the case that was registered in 2021. In recent days, the federal **| More on P10**

G20 MEETING

Security Stepped Up In Jammu, 10 Army Schools Closed



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Ahead of a G20 meeting in Srinagar, security has been tightened in Jammu region, particularly in border districts, and more than

10 Army schools have been closed as part of precautionary measures.

The security agencies have identified infiltration routes and stepped up security to prevent any **| More on P10**

Excited Delegates Say Event Will Encourage Research Scholars

Majid Nabi

The delegates from G20 countries, who attended Youth20 consultation at the Kashmir University under the aegis of intergovernmental forum G20 on Thursday, said the event besides boosting tourism in Kashmir, will offer an all new experience to the research scholars. It is worth mentioning that 17 youth delegates from G20 nations attended the Y20 consultation on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life at Kashmir University. Attributing human interference **| More on P10**

PIL For Hassle-Free Passage Of Ambulances In Kashmir

HC Appoints Div Com Nodal Officer

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has appointed Divisional Commissioner Kashmir as 'nodal officer' "who will give a consistent view on behalf of the various agencies" regarding upgradation of basic structures of ambulances as per European standards and

for ensuring their hassle-free passage in Kashmir Valley.

As a Public Interest Litigation came up for hearing before a Division Bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Advocate General D C Raina suggested that in view of involvement of various departments, who may have **| More on P10**

Plea In SC Seeks Early Assembly Polls In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Election Commission and the government for holding early assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The petition has been filed by senior advocate Harsh Dev Singh on the behalf of Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) **| More on P10**



J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

Your bank since 1938

Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani

"For youth who look beyond government jobs, J&K Bank is the institution to rely upon. But we need to be responsible in utilising finances so that we earn, employ and progress. Thank You J&K Bank for helping me realise my aspirations"

Mr. Anil Gupta @ B.A. EnterprisesShare your inspirational story at merikahani@jkbmail.com

Watch my story on J&K Bank's Official Youtube Channel

@JKBankofficial

OR
SCAN HERE



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Srinagar | Friday | 12-05-2023

2

How Archaeologists Can Help Us Live With Wild Animals

The Conversation

For thousands of years, people in the British Isles lived with and depended on wild animals for food and clothes. The land teemed with species such as deer, boar, wolves, lynx and beavers. Then came farming, population growth and industrialisation. Many species were hunted to extinction and their habitats were lost.

Archaeological research reaches back in time to understand how humans and wild animals interacted. Ancient bones and teeth reveal these complex relationships.

Today, interactions between wild animals and people are often in the news, from urban foxes to tree-felling beavers and wild boars. Even the red deer the monarch of the glen, celebrated as a symbol of wild Scotland is facing widespread calls for population control and, on the Hebridean island of South Uist, total eradication.

Deer were a mainstay of British diets before farming and, out on the islands, my research demonstrates they remained an important food source beyond the 15th century. It was only in the middle ages that deer became the preserve of royal hunts and later the favoured prey of fee-paying hunters.

Today they are often viewed as pests by the communities they impact. A combination of factors, including COVID-19 and climate change, has seen deer numbers increase and affect both landscapes and gardens. They also cause accidents on roads and carry the ticks that pass on Lyme disease.

As wild animals, they are not owned and only become someone's property when they are captured or killed by persons entitled by law to do so. This is usually the owners of the land they inhabit. Land owning estates manage most herds and may provide hunting access for a fee.

The venison can be sold, but often goes to waste due to a lack of sufficient trained staff to check carcasses and markets for the meat. Hides are generally not valued and antlers are sold as dog chews.

South Uist
In March 2023, the tensions between red deer and locals reached a crisis point on the Scottish island of South Uist. There was a call to eradicate an entire herd of 1,198 animals, as their behaviour was negatively affecting locals. Arguments on either side focused on their history, use and value.

As an animal archaeologist, my research has shown that red deer were taken to Scottish islands for food more than 5,000 years ago.

In the absence of any predators, their numbers were controlled through the killing (and eating) of both red deer calves and adults. Hides were worked and the valuable antlers, shed annually from stags, were used to create beautifully crafted tools and adornments. Red deer are represented in early art, both on and off the islands. A recent find of spectacular rock art on mainland Scotland has highlighted their cultural importance during this period.

Unlike on most of mainland Britain, deer remained an important island food and thrived up until recently. In the 20th century, new animals were introduced from the mainland. Genetic analysis suggests these deer supplemented existing populations and the herds became reestablished.

Over the past decades deer numbers across the UK have exploded from 450,000 in the 1970s to 2 million today the highest level for 1,000 years.

A recent count found that South Uist deer numbers have increased by a third, from around 800 in 2015 to 1,200 today. This pattern is repeated elsewhere, such as the Isles of Lewis and Harris. At the same time, the prevalence of ticks and the disease they carry has increased.

Management
Deer herds clearly need to be managed, but there is a cost. Culling them requires trained individuals, as well as care to ensure animals do not suffer. Paying hunters provide some income, but the value of deer is not clear to all who live in deer-impacted communities.

As in the past, venison, antler and hides are all valuable items. Investment in resources and training by Strathclyde, the community-owned company that manages the 93,000 acre South Uist Estate, is producing venison. That's both a low-cost local food and a high-value delicacy. Antler is also a sustainable resource, grown and shed each year.

Archaeological initiatives are demonstrating to islanders, and beyond, how easy it is to work with this material. With only simple tools, saleable items inspired by island heritage and culture can be produced. On South Uist, the estate is looking to process and sell hides, while wildlife focused deer stalking with cameras can provide new tourist activities.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer

Mughal Road Project Division Shopian

NIT No: - 14/MRP/SPN/e-TENDERING/2023-24

Dated: 10/05/2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis in Single cover from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No	Name of work	Cost of Tender (In lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)	Time of	Class of contract
1.	Reconstruction/Construction of R/Wall, B/Wall at various spots/ Construction of Gabion Walls at various locations including Cost of Gabions from and Construction of PCC Drain from Km 0+000 to Km 40+550 in Sub Division 1st, 2nd and 3rd on Shopian Side	114.45	1600	2,28,900	60	"A"

(Tenderer must go through general conditions thoroughly)

Position of AA/TS: Accorded

Special Conditions:

a) Performance security shall be furnished by the contractor within 03 days of issuance of LOA, Opening of Bid, failing which the concerned tender issuing authority shall forfeit the performance security and issue a fresh tender forthwith.

b) The contractor shall start the work within weeks after issuance of NTP, failing which the penalties as warranted under the contract rules shall be initiated viz, forfeiting performance security.

c) The work shall be completed by the concerned contractor as per the timeline stipulated in NIT /agreement, failing which action shall be initiated against contractor by forfeiting performance security.

d) If the contractor/firms fails to complete the work within the time mentioned in the NIT/ Contract, then the allotted contract will automatically be treated as cancelled after forfeiting the performance security of the contractor/firm and work put to fresh tender without serving any notice from this office.

e) A Civil Contractor who does not own Self Loading Mixer (SLM) and is bidding is required to upload an MoU with Self Loading Mixer (SLM) Owner, from whom the machinery for the subject work will be procured.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	10-05-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11-05-2023 10:00 A.M
		26-05-2023 04:00 P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	11-05-2023 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	26-05-2023 04:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	27-05-2023; 11:00 A.M In the Office of Executive Engineer Mughal Road Division Shopian

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer Mughal Road Division Shopian (Tender inviting authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer Mughal Road Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).

DIPK-1397/23

dated: 11-05-2023

Sd/- Executive Engineer Mughal Road Division Shopian

Sd/- Technical Officer

Sd/- HD/DM

(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

(UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR)

Office Of The Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No:- E-NIT/01/CRD/SMC/SGR/2023-24 DATED: 10-05-2023.

(STAGE CONTRACT FOR REPAIRS / ROUTINE MAINTAINENCE OF ROADS FOR THE YEAR 2023-24)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (in Single cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments.

S.No	Name of Work	Advt. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit @2% of Adv. Cost	Period of Contract	Class of Contractor	M.H of A/C
1	Maintenance & Repairs of Roads (Jurisdiction of Rainawari Sub Division).	55.00	1600/-	110000/-	2023-24	AAY Class Civil	Grant In Aid
2	Maintenance & Repairs of Roads (Jurisdiction of Hazuribagh Sub Division).	53.00	1600/-	106000/-	2023-24	AAY Class Civil	Grant In Aid
3	Maintenance & Repairs of Roads (Jurisdiction of Batmaloo Sub Division).	52.00	1600/-	104000/-	2023-24	AAY Class Civil	Grant In Aid

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

Scheduled Dates & Time of Online Tenders.				
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice Online	10-05-2023.		
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	FROM	11-05-2023 10:00 A.M	
3.	Bid submission Start Date	11-05-2023	FROM	10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	17-05-2023	UPTO	4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18-05-2023 at 10:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar.		

Commissioner SMC's Authorization conveyed vide Order No.537 of 2023 dated 06.05.2023 issued under No.SMC/PS/CAO/2023-24/106-109 dated 06.05.2023 with the condition that maximum work done cost of each work shall be limited to Rs.01.50 lacs (Rupees One lakh and fifty thousand) only.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of introducing Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar (tender receiving authority).by simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan Receipt.

2. Bids must be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) @2% of the advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar which shall be uploaded with the tender documents at the time of tendering. The same shall be released after receipt of 5% of performance security.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Sitewww.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar., (Tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain Valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

5. The lowest bidder (L1) also called the successful Bidder has to produce a performance security amount equal to 5% (five percent) of the contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG immediately after the opening of financial bids, but prior to fixation of contract. The validity period of the FDR/ BG for requisite amount shall be upto DLP. Any FDR/ BG having less validity period shall not be entertained. The CDR/ FDR/ BG shall be released after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP). In case of abnormally low bids, the tender inviting Authority reserves the right to ask from the bidder for additional performance security with the approval of the next higher Authority which shall be binding upon the bidder in such case.

6. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws/ modified his bid during the period of validity etc, the Department is at liberty to suspend the bidder for one year or as shall be deemed suitable by the tender inviting Authority. Same shall hold good if the bidder fails to produce performance security within the specified time.

7. The successful bidder (L1) shall have to furnish hard copy of the uploaded documents viz Registration card duly renewed, Valid GST Registration, PAN Card, GSTR-3B etc. alongwith Treasury Challan Receipt and Bid security declaration form (Annexure-A) in original.

NIT/01/CRD /SMC/SGR/2023-24/e-tendering/

DIPK-1409/23

DATED:- 11-05-2023.

Executive Engineer, City Roads (SMC) Division Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father's name has been wrongly written in my school records as Gh Mohsin Parra while his correct name is Mohsin Parra which needs to be corrected. if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Boys Middle School Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shahista Bano

D/o Mohsin Parra

R/o Dangerpora Magam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing Consumer ID No: 0213040009097 from Mohd Ramzan Hakeem S/o Mohd Subhaan Hakeem R/o Parray Mohalla Palhallan To Gh Mohi Din Hakeem S/o Mohd Ramzan Hakeem R/o Parray Mohalla Palhallan If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the office of the Executive Engineer PDD Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gh Mohi Din Hakeem

S/o Mohd Ramzan Hakeem

R/o Parray Mohalla Palhallan

fko_r

The Jammu and Kashmir

State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 1264

Class 10th

Year & Session Oct-1987

Registration: KMOC87 109767

Name : Shahina Akhter

Father's Name: Ghulam Mohd

Mother's Name : Sarwa Begum

Date of Birth:- 12-06-1971

Residence:- Batpora Mattan Anantnag

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: KMOC87 10976 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F/Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22

Dated 09-11-2022

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District & Sessions Judge A T Srinagar

In the case of;

1. Sheikh Ibad,

2. Sheikh Ayad,

Both sons of late Sheikh Mohd Aslam

3. Mst Shameema Aslam,

Wd/ o late Sheikh Mohd Aslam. all Residents of Rajbagh, Srinagar

Applicant/Caveators

Versus

PUBLIC AT LARGE

Non-Applicant

In the matter of:

CAVEAT APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 148-A CPC.

May it please your Honour,

The applicants most respectfully submit as under:

1. That applicant/ caveators are the lawful owners in possession of four storied building alongwith land beneath and appurtenant thereto located at Solar Lane, Modern Hospital Road, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

2. That the said property is under the peaceful and continous possession and ownership of the applicant/ caveators .

3. That the applicant/ caveators apprehend that some unknown persons may file a false and frivolous case in the Hon'ble Court and obtain orders in ex-parte by suppression of material facts and suggestion of false facts.

4. That in case the non-applicant succeed in obtaining orders in ex-parte, then the applicant/ caveators will suffer an irreparable loss and injury which cannot be compensated by any means whatsoever.

5. That the attendant facts and circumstances of the case warrant that the applicant/ caveators be heard before any orders are passed in the matter in ex-parte.

6. That this application is supported by a duly sworn affidavit.

In the premises it is therefore most respectfully prayed that in the event of a Civil Original Suit/ Appeal/ Writ or other proceedings being filed by the non-applicant against the caveator/ applicants, the applicant/caveators be heard first before any orders are passed in ex-parte. The same would be in the interests of justice.

Applicant through Counsel

Mushtaq Mohammad Bhat,

Advocate

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

That I Taj Kour W/O Late Tilok Singh R/O Shutrashahi Batmaloo, Srinagar, a Hindu, made this Will-deed voluntarily while in a sound state of mind, executing this Will-deed in favour of my Son namely Narinder Singh S/O Late Tilok Singh to a property consisting of "Three Storeyed Residential House tin roofing alongwith the land measuring 03 marla underneath and appurtenant thereto of Estate Shutrashahi Batmaloo, Srinagar. In this regard, I have handed over the possession of the aforesaid property to my Son Narinder Singh who is taking care of me in my old age . Hence my son being obedient to me I am signing this will-deed.

NJ

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سرینگر

باجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم

رجسٹرار برٹس اینڈ ڈپٹی سبج سرینگر (نمٹول)

Danish Ahmad Lami S/o Abdul Majeed Lami R/o Khawja Bagh Malrola Sgr

درخواست برادر اندراج کرنے تاریخ فوگئی آزاد

20-06-2016 تاریخ فوگئی Raja Begum

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل /اسمک نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج کرنے تاریخ فوگئی دائر کی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل /اسمک منظور ہونے میں 23-05-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تخیر الصدۃ11-05-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج میڈیٹل سرینگر nj

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج سرینگر

باجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم

رجسٹرار برٹس اینڈ ڈپٹی سبج سرینگر (نمٹول)

Rohee Jan D/o Habibullah Akhoo R/o Check Bagh Hazratbal Sgr

درخواست برادر اندراج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش آزاد

25-02-2000 تاریخ پیدائش Rohee Jan

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل /اسمک نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست بشمول حلفی بغرض اندراج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش دائر کی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل /اسمک منظور ہونے میں 22-05-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تخیر الصدۃ11-05-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سبج میڈیٹل سرینگر nj

اشتہار عام

از عدالت سبج چیف میڈیٹل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر

باجلاس محترم احسان ملک

Abhishek Kampasi (سائل/ سائلہ)

نام : Abhishek Kampasi

تاریخ پیدائش: 13/11/1985

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل /اسمک نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست بشمول بیان حلفی بغرض اندراج تاریخ پیدائش Abhishek Kampasi

2/3 Bridge Bana Mohalla /srinagar

Kampasi

P/A H No 105, sector4, Near Oriental Bank of Commerce Trikuta Nagar 4-53 Jammu

05/11/2022

بارے میں اگر کسی کوئی عذر ہو یا اعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے غدرات اشاعت اشتہار پیدائست سہا پم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرکں۔ بعد گزرنے معیا کوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت ہڈا میں موندہ 10/05/2023 کو مقرر ہے۔

تخیر الصدۃ29/4/2023

سبج چیف میڈیٹل مجسٹریٹ سرینگر nj

Observer News Service

Observer News Service


Observer News Service

Observer News Service

LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating Youth20 consultation on Climate Change held under Indias G20 Presidency at Kashmir University on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Observer News Service

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>J&K Bank Serving To Empower</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited IAPM Department Zonal Office Srinagar M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College) Srinagar-190001, Kashmir T : 0194-2452658 ; E : iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com</p> </div> </div>	
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Possession Notice</h2> <p style="margin: 10px 0;">Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002</p>	
<p>Whereas Mr. Tariq Ahmad Shangloo, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 16-01-2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely M/s Irfan Readymade Garments Prod. Irfan Ahmad Chicken to repay an amount of Rs.19,08,332.50 (Rupees Nineteen Lac Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Two And Fifty Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31-12-2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.</p> <p>The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 6th day of May of the year 2023.</p> <p>The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.20,10,705.50 (Rupees Twenty Lac Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Five And Paise Fifty Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.05.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.</p> <p>The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time availability, to redeem the secured assets.</p>	
<h3 style="margin: 0;"><u>Description of the Immovable Property</u></h3> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)</p>	
<p>Registered Mortgage of residential house including land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 1020 Sqft. (3 Marla and 204 Sqft.) Standing in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Chicken S/o Ali Mohammad Chicken R/o Kak Sahib Jamalatta, Nawa Kadal Srinagar Falling under Khazra No.1753 Khata No. 688 Khewat No. 304 in mouza Chattabal Tehsil Khas District Srinagar.</p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Dated:-06.05.2023 Authorized Officer </div>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India</p> <p>CIN: L65110JK19385GCO00048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com</p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> DIP/KB-647/23 DATED: 11-05-2023 </div>	


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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

FAJR	3:57
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:20
Magrib	7:26
ISHA	8:59

- 1328 - Holy Roman Emperor Louis IV and assembly of priests select Pietro Rainalducci as anti-Pope Nicolaas V
- 1328 - Antipope Nicholas V, a claimant to the papacy, is consecrated in Rome by the Bishop of Vohne
- 1459 - Sun City in India founded by Rao Jodhpur
- 1525 - Battle at Biblingen: Zwabische Union beats rebel Wurttemberg farmers
- 1534 - German Duchy of Wurttemberg becomes Lutheran under Ulrich, Duke of Württemberg
- 1551 - San Marcos University in Lima, Peru, opens
- 1588 - Catholic League under duke Henri de Guise occupies Paris
- 1588 - Catholic League under duke Henri de Guise occupies Paris
- 1604 - Spanish garrison of Aardenburg surrenders to Mauritius
- 1640 - Uprising against Spanish king Philip IV
- 1689- England & Netherlands form League of Augsburg
- 1777- 1st ice cream advertisement (Philip Lenzi-NY Gazette)
- 1780- British troops occupy Charleston, South Carolina (Revolutionary War)
- 1797- First Coalition: Napoleon I of France conquers Venice.
- 1821- The first major battle of the Greek War of Independence against the Turks occurs in Valtetsi.
- 1862 - Federal troops occupies Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 1863 - Battle of Raymond, Mississippi
- 1864 - Battle of Drewry's Bluff, fought in Chesterfield County, Virginia (Peninsula Campaign), Confederate victory (US Civil War)
- 1864 - Battle of Spotsylvania, fought near Courthouse, Virginia (Overland Campaign), inconclusive result (US Civil War)
- 1864 - Battle of Todd's Tavern, cavalry battle fought near Todds Tavern, Virginia (Sheridan's Raid), inconclusive result (US Civil War)
- 1881-Treaty of Bardo, Tunisia becomes a French
- 1890- The first-ever official cricket County Championship match begins. Yorkshire beats Gloucestershire by eight wickets at Bristol.
- 1908- Wireless Radio Broadcasting is patented by Nathan B Stubblefield
- 1925- Uzbekistan & Kirgizistan become autonomous Soviet republics
- 1928- Benito Mussolini ends women's rights in Italy
- 1940- Nazi blitzkrieg conquest of France began by crossing Muese River
- 1941- British forces march into Alexandria
- 1941- Konrad Zuse presents the Z3, the world's first working programmable, fully automatic computer, in Berlin.

From KO Archives

UPA Mulling Self-Govt In J&K, Says Mufti

Mufti said the Pakistani government is also considering a similar move for Pakistani part of Kashmir.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 May, 2007)

Uk Gives Cruise Missiles To Ukraine; Kyiv Delays Counteroffensive As It Waits For More Weapons



Agencies

KYIV: The British government announced Thursday it was giving long-range cruise missiles to Ukraine to help drive out Russia's occupying forces, just as Kyiv delayed a possible counteroffensive more than 14 months after the Kremlin's full-scale invasion as it awaits the delivery of more Western weapons.

UK Defense Secretary Ben Wallace told lawmakers in the House of Commons that Britain is donating Storm Shadow missiles, a conventionally-armed deep-strike weapon with a range of more than 250 kilometers.

That means it can hit targets deep behind the front line, including in Russia-occupied Crimea. UK media reported that Ukraine has pledged not to use the missiles to attack Russia itself.

Wallace said the missiles "are now going into or are in the country itself."

Ben Hodges, a former US

Army Europe Commanding General, tweeted: "'Well done UK!'"

He added: "This will give Ukraine capability to make Crimea untenable for Russian forces" and would force a Russian rethink of where to position its Black Sea fleet.

The British move gives another boost to the Ukrainian military after it received other advanced Western weapons including tanks and long-range precision artillery.

The announcement came shortly after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his country's military needs more time to prepare an anticipated counteroffensive aimed at pushing back Russian occupying forces and opening a new chapter in the war more than 14 months after the Kremlin's full-scale invasion.

Zelensky said in an interview broadcast Thursday by the BBC that it would be "unacceptable" to launch the assault now because too many lives would be lost.

Pakistan Supreme Court Declares Imran Khan's Arrest 'Illegal', Orders His Immediate Release

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: In a major relief for Imran Khan, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday declared the former prime minister's arrest "illegal" and ordered his immediate release after he was produced before a bench on its orders.

The order to produce 70-year-old Khan was issued by a three-member bench, comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah.

The bench, which heard Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman's plea against his arrest in the Al-Qadir Trust case, expressed anger at the way Khan was taken into custody from the premises of the Islamabad High Court.

The bench had directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to produce Khan by 4:30 pm (local time) when the court would reconvene.

Khan was produced before the court amid tight security. As he entered the courtroom, it was closed, and subsequently, the bench resumed the hearing of the case.

"It is good to see you," Chief Justice Bandial told Khan.

"We believe that Imran Khan's arrest was illegal," the top judge said.

He said that the Islamabad High Court should hear the case on Friday. "You will have to accept whatever the high court decides," the judge added.



Bandial also said that it is every politician's responsibility to ensure law and order.

Earlier in the day, Bandial asked how an individual could be arrested from the court premises. Justice Minallah observed that Khan had indeed entered court premises. "How can anyone be denied the right to justice?" he asked.

The court also observed that no one could be arrested from the court without permission of the court's registrar. It observed that the arrest tantamount to denying access to justice without fear and intimidation, which was the right of every citizen.

It also said that by entering the premises of a court means surrendering to the court and how a person could be arrested after surrender. "If an individual surrendered to the court, then what does arresting them mean?" the chief justice said.

Khan's counsel Hamid Khan informed that court that his client had approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking

a pre-arrest bail but was arrested by paramilitary Rangers. "Rangers misbehaved with Imran Khan and arrested him," the lawyer said.

The court also took note of about 90 to 100 Rangers personnel entering the court to arrest Khan. "What dignity remains of the court if 90 people entered its premises? How can any individual be arrested from court premises?" the chief justice asked.

Chief Justice Bandial also at point observed that the National Accountability Bureau had committed "contempt of court". "They should have taken permission from the court's registrar before the arrest. Court staffers were also subjected to abuse," he said.

Khan was arrested on Tuesday from the Islamabad High Court and an accountability court on Wednesday handed him over to the National Accountability Bureau for eight days in connection with the Al-Qadir Trust case.

India Uses Technology To Empower, Not To Show Dominance: PM Modi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hailed the 1998 nuclear tests in Pokhran as one of the most glorious days in India's history, and asserted that technology for the country is not about showing its dominance but a tool to speed up its development.

Addressing an event on the National Technology Day, which marks the 25th anniversary of the Pokhran tests, PM Modi said his government has used technology as a source of empowerment and to ensure social justice.

The Prime Minister said the Pokhran nuclear tests carried out under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee not only helped India prove its scientific capabilities but also gave a boost to its stature at the global level.



"To say in Atal ji's words: We have never stopped on our journey and never surrendered to any challenge that has come our way," PM Modi said, addressing the gathering of scientists and researchers from across the country.

On the occasion of the National Technology Day, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory - India (LIGO-India) and dedicated to the nation a facility to produce permanent magnets from rare earth

minerals.

He also laid the foundation stone for the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Jatni, Odisha; and the Platinum Jubilee Block of Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

PM Modi also dedicated to the nation a Fission Molybdenum-99 production facility in Mumbai; National Hadron Beam Therapy Facility, Navi Mumbai; Radiological Research Unit, Navi Mumbai; Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Viskhapatnam; and the Women and Children Cancer Hospital Building, Navi Mumbai.

Underlining the importance of technology, he said India was moving forward with a holistic and 360-degree approach. "India considers technology as a tool for the nation's progress, not a means to assert its dominance," PM Modi said.

PM Modi's US Visit To Strengthen Commitment For Free Indo-Pacific: White House

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US will show that the partnership between the two nations is people-centric, people-driven, and is good for the world at large, a top Indian diplomat in Washington on Wednesday said, as he called the visit "historic."

"The PM's forthcoming official state visit to the US, at the invitation of President Biden, is historic. Prime Minister and President Biden have together imparted significantly new

the largest country-specific caucus in the House of Representatives.

Mukesh Aghi, president of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum, said PM Modi's visit in June will be a wonderful opportunity to elevate the bilateral partnership to the next level.

"President Biden and Prime Minister Modi will be meeting in a few weeks' time at the Quad Leader's Summit in Australia and later this year at the G20 in India. Both leaders have used minilaterals such as the Quad, I2U2, and the G20 summits to work on common



vigour and momentum to our bilateral ties," India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu told PTL.

"The visit will be an opportunity for the two leaders to spend time together, take stock of the progress achieved and provide guidance on the future limitless possibilities. The visit will also underscore that India-US partnership is people-centric and people-driven, and that it is not just for the two countries, but for the world at large," Mr Sandhu said.

PM Modi's visit will include a state dinner on June 22, the White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre had said earlier in the day.

"The visit will strengthen our two countries' shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific and our shared resolve to elevate our strategic technology partnership, including in defence, clean energy, and space.

"The leaders will discuss ways to further expand our educational exchanges and people-to-people ties, as well as our work together to confront common challenges from climate change to workforce development and health security," Jean-Pierre said.

The White House's announcement on Biden's invitation to PM Modi has been widely welcomed.

"I am delighted that the White House has invited the Prime Minister for a state visit which will help strengthen the strategic partnership between our nations," Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna told PTL.

Khanna is the Co-Chair of the Congressional India Caucus, the largest country-specific caucus in the House of Representatives.

goals," Mr Aghi told PTL.

"However, the state visit will provide a valuable and timely opportunity for both Washington and New Delhi to strengthen the edifice of this strategic partnership and work on enhancing commercial ties, building resilient supply chains, and creating new synergies in the critical and emerging technology domain," he said.

Atul Keshap, president of US India Business Council, said that the invitation is a big diplomatic gesture from the United States.

"India was last honoured with a State Visit in 2009. That PM Modi is being honoured with only the third State Visit of the Biden Administration shows the respect and affection the American people have for a rising India," he said.

"It is entirely good and proper that the world's two greatest democracies further cement their strategic, economic, and technology convergence in these turbulent geopolitical times.

"The state visit will remind the world that India and America still have so much more potential to capture in our bilateral relations, reflecting the energy and talent of our demographics and our systems, which serve to empower our free peoples," Mr Keshap said.

Aparna Pande, from the Hudson Institute think-tank, said India is key to the security, diplomatic, and commercial architecture that the United States is building across the Indo Pacific.

"For the Modi government also, a stronger strategic partnership with the United States is critical to boosting India's leverage in the global arena," Ms Pande said.

NEWS MAKERS

Finland PM Announces Divorce With Husband: "We Will Remain Best Friends"



Agencies

HELSINKI: Finland's outgoing Prime Minister Sanna Marin has filed for divorce jointly with her husband of three years Markus Raikonen, they said on Instagram on Wednesday.

"We are grateful for the 19 years together and our beloved daughter. We will remain best friends," they said in separate Instagram stories. Marin and Raikonen, who until recently worked at a venture capital firm, share a 5-year-old daughter. They married in 2020 while Marin was in office dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have lived our youth together, entered adulthood together and grown into parents for our dear daughter together," Marin wrote on Instagram after her August 2020 wedding to Raikonen.

Marin and her Social Democratic Party lost Finland's election for parliament last month, trailing the right-wing National Coalition Party as well as the nationalist Finns Party.

Marin, 37, the world's youngest prime minister when she took office in 2019, is considered by fans around the globe as a millennial role model for progressive new leaders, even as voters at home opted for a new government.

Dalit Groom Attacked For Riding Horse In UP

Agencies

AGRA: A 22-year-old Dalit groom was allegedly beaten with rods and sticks, and forced to dismount the horse, while several women in the wedding procession were attacked and molested by a group of upper caste men here.

Though the incident took place on the night of May 4 in Sohalla area under Sadar Bazar police station of the city, an FIR was lodged on Tuesday on a complaint by the groom's mother-in-law, Geeta Devi.

"When my son-in-law, Ajay Kumar, along with other guests entered the Radhakrishna marriage hall where the wedding was to be held, they were attacked by around 20-25 men, mainly Thakurs, who hurled casteist slurs and said 'Dalit grooms in our village do not ride horses, how dare you?' They also snapped the power supply three-four times and molested women at the venue," Geeta stated in the FIR.

A case has been registered against four named accused and several unidentified persons under the SC/ST Act.

On Thursday, a senior police official said that the matter was being investigated and action would be taken accordingly.

Family Kills Couple, Hangs Them From Tree After Teen Marries Dalit: UP Cops

Press Trust of India

UNNAO (UP): A teenage couple was allegedly killed by the girls' relatives and the bodies hung from a tree in a village here to make it look like suicide, police said on Thursday.

Police booked seven people, including the girl's father, for kidnapping, murder and under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Four of them have been arrested.

The bodies were found hanging from a mango tree in Kayampur Nivarnwara village under the Asiwan police station area on Tuesday. Police said the girl was 17 years old and belonged to the Thakur community, while the man, aged 19, was a Dalit.

Station in-charge Akhilesh Tiwari said that a day before the bodies were found, the girl's father had lodged a complaint against the young man for abducting her.

On Tuesday, the man's father lodged a complaint against the girl's family for abducting his son, killing him and hanging the body, Mr Tiwari said.

Circle Officer Bangarmau Pan-



kaj Singh, who is investigating the case, said in the course of interrogation of those arrested, it has come to the fore that the young man had been going around the village saying he would marry the girl and take her home as soon as she became an adult.

It has also come out in the inquiry that the girl's relatives killed the young man first and then brought the girl and hanged them both to make it look like a case of suicide, the Circle Officer said.

Investigations are on and all the accused will be arrested soon, the officer said.

Police said the couple had once eloped in March but was found within a week. Based on a complaint from the girl's relatives, an FIR was registered. The man was sent to jail while the girl was handed over to her family after a medical examination and recording of her statement.

According to local people, the girl belonged to an upper caste and her family was opposed to her relationship with a Dalit man, and this led to the killing of the two.

There is, however, no mention of this in the police report given by the family of the dead youth.

Would Rather Wait For Results Than Believe In Exit Polls: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said he would rather wait for assembly election results in Karnataka than believe in the exit polls.

"We should wait for the results to come because I have seen that these polls can go anyway," Abdullah told reporters at Vihil Shopian, in south Kashmir, after he was asked to comment on the exit polls results.

He was there to attend a party event.

Most exit polls on Wednesday predicted a close contest between the Congress and the BJP in the high-stakes Karnataka Assembly polls with many pollsters giving an edge to the grand old party.

Asked about the upcoming G20 tourism working group meeting in Kashmir, Abdullah, a former Union minister, said India hosting the summit this year was not something new as the grouping's host country changes every year.

"G20 presidency goes to one of the 20 countries every year. This is not something new. The benefit of the G20 is that 20 countries present their problems, look for their solutions,

and try to move forward in a friendly environment," he said.

Asked about his remarks at the party event that the Intelligence Bureau (IB) pays money to several youth in the valley, Abdullah said it was a fact that many youths and tall leaders have been bought by the intelligence agencies.

"Is it not true that our children have been bought? In fact, our tall leaders have been bought. Who were those people who are talking about other parties? Till sometime back, they were with Pakistan. They were beating the drums of Pakistan. Were they not? How come they are Indian today? How?

"Till some time ago, they were under the influence of Pakistan, how have they changed? It is just to weaken the NC. That is their aim," Abdullah added, without taking any names.



Soldier Killed In Accidental Fire In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A soldier was killed in accidental fire from his weapon along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Thursday.

The incident took place in the Krishna Ghati sector, when the rifle of Lance Naik Jasbir Singh went off accidentally, they said.

Singh was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead by the doctors, the officials said.

On being informed, a police team visited the spot and after



the completion of all the legal formalities, the body was shifted to a hospital.

Police have registered a case in this connection.

12 Injured As Minibus Overtakes In Udhampur

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Twelve people were injured when a minibus turned turtle in the Panigrahy area of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Thursday, officials said.

The minibus driver lost control of the vehicle, which then skidded off the road and overturned, they said. The injured, one of whom is said to be in critical condition, have been hospitalised.

DGP Calls For Tough Action Against 'Terror Supporters'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Thursday asked his officers to take stringent actions against the people involved in providing support to militants and called for monitoring activities of all suspects and elements attempting to revive the "terror structure" from across the border.

Singh passed these directions while chairing a joint security review meeting of JKP and army officers in Mahore area of the border district of Reasi, a police spokesperson said.

While addressing the officers, he said, the DGP appreciated the synergy amongst the forces for maintaining peace in the area.

"Reasi district is a sensitive place as it connects with the border district of Rajouri as well as to the valley and added that there may be attempts of cross over and as such, all the forces should work in unison," Singh said.

The DGP, the spokesperson said, directed the officers to be vigilant on all fronts particularly while keeping track of movements of anti-national elements and their supporters. Singh, he said, stressed on the use of new generation technology including apps in order to enhance operational capability.

"DGP directed for devising joint area domination plans for the Distt with involvement of PRIs and Village Defence Groups

(VDGs) for monitoring and generation of human intelligence. He also stressed upon jurisdictional officers for taking stringent action against the people

found involved in narco-trade," the spokesperson said.

The police chief, he said, emphasized on organizing PCPG meetings extensively and briefing the people about their role and responsibilities and communicating our concerns AQ.

"He directed for circulating contact numbers of the police and Security Forces for information generation and added that the cooperation of people is must for maintaining peace in the area," he added.

Earlier, the DGP sought reports from jurisdictional officers about the prevailing security scenario in the district.

The officers, the spokesperson said, briefed DGP about various measures taken with regard to the security as also for crime control.

"He was also apprised regarding the actions being taken to ensure a robust Area Domination grid in order to maintain peace and stability in the district," he added.

The meeting was attended by DIG UR range Mohammad Suleman Choudhary, AIG (T&P) PHQ J S Johar, SSP Reasi Amit Gupta, Dy. Commander 11 Sector RR Chanderkote Vijay Kumar, Col. 1/9 GR B K Swakmi, Col. 58 RR Mahore Apratim Ritesh and other Army & jurisdictional police officers.



17 YOUTH DELEGATES FROM G20 nations attended the Y20 consultation on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: 'Making Sustainability a Way of Life', held at Kashmir University on Thursday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Prosecutrix's Testimony In Sexual Assault Case Has To Be Relied Upon: HC

Sets Aside Acquittal Of Man Accused Of Outraging Modesty Of 6th Standard Girl In 2016

M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: Observing that the prosecutrix in a case relating to sexual assault is the most important witness and her testimony has to be ordinarily relied upon, the J&K and Ladakh High Court on Thursday allowed an appeal against acquittal of a man regarding use of criminal force with intention to outrage modesty of a 6th standard student in 2006.

The accused, S A Khan, who happened to be the cousin brother of the victim, had been acquitted by the trial court, Additional Sessions Judge Srinagar, on 23 February 2017 after remaining in detention for 10 years.

As per the prosecution case, on 5 April 2006, the prosecutrix lodged a report with the police stating that she is a student of 6th class studying School at Rajbagh, and on the day, she was proceeding towards her house at Mehjoor Nagar here when the accused offered to accompany her to home and told her that he has to get some articles from a house belonging to a Sikh gentleman. Accordingly, the prosecutrix accompanied by the accused to the house and at the relevant time there was no occupant in the

house. She further said that the accused made her to take off her school uniform and tried to sexually assault her. When she raised hue and cry, the accused tied a rope around her neck and gagged her mouth. Later she raised an alarm and some people came on spot while the accused fled away. Subsequently, she narrated the entire happenings to the police and a case (FIR No.33/2006) was registered. On 30 December 2006, trial court framed charges for offences under 354, 376/511 RPC and the accused was put to trial. Later on 23 February 2017, the accused was acquitted and the then State government challenged the order before the High Court.

"It is a settled position of law that the prosecutrix in a case relating to sexual assault is the most important witness. It is also a settled position of law that testimony of a victim of sexual assault has to be ordinarily relied upon unless there are compelling reasons necessitating the need for its corroboration," a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, adding, "If the Court finds that testimony of the prosecutrix in a case relating to sexual assault is reliable, conviction can be based upon it without insisting for corroboration."

As per the evidence on record, the court said, charge for offence under Section 354 RPC has been established against the accused.

"In the instant case,the trial Court has ignored and excluded

the relevant material, as such, the judgment of acquittal deserves to be reversed," the court said and allowed the appeal by holding the accused guilty for offence under Section 354 RPC.

However, having regard to the fact that the convicted person faced trial before the trial court for more than ten years and keeping in view the fact that there was nothing on record to show that he has any criminal background, the court said that he does not deserve to be sentenced to maximum punishment.

While awarding punishment, the court said, it has to be noted that the accused happens to be the cousin brother of the prosecutrix and having regard to their relationship, the prosecutrix had reposed trust and confidence in him and accompanied him to a secluded place.

"By indulging in an abhorrent act of outraging modesty of the prosecutrix, the accused has shattered the trust and confidence of the prosecutrix," the court said, adding, "Therefore, an adequate and appropriate punishment is required to be awarded against the accused." Subsequently the court sentenced him to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of four months and to pay a fine of Rs.10,000. "In default of payment of fine, the accused shall undergo a further imprisonment of similar description for a period of two months".

Various Delegations Call On LG Sinha



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Various delegations, including social activists, scholars and Panchayat Members on Thursday called upon Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here and discussed a wide range of issues.

Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, Vice Chairperson, District Development Council, Kupwara called on the LG and apprised him on various development issues of the district, including augmentation of health facilities, strengthening of road connectivity and promotion of tourism at Lolab, besides welfare issues of farmers, an official spokesperson said.

Besides, he said, a delegation of Voice of Peace & Justice led by its President Farooq Gander-

bali put forth the issues related to youth engagement in sports activities and cultural exchange programmes.

Later, the spokesperson said, executive body members of Bar Association Kupwara headed by its President Adv. Shafiq Ahmed Shah also called on the LG and projected various issues concerning the legal fraternity of Kupwara.

He further said that a delegation of Philosophy Scholars & Students submitted a memorandum of demands to the LG pertaining to the promotion of philosophy subjects in UT.

"The Lt Governor assured the members of delegations that the issues and genuine demands projected by them would be looked into earnestly for redressal on merit," he added.

DM Doda, SSP Chair Maiden Meeting Of VSCs

Sensitise Members About Their Role; Seek Coordinated Efforts To Eliminate Crime From Society

Observer News Service

DODA: District Doda is the first district in the UT of J&K to establish Village Surveillance Committees (VSCs) in all the 400 revenue villages under District Surveillance Committee to keep vigil on the unlawful activities and take timely action to prevent any damage to the precious lives, property, law & order and the social fabric of the society.

In this regard, District Magistrate, Vishesh Mahagan, along with SSP, Abdul Qayoom convened a virtual meeting of the stakeholders to sensitise them of their critical role in maintaining the peace in the district especially in the rural areas. The VSCs comprise of Lumbardars, Chowkidars, VDG members, prominent citizens of the village and the revenue officials. The VSCs report to the District Surveillance Committee headed by DM & SSP.

The SSP Doda also interacted with the VSCs and asked them not to take law in their hands while dealing with the anti-social or anti-national element and instead report to the concerned agency/ police station or police

chowki timely. He assured the members that their identity shall not be disclosed so as to avoid any threat to them (Informer).

He appealed to all the members and agencies involved in the surveillance teams to work in a synchronised manner to keep the district safe and protected from the elements inimical to peace and brotherhood.

The DM, while interacting with the VSC members, urged them to volunteer themselves for crucial, active, pensive, & coordinated efforts to defeat crime from society. Crime in the shape of drug trafficking, theft, bovine smuggling, efforts to revive militancy, anti-social, and anti-national activities are major threats to the society hampering its overall development, he said. The responsible citizens must put coordinated efforts to fight against the criminal elements in their society. DM has urged the VSCs to report any abnormal/ untoward incidence or presence of any strange person in their areas. DM has directed the concerned to re-constitute some of the VSCs where the members don't show their volunteer interest in the fight against the common enemies of the society.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Takes Pivotal Steps to Increase Insurance Penetration in the UT of Ladakh



Ladakh: With the aim to increase insurance penetration in India, the insurance regulator IRDAI has allotted states and union territories to every insurer. Under this initiative, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has been allocated the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and the state of Uttar Pradesh, where it will operate as the lead insurer.

To take insurance to the grass-root level in UT of Ladakh and bring more citizens under the protection and ambit of insurance, Mr. Aijaz Khan, National Head - Bancassurance - Public Sector Banks, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and other senior officials from the Company recently met Brigadier (Dr.) B. D. Mishra, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. They discussed in great detail how insurance would positively impact the region's economic welfare and how it will help important industries of the region, like MSME, Transportation, and Agriculture, to thrive. They further discussed how the Company could collaborate closely with the government to increase insurance awareness and its uptake in the UT.

The Company officials also met Shri. Jamyang Tsering Namgyal Member of Parliament from Ladakh. In the meeting, Shri. Namgyal gave his valuable input on what concrete steps can be taken to secure Ladakh and strengthen the financial security of its citizens and how insurance will be integral to the UT's overall economic growth. These suggestions will help the Company to address the worries of the people of Ladakh and offer them industry's best insurance solutions with super customer experience backed by digital capabilities.

Furthermore, the Company officials met Shri. Tashi Gyalson, Chief Executive Councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, Ladakh, to discuss various activities the Company can undertake to safeguard economically weaker sections of the society and cover them under health insurance so that our brothers and sister can avail quality medical care and be financially secure.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®
Friday | 12-05-2023

Jobless Growth Risk

Fitch Ratings has revised down India's GDP growth forecast for 2023-24 to 6 percent from 6.2 percent, due to factors such as inflation and interest rates. This comes after the World Bank also lowered its growth forecast for India to 6.3 percent and called for a more inclusive labor market. The world has been severely impacted by the ongoing war in Ukraine and India has also been affected - albeit, not to the extent other countries have been. In the neighbourhood, Pakistan's economy has been the hardest hit, bringing the country to the brink of economic ruin. But India is pulling along well and remains one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Despite the Fitch Ratings downgrade, India is expected to be a stable economy, thanks to its resilient investment prospects. The private sector seems poised for stronger investment growth.

One of India's biggest advantages is that its large domestic market makes it an attractive destination for foreign capital. The country has also been bidding for capital looking for new destinations following the disruption in global supply chains triggered by the Ukraine war. And India is likely to become a go-to place for major global corporations. Recently, Apple set up shop in the country. It has launched its first retail store in India, located in Mumbai, and will open another store in Delhi shortly. Until now, Apple products have only been available in India through a vast network of resellers or online. The move comes as Apple tries to deepen its retail push in India, which is the world's second-largest smartphone market.

This is a big development at a time when global supply chain disruption triggered by the Ukraine war and the west's developing antagonism towards China is forcing countries to shift their bases toward more stable markets. To top it all, India also offers a lucrative market as it boasts a burgeoning middle class that has money to spend. So, India's growth prospects have brightened, although this year's growth is expected to be slower than the 7 percent expected in 2022-23. Nonetheless, the country's economy is expected to rebound to 6.7 percent in 2024-25, indicating a steady recovery in the long run.

Recently, India has also overtaken China as the world's most populous nation, according to United Nations data. The country's demographic profile, therefore, presents a competitive advantage in terms of workforce, with a relatively young population. But this young population needs jobs which only a growing economy can provide. So, the government needs to ensure that while the economy grows, it shouldn't be a jobless growth.

OTHER OPINION

Maruti's Catch-Up Drive

Even a year ago, Maruti Suzuki was not convinced electric vehicle (EV) technology had much of a future in India. Chairman RC Bhargava went on record to explain why he thought the market conditions were not conducive. About 75% the energy consumed, he said, was coming from coke-fired plants, which would make EV vehicles much less cleaner than desired. Bhargava also noted that India had limited reserves of lithium and cobalt needed for EV batteries and imports would be costly. At that point, Maruti felt compressed natural gas (CNG) was a more acceptable fuel for small cars and that the prospects of using hydrogen should also be explored.

In less than a year, however, the company made a U-turn, showcasing an EV at the auto show—a mid-size electric SUV, eVX, fitted with a 60kWh battery and having a range of 550km. The vehicle is to be rolled out in 2025, followed by six more launches by 2030. It was a clear change in strategy, possibly prompted by the speed at which rival Tata Motors was moving and also the realisation that EVs, while accounting for just 1.5% of the market today, are finding buyers in good numbers.

To be sure, the tipping point, when EVs will sell more than internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, is probably a good 10 years away. But the fact that Tata Motors was going full steam ahead must have jolted Maruti out of its complacency. Today, having sold 45,000 units in 2022-23, Tata Motors now commands 70% of the EV car market, having invested in new products and the value chain. As an early mover, it would also have garnered a fair bit of experience; the 600-million-odd kms that its EVs have clocked on Indian roads must have given it valuable insights. All of which means Maruti will need to work extra hard to build an EV portfolio and also put in place the supply chain and dealerships.

The Maruti management also conceded in January this year it had ceded market share in the passenger car market because it was late to roll out sports utility vehicles (SUV), now a popular segment. The company has tried to make up for lost time by rolling out the compact Brezza SUV and the mid-size Grand Vitara, both of which have done reasonably well. Maruti gained 370 basis points of market share in the SUV segment sequentially in Q4FY23. More recently, it launched Fronx and the Jimny, which haven't exactly set the market on fire and analysts believe the Fronx could cannibalise sales of the Baleno.

Financial Express



Pakistan's
Reservoir of Rage

Zarrar Khuhro

Hyperbole is something that comes easy to Pakistanis, especially when it comes to politics, and in the political lexicon of Pakistan, the word 'unprecedented' has been overused to the point of becoming meaningless. Every once in a while though, it fits.

After the dramatic arrest of wheelchair-bound former prime minister and chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan from the premises of the Islamabad High Court by a large contingent of paramilitary troops, it was as if a reservoir of rage had burst open, spilling red onto the streets with the floodwaters inundating hitherto sacrosanct shores.

The rage isn't new. We have seen many violent protests and will no doubt continue to see them, but the targets this time were those who have historically been off-limits to even the angriest of mobs: the symbols and strongholds of the powerful military establishment.

Protesters ransacked the official residence of the Lahore corps commander, piling his furniture onto the lawn before setting it ablaze and posting the footage on social media. Many were seen walking away with the spoils of their victory, ranging from strawberries stored in the fridge to paintings and golf clubs. One protester was even seen making off with the peacock that graced the garden. Then the entire building was set ablaze. Even more significant was a crowd, led by a sole woman, that shook the gates of the nerve centre of the military, the general headquarters in the garrison town of Rawalpindi.

Surprisingly, they met no initial resistance, leading many to wonder whether the protesters were allowed to wreak havoc in order to lay the groundwork for a wider crackdown on the party that, not too long ago, was considered to

be very close to the military establishment and had been helped into power by the very forces it was now so bitterly opposed to.

It seems that many PTI leaders are aware of this and are thus taking pains to distance their party from the violence. Others, perhaps even more ominously, attribute the lack of resistance to what may be a split in the ranks of the military, though at this point there is no real evidence to support that supposition.

A more likely explanation is that authorities may have wanted to prevent a bloodbath, but in the byzantine world of Pakistani power politics, it is often impossible to tell what is shadow and what is substance. In other parts of Pakistan, public buildings, buses and toll booths were set ablaze by party supporters, and at least one school was reduced to ashes.

In many places, there were violent confrontations between protesters and security forces, with the death of several protesters and injuries on both sides now confirmed. Many of Khan's senior colleagues in the PTI have been arrested and the crackdown appears to have intensified.

At the moment it is difficult to verify many claims given that electronic media is practically barred from displaying footage of the riots, and social media such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube remain blocked.

A mere two years ago, the bond between Khan's PTI and the military establishment seemed unbreakable, much to the chagrin of his political opponents who, during his tenure, were themselves subjected to the kind of arrests and crackdowns that Khan and his party now face.

The story of Khan and the military establishment is of a once-torrid love affair gone horribly wrong,

“
The tragedy is that, despite this history, those very civilian politicians eagerly wait for scraps to fall their way from their master's table in order to taste a semblance of power and, crucially, to cut their opponents down to size. And so, what should be an opportunity for truth and reconciliation and a minimal political code of conduct simply becomes an opportunity for the victimised to become the victimiser

and as a 17th-century English playwright put it: 'Heaven has no rage like love to hatred turned.' Somewhere along the line, there was a falling out – the exact reasons for which remain murky. In the run-up to the vote of no confidence that saw Khan unseated, it became clear that the very establishment that had propelled him into power and kept him there had withdrawn its support, leading to the defection of key allies and even some members

of the PTI.

However, a dethroned Khan proved to be a tricky opponent who, after initially blaming the United States for being part of the 'conspiracy' to remove him from office, turned his guns onto then Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, whom he had previously taken pains to defend and extol.

From being a key partner and ally, Bajwa became a traitor and the target of the PTI's incredibly vocal supporters, who relentlessly attacked him on social media and in public rallies, calling on all and sundry to stand with them against the establishment's machinations.

Such a stance would be laudable if it wasn't also rather hypocritical.

That's because not too long ago, too many of these newly minted revolutionaries would label far milder and far more cautious critique of the military (one tries not to stick one's neck out too far around here) as treason and would either look the other way or actually cheer when critical journalists were attacked, abducted and sometimes even shot.

Khan himself has made the jailing of his political opponents something of a policy point, calling for strict sentences for his adversaries and directing state institutions to prosecute them on sometimes flimsy charges, all with the blessings of the establishment.

Now, as is often the case in Pakistan, the roles have been reversed, and Khan himself has become another entry in the shamefully long list of sitting and former prime ministers who have found themselves out of favour and thus on the wrong side of a rather malleable judicial system.

While the case against Khan may or may not have merit – opinion is typically divided – there is little doubt that the actual reason for his incarceration is the relentless campaign he has waged against his former benefactors, a campaign that became far more pointed after the assassination attempt on him, which he openly accuses a serving major general of masterminding.

The fact is that just about every Pakistani prime minister has faced some version of this sort of victimisation at the hands of the establishment, which doesn't like it when civilian leaders start to imagine that they actually wield power.

The tragedy is that, despite this history, those very civilian politicians eagerly wait for scraps to fall their way from their master's table in order to taste a semblance of power and, crucially, to cut their opponents down to size. And so, what should be an opportunity for truth and reconciliation and a minimal political code of conduct simply becomes an opportunity for the victimised to become the victimiser.

That's a script that has been played out time and again since the birth of this country. Now, we stand at a critical crossroads: Will the House win, as it almost always has in the past, or will Khan's undeniable popularity and charisma win out? Either way, this is a war that a nearly bankrupt and deeply divided nation cannot afford. Like a snake swallowing its tail, we are consuming ourselves.

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



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Change Your Life and Personality

THERE'S no real "you". You're just a blueprint of the society in which you were born and one that made you. Your habits, hobbies, interests, religion, beliefs and actions are all mediated by society. What you are right now is not the actual you. However, there is a possibility to discover and rediscover yourself. You are the creator of your own story. However this change will hardly come overnight.

Consider this, in a village two children are born. One grows up in the village itself and another is raised in a developed country abroad. After twenty years, they both will have different personalities. The village boy will have his own set of hobbies and

dreams. On the other hand, the one raised abroad will have a different set of values mediated by a completely different society abroad. Therefore, it is obvious that you do not control your life, society does. One might mistake one's life as though luck directed it, however, things aren't that simple.

However, no matter what society has done, you can change it if you don't like your story that you are living. You can completely recreate it no matter how old and strong your story is. You have the power, because you are the author of your own life story. This is the highest power for a human being.

You have to first accept it deep within by increasing your self un-

derstanding. Research on it, analyse your past. Listen and watch struggle stories of people who then become successful all over the world. One thought can change your life. Plant your thoughts deeply in your subconscious mind through gratitude affirmations. Do this until your belief in your abilities becomes stronger.

Then the next step is to destroy your fear of people. As they say, "sabe bada rogh, kya kahenge log". If you don't remove this fear then you can't unlock your true potential or inner voice. Listen to the inner voice not the outer voice. No matter how many failures you have faced, you become closer to success from every failure.

If you are so concerned about

what people are thinking, then how can you make your decisions? You will act on their expectations of you and not on your inner voice.

Life is what you make it, it's your choice. Don't compromise in life, enjoy it to the fullest. Don't make excuses. Be patient, work hard. Keep a learning attitude, an open mind and do not see through the beliefs you hold but see things as they are.

Make a commitment that no matter what your boring story was in the past and that you will live life on your own terms and conditions.

Mohsin Nazir

Strategic Significance of 6th Indian Ocean Conference

Dr. Shakuntala Bhabani

The sixth international Indian Ocean Conference is set to begin in Bangladesh capital city Dhaka from May 12 which will be attended by about 150 delegates, including high-level representatives from 25 countries.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future' due to the post-Covid situation and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the conference. She will also host a dinner in honour of the guests who will participate in the conference.

Speaking about the two-day conference, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh AK Abdul Momen said that the event was mainly organised for the coastal countries of the Indian Ocean, but in the changing global context, various important and relevant issues are expected to be discussed.

The Mauritius president, Maldives vice-president and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar are among the dignitaries who will attend the conference. "Foreign Ministers of Bhutan, Nepal, Bahrain and Singapore alongside the ministerial representatives of Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Madagascar will also participate in the conference," Momen said.

The conference is being organised by the India Foundation in association with the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) was started in 2016 and in the last six years it has emerged as the "flagship consultative forum" for countries in the region on regional affairs.

The conference endeavours to bring critical states and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

However, the 6th Indian Ocean Conference in Bangladesh, most importantly, is taking place at a time when the Bangladesh government has recently set an 'Indo-Pacific Outlook' officially. The overarching goal of Bangladesh's recent Indo-Pacific Outlook is to enhance the country's ties with the USA and West, India for engagement in this region, accelerate economic growth, and address common issues shared by the other nations. Despite Indo-Pacific Strategy's widespread support, some countries have claimed that it's only likely to serve to escalate regional instability, slow China's growth



and Bangladesh's lean towards the US. Bangladesh is hesitant to take any sides in the conflict between the US and its allied countries and China. For instance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh had announced a fresh Indo-Pacific Outlook to highlight Bangladesh's geopolitical standpoint on the region as well as its objectives to move forward as a non-alignment foreign policy. In other words, Bangladesh will likely clarify its own stance in the Indo-Pacific region through Indo-Pacific Outlook to take the position of regional leader, rather than joining any political bloc. In this way, India-US-Bangladesh relations would reach a new level. Bangladesh could gain trust from the Indian government because India is an active member of the Indo-Pacific alliance. Bangladesh, on the other hand, is handling the Chinese predicament intelligently because its goal is to engage structurally rather than militarily. Chinese ambassador to Dhaka has already stated that Many of Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific outlook concepts are similar to China's.

The world has dramatically changed in the past few years. When the block was formed, the regional and global political landscape was relatively peaceful and harmonious. China, USA, India, Russia and the European Union had minimal conflict

of interests. It was a time when multipolarity enjoyed a positive vibe in international relations despite their underlying competition. Today, the world has gradually become polarized and divided on issues of power, resources, and hegemony. The Quad-China confrontation and Ukraine War has been the ultimate test of strategic visions that the West has against China and Russia.

Against this backdrop, India has been promoting the idea of 'net security provider' in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. Again, the geopolitics of Indian Ocean region is now brewing through new strategic and security initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China, Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS), Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and Australia, UK and US (AUKUS) led by the USA and its allies. Besides, India also announced SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for all in the Region, India and its Neighborhood).

The alliance has recently been reactivated by the rise in smuggling, arms trade, and human trafficking in the Indian Ocean Region. Maritime Safety and Security, Countering Terrorism and Radicalization, Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime, Cyber Security,

Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. Maritime security and countering terrorism and other crimes in the Indian Ocean have emerged as a focus area for India as part of its Indo-Pacific strategy and the doctrine of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

The main task of this grouping will be to maintain security in the sea area and stop human trafficking and smuggling. The members of the alliance may also work on providing mutual humanitarian assistance. To this end, they will provide mutual training to their Navies and Coast Guards for the next one year. Member States should conduct Naval exercises that would be a milestone for the IOR.

The Indian Ocean gets its strategic significance for various reasons. It was a great maritime route for Asian, European and African States for many years. The Indian Ocean has been considered as a hub of the maritime connectivity project. China's 'String of Pearls' and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project and India's International North South Transport Project (INSTP) go through this Ocean. Even the US Government has transformed its strategy from the Asia Pacific to the Indo Pacific to include the Indian Ocean. The Japan and India proposed 'Cotton Route' is also a big issue that can be taken into consideration. Japan-India-Bangladesh strategic troika is also a consideration in recent times.

But there are some problems too. Transnational crimes such as illegal narcotics trade, weapons and human trafficking issues, piracy, armed robbery, drug smuggling, illegal fishing, terrorism, environmental degradation issues are some issues. The Indian Ocean has been used as a safe passage by some evil players. States on the Indian Ocean face these serious challenges every day.

Illegal drug trafficking from India and Afghanistan, Iran through the Indian Ocean route is known to all. According to some sources, the UNODC has estimated that 54 per cent of the heroin in India is produced domestically, while 45 per cent originates from Afghanistan. India is particularly vulnerable to the Southern route due to its Western border with Pakistan. Near this border, in the Western Indian States of Punjab and Haryana, is where many of the heroin seizures occur. In 2012, 105 kg of drugs were seized, which had been trafficked from Pakistan along rail routes. In 2013 alone, the Indian Narcotics Control Bureau reported seizures totaling 4,609 kg. Data collected through seizures by various authorities has confirmed India as a transit country for Southeast Asia,

West Africa and North America.

Marine resources
Many fishermen from Myanmar and India are involved in illegal fishing in the jurisdictional area under Bangladesh. So, Bangladesh faces economic losses in terms of marine resources. Some armed groups kidnap Bangladeshi fishermen for ransom. Basically, fishing in the Sundarbans region has become very dangerous.

Sri Lanka has also faced an increase in heroin use within the country, as well as becoming a transit country for trafficking destined for other places. Much of the heroin entering Sri Lanka arrives on fishing boats or by air, often coming through India or Pakistan. The numbers of seizures which Sri Lankan authorities have conducted remains relatively small, meaning that the data collected is not always reliable. Smugglers in Sri Lanka have come from a variety of countries, including Pakistan, India, Iran and the Maldives.

Environmental degradation in the sea is common now. Climate Change and the rise in sea levels are among other issues. The transnational terrorist threat is seen as a serious threat.

Not only Bangladesh, countries like India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and all States across the Indian Ocean face the same problems. In the disaster period, regional cooperation is much needed. In the past, regional countries helped each other through various operations during disasters.

Now Bangladesh as a host country has got a regional platform to address these problems. To ensure better maritime security, all regional countries should work together to tackle the problems. India and Sri Lanka have given their full support to this alliance. They have promised to hold bilateral or joint military exercises with each of the countries in the alliance. This is such a platform. Bangladesh expects cooperation from the other stakeholders and wants to help others to face the challenges.

Thus, there are some opportunities to focus on countering terrorism and extremism, transnational crimes such as narcotics, weapons and human trafficking, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and protecting the maritime environment.

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

The author is Kolkata-based educator (Assistant Professor) and South Asian Affairs researcher

2023 The Likely End Of Conventional And Dawn Of New Creator Economy?

Rameesh Kailasam & Tamseel Hussain

The world has witnessed a largely gloomy past few years from 2020 onwards due to pandemic, geo-political tensions, long Russia-Ukraine war and an impending recession but however the silver lining has been the creator economy. Last year, the unexpected folks like the corn kid and 'kacha badam' became viral sensations allowing the creators behind them to encash on their short-loved yet humongous popularity.

The creator economy has been constantly and criticized for being overhyped and overfunded with no future. On the contrary it has been reinventing itself and evolving into something more significant through emergence of newer models and opportunities for the creators, communities and brands.

Year 2023 is likely to witness big shifts as brands are moving away from being dependent on 1% of creators and the rise of creator communities that help 99% monetise early, added to this the power of IP Selling.

The advent of smartphones, accessible and affordable data plans has led to the decentralisation of media. Creators have existed for a long time, people who pursued their passion and created content, but it is only in the last decade that they have been able to monetise it. According to Kalaari Capital, the total size of the global creator economy is pegged at \$104 billion and more than 50 million people worldwide consider themselves creators.

The creator economy landscape is an important pillar of the emerging Gig Economy. According to a study by Oxford Economics, video sharing platform YouTube's India creator economy was pegged at Rs 10,000 crore in 2021, up from Rs 6,800 crore in 2020. One of the pioneer's in the space, YouTube's



Partner Program launched in 2007, allowed creators to earn revenue through advertisements. All major global platforms and many emerging India Startups are now seemingly following the same path, wherein creators are allowed to put advertisements and earn a share of the revenue.

As they become more established and gain a following, creators are looking beyond sponsored content and merchandise to create their own IP. This shift allows creators to have more control over their content, generate more revenue, and build a lasting brand giving rise to filmmakers, script writers, screenplay specialists finding more opportunities and importantly livelihoods.

Globally, there are over 200 million creators and India is set to have the largest base of social media content creators with the fig-

ure crossing 100 million this year, according to a report by influencer marketing firm ZeFmo. The report predicts that the "organised influencer marketing" sector is expected to reach Rs 3000 crore by 2024 and the revenue share of micro influencers is set to rise from 9% to 14% by 2024.

In the past, it was challenging for creators with fewer followers to monetize their content, as most opportunities were reserved for those with massive followings. However, this is changing rapidly, and creators with small but engaged audiences now have more opportunities than ever to earn a living from their content. There are platforms that offer a revenue-sharing model based on the creator's engagement rate, rather than their follower count. This approach is a departure from the traditional model, where revenue-

sharing was based solely on follower count, a significant step towards creating a more equitable creator economy.

Platforms like Patreon, Ko-fi, and Buy Me a Coffee allow creators to set up a subscription-based model where fans can support them directly. This approach allows creators to earn a steady income, regardless of the size of their following. Other platforms like Tip Jar and Brave Rewards enable fans to tip creators for their content, which can be a great way for creators to earn some extra income. Indian Startup platforms like Pluc.tv are helping creators harness better relationships with brands and businesses by enabling great storytelling, IP Selling and innovating creator communities.

Brand campaigns are more likely to put a larger amount of their marketing budgets

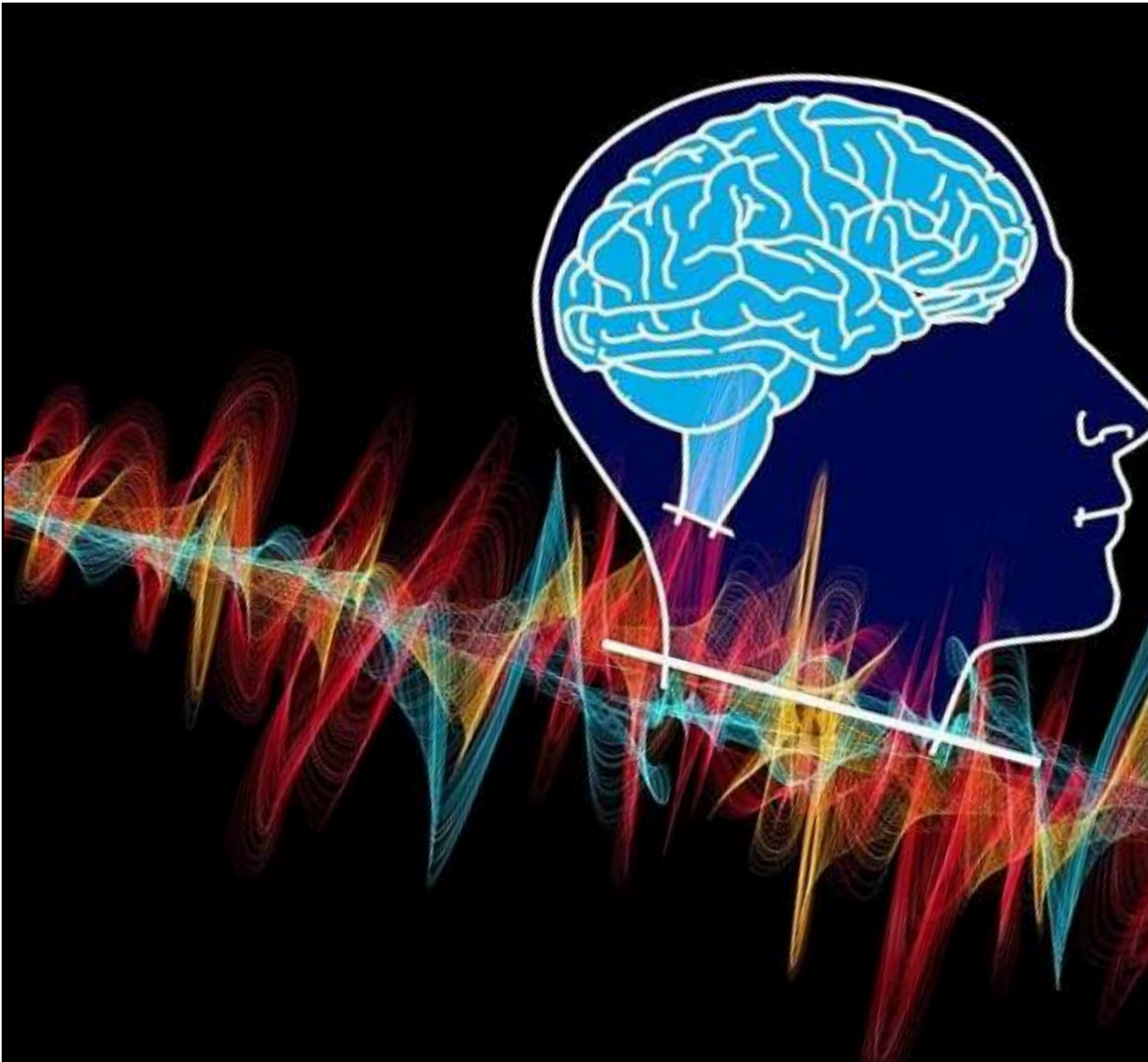
into influencer campaigns than traditional television campaigns. For long, creators were not experimenting, and were relying mostly on platform based revenue and most creators use at least two different platforms. A Deloitte survey revealed that creators, in general, are not satisfied with the performance of the platforms that they use. Most brands now frequently rely on affiliate marketing to leverage influencers on social media. Health, wellness, fast moving consumer goods, sports and entertainment are some of the top segments where creators can break easy. As per reports, in 2022, affiliate market spending in the US is predicted to reach \$8.2 billion and is expected to grow throughout this decade.

According to Teachable, creators earned a total of \$456.7 million through 1,83,744 new courses and 17,686 coaching products in 2020. The average price of a coaching product was \$167 and the platform hit the milestone of having \$1 billion in creator sales in 2020.

Year 2023 will put the creator at the centre of everything. Apart from revenue, leveraging the content for different platforms and customising it as per the market requirements is the way forward. Looking at platforms beyond social media will be a game changer for creators. For instance, Pluc.tv has developed tools that help a creator to monetise early on. There exists a gig corner that has the right tools that allow creators to sell digital products like stock and experiences, and offer exclusive content such as courses or even make their shows for brands or platforms.

Therefore reinvention was inevitable in the creator economy space with the market also learning what, how and from whom to expect. The relationship between Brands and new creators has never been this intimate.

The Authors are CEO, Indiatech.org and Founder & CEO Pluc.tv.



Restoring Key Brain Rhythm In ‘Smell’ Region Of Brain Could Treat Depression

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have found restoring certain signals, or gamma oscillations, in a brain region associated with processing smells to counter depression in a new study in mice and rats.

The study, led by researchers from New York University (NYU) Grossman School of Medicine, US, and Hungary's University of Szeged, said a certain brain rhythm of communication between brain regions, called gamma and repeating 30 times or more in a second, was an important timing pattern for the encoding of complex information, potentially including emotions.

While causes of depression remain unclear, these gamma oscillation changes act as markers of the disease in brain regions that manage the sense

of smell, which have also been tied to emotions. The study is published in the journal Neuron.

The researchers in this study first shut down the olfactory bulb, one of the brain regions managing smell and thought to be a source and conductor of gamma oscillations, in study rodents.

They observed a related spike in depression-like behaviours in the subjects, following which they reversed these behaviours by boosting gamma signals of the brain at their natural pace.

"This work demonstrates the power of gamma enhancement as a potential approach for countering depression and anxiety in cases where available medications are not effective," said corresponding study author Antal Berenyi, adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Neuroscience and Physiology at NYU Langone Health.

Disease-causing changes in the timing and strength of gamma signals, potentially caused by

infections, trauma, or drugs, from the olfactory bulb to other brain regions of the limbic system, such as the piriform cortex and hippocampus, may alter emotions, even as the team is not sure why.

In one theory, depression arises not within the olfactory bulb but in changes to its outgoing gamma patterns to other brain targets.

Using several standard rodent tests of depression, including measures of anxiety that is one of its main symptoms, the team studied the behaviour of rodents to show the effect of the loss of gamma oscillation in the olfactory bulb.

The researchers measured anxiety by observing how long the animals spent in an open space and despair by observing if they stopped swimming earlier when submerged. Similarly, stopping drinking sugar water betrayed a sign of taking less pleasure in things, while refusing to enter

a maze suggested avoidance of stressful situations.


Next, using a custom-made device which recorded the olfactory bulb's gamma oscillations, the researchers suppressed and then amplified the oscillations in the rodents' brain.


Suppression of gamma oscillations in the olfactory lobe induced behaviours resembling depression in humans. In addition, feeding an amplified olfactory bulb signal back into the brains of depressed rats restored normal gamma function in the limbic system, and reduced the depressive behaviours by 40 percent, almost back to normal.

"Moving forward, we will be working to better understand this link in the bulb, and in the regions it connects to, as behaviour changes," said senior study author Gyorgy Buzsaki, professor of Neuroscience in the Department of Neuroscience and Physiology.

FREE

One to one and group mental health counselling services in the clinic as well as in online mode





HEALTHY MINDS

Our team of well qualified and trained professionals comprises both child/adolescent as well as adult psychologists & counsellors that work under the guidance & supervision of senior consultant psychologists.

WE PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL HELP IN OVERCOMING THE FOLLOWING AND MANY MORE CONDITIONS

Anger & Stress management

Post Traumatic Stress disorder

Anxiety Disorder

Personal Empowerment

Depression

Suicide Prevention and more

CALL FOR FREE CONSULTATION!

10AM - 4PM, Monday - Saturday

9469 807 321

9469 811 096

9070 130 280

HOUSE NO. 27, LANE NO 16 A, GOGJI BAGH

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

e-NIT NO 5 OF R&B/Bpr/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/ DATED 10-5-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

No.	Name of work	Estimated cost of the Project (In lacs)	Advertised Consultancy cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of Tender document (In Rs)	Cost of EMD (In Rs)	Time of completion	Type of Consultancy
1.	Providing Consultancy Services for drainage schemes at Bandipora Town	491.30	5.16	300.00	10320.00	10 Days	Architectural / Structural design, Soil testing, preparation of DPR including BOQ in (Soft and Hard Copy) and other Ancillary works

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Dated		
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-05-2023	
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 10-05-2023	(6:30 PM)
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 10-05-2023	(6:30 PM)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 16-05-2023	(04:00 PM)
	Last Date for receiving the hard copy (Original DD & EMD)	Hard copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as lowest bidder (L1) at the time of opening of tenders. The cost of tender document will be collected through e-Challan / Receipt. However the successful bidders will submit the same separately after the opening of bids online. Note:- The bidders whose bid is greater than 15% below the advertised cost must upload additional Security performance in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora, besides earnest money (CDR/FDR)	
5.	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	17-05-2023	(11:00 AM)
	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora		

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Earnest Money / Bid Security 2% of Advertised cost in shape of CDR / FDR applicable pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (Tender Receiving Authority).

3. The bidder who is declared as (L1) shall deposit 3% Performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (Tender Inviting Authority) and the 3% EMD shall be released in favour of the successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security.

4. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "BiddersManual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get „Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

8. Scanned cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents including CDR / FDR shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the Bidder on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.

No:-EE/R&B/Bpr/613-19
DIPK-1405/23

Dated:-11-05-2023.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Bandipora

Govt To Re-Allocate Go First's Haj Flights To IndiGo, Two Saudi Carriers



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has decided to re-allocate the Haj flights that were to be operated by crisis-hit Go First from 10 Indian cities to IndiGo and two Saudi Arabian airlines, a senior official said on Thursday.

The decision comes against the backdrop of the uncertainty over cash-starved Go First, which has cancelled all flights since May 3. The budget airline's plea for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings has also been admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal.

After discussions in the wake of the Go First crisis, the civil aviation ministry has decided to reallocate the flights for the Haj pilgrimage that was to be operated by the carrier.

Go First is scheduled to operate the flights from 10 embarkation points in different parts of the country and now those flights will be operated by IndiGo and two Saudi carriers -- Saudia and flyadeal, the official told PTI.

For this year's Haj pilgrimage, the official said there will be a total of 22 embarkation points. Out of them, Go First was to operate from 10 embarkation points, Spicejet from 4 points, Saudia from 2 points, Air India, Air India Express and Vistara from 2 points each, the official said.

Flights for Haj pilgrims will

commence later this month and will be on till the second week of July.

For this year, a quota of 1,75,025 Haj pilgrims has been allotted to India. The annual pilgrimage will take place around June-end.

In February, the minority affairs ministry told the Lok Sabha that it had a number of interactive sessions on Haj management with stakeholders, including the Haj Committees of the states and Union Territories, wherein requests for restoration of the Haj quota were received.

The issue was addressed under the annual bilateral agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for Haj 2023 and in spite of the challenges of COVID-19, the original Haj quota of the country i.e. 1,75,025 has been restored for Haj 2023, it had said.

The quota earmarked for the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) under the Annual Bilateral Agreement is meant for pilgrims from various states and UTs for Haj 2023.

Meanwhile, uncertainty remains over the future of Go First. An Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) has been appointed by the NCLT to manage the affairs of Go First Airline under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) but some lessors have challenged the tribunal's ruling.

Two More Aircraft Lessors Move NCLAT Against Go First's Insolvency

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Two more aircraft lessors -- GY Aviation and SFV Aircraft Holding -- on Thursday moved appellate tribunal NCLAT against the order passed by the NCLT allowing Go First's voluntary plea to initiate insolvency proceedings.

SMBC Aviation Capital, which is one of the world's largest aircraft leasing companies, already moved NCLAT on Wednesday, hours after the Delhi-based Principal bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted Go First's plea to initiate the insolvency resolution process against the airline.

Ireland-based GY Aviation is the largest lessor of Go First with 9 aircraft, while SFV Aircraft Holdings has leased out one aircraft to the Wadia group-

owned company.

SMBC Aviation Capital has 5 aircraft on lease with Go First.

Now the total number of lessors before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) against Go First's insolvency has become three.

The NCLAT on Thursday heard the petition of SMBC Aviation Capital. The matter was partly heard and a two-member bench would continue its hearing over SMBC Aviation Capital's petition on Friday.

NCLT has appointed an interim resolution professional (IRP) while suspending the board and putting a moratorium on the debt-ridden company's financial obligations.

During the hearing at NCLT last week, several aircraft lessors had opposed Go First's voluntary insolvency plea.

Kisan Sampark Abhiyan: Over 80K Farmers Participate Across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Enthusiastic farmers turned up in hordes across all the districts of Jammu & Kashmir with more than 80,000 attending three rounds of the orientation programme being held under KISAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN.

Nearly, 800 panchayats from across all the districts of the Union Territory have been covered, till date, under the abhiyan.

A first of its kind massive farmer's orientation exercise is being undertaken by Agriculture Production Department in the UT. The ambitious target of reaching out to farmers in each and every Panchayat of the UT has been envisaged under the KISAN SAMPARK ABHIYAN in next 4 months. The exercise which commenced from 24th April will conclude on 31st August, 2023. The farmers outreach exercise has been planned under the recently launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The Orientation programme is being organised simultaneously across all districts of the UT. The programme has been designed to be conducted on first three days of every week. An exhaustive district specific calendar has been issued by



the government in this regard. The resource persons for these orientation programmes are officers and officials drawn from Agriculture, Animal/Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Sericulture and Fisheries Departments, who were trained beforehand during the 641 training sessions which were held across all districts during the months of January to April. An innovative tool of describing the different schemes and programmes using short films has been put in place. A total of 49 videos of schemes under HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes will be shown to the farmers across the venues in J&K.

Using audio visual aids in describing the schemes had a lasting and much more engaging, engrossing effect on the farmers. Besides, question answer

session after each screening session of videos are being held to clear the doubts of farmers. The farmers are also being provided with pamphlets of all the schemes in the three languages (Hindi, Urdu and English) in the shape of a booklet, which also contains the information about the contact details of all the departments under the agriculture production department of the UT.

The farmers are also being apprised of the mode of application under these schemes using the KISAN SATHI- the IT Dashboard of the schemes developed by APD. A simple scan of the QR codes on the pamphlets takes the farmer to the KISAN SATHI Portal where he can register easily without visiting any office for applying under any of the schemes.

HADP Will Significantly Improve Quality, Quantity Of Produce In J&K: Dulloo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a meeting of Project Grounding and Monitoring Committees to review progress on implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) in the Union Territory at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Mission Director, HADP, concerned Chairmen and members of all Project Grounding and Monitoring Committees, members of PMU and technical officers.

Addressing the officers, ACS stated that this plan is a mission for transformative and holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors across J&K with potential to transform the UT into sustainable commercial agri-economy. He impressed upon the officers to work in mission mode and coordinated manner to achieve the desired objectives of the plan.

While reviewing progress on each project being executed under the ambitious plan, Atal Dulloo exhorted upon the members to consult the stake-



holders so that all aspects of agricultural and allied sectors are included in the plan.

ACS emphasized upon the officers to ensure that all projects being executed under HADP are completed within the set timelines. He was apprised that all the preliminary preparations and consultations with the stakeholders are apace and going to be implemented in letter and spirit within its set timeframe.

The sub projects taken up for discussion during the meeting included promotion of oilseeds, formulation of 300 FPOs, integrated farming systems, commercial floriculture, rainfed area development, identification of organic clusters in 14 districts and organic zones in 6 districts, alternate agriculture system for sustainability, sensor based smart agriculture, minimising pesticide use in agriculture, soil and land resource information system and soil health management, innova-

tive extension approaches for promoting agriculture.

The meeting discussed upgradation of existing integrated farming system, upgradation of 54 nursery units in Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal districts in Kashmir division and Jammu, Udhampur districts in Jammu division.

To increase production and productivity of oilseeds, the officers informed that they have covered additional 72,000 hectares under oilseed crops. It was given out in the meeting that 24 hectare of nursery has been added with establishment of additional 150 nursery units in Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Anantnag and Baramulla districts in Kashmir division and Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda district in Jammu division. Besides, production of seed and quality planting material for targeted area expansion under respective components will be carried out under the plan.



Tehran-Riyadh Détente: Iran's Finance Minister Arrives In Saudi Arabia

Agencies

RIYADH: Iran's Finance Minister Ehsan Khadrouzi has arrived in Saudi Arabia, becoming the first Iranian official to visit the Arab kingdom following a China-brokered reconciliation agreement between Tehran and Riyadh.

Khadrouzi arrived at the airport of Saudi Arabia's southern city of Jeddah on Thursday and was welcomed by Saudi officials, Islamic Development Bank managers, and members of the Iranian Consulate General in the city.

The Iranian finance minister, who is heading a high-ranking economic delegation, is scheduled to take part in bilateral meetings with Saudi officials and deliver speeches at meetings of the Islamic Development Bank, a Jeddah-based multilateral development finance institution focusing on Islamic finance for infrastructure development.

Khadrouzi said last month that Tehran aimed to raise its

annual trade with Riyadh to \$1 billion in the first step of resuming economic ties.

He said the target was set by the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO) based on the two countries' capacities.

On March 10, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to restore diplomatic ties seven years after they severed relations. According to the agreement, the two sides committed to reopening embassies in Tehran and Riyadh by May.

The landmark agreement, mediated by China, also included the implementation of a security cooperation agreement signed in 2001 and a 1998 pact to boost bilateral cooperation on trade, investment, technology, and culture.

On April 6, the foreign ministers of both countries met in Beijing and issued a joint statement, expressing readiness to remove all impediments to the expansion of bilateral ties.

Installation Of OFDA Will Lead To Betterment Of Pashmina Industry: KPKU

Observer News Service

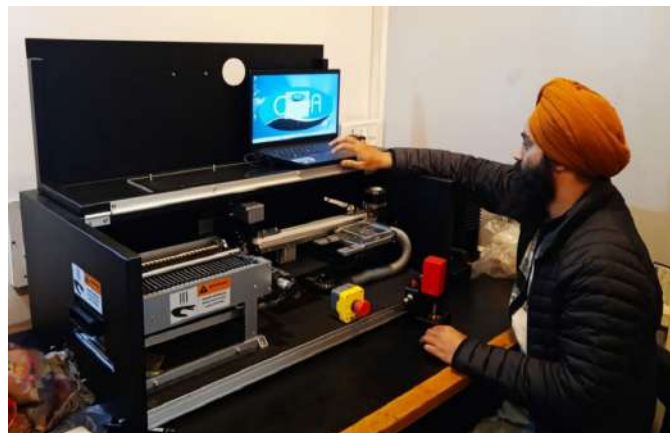
SRINAGAR: The President of KASHMIR PASHMINA KARIGAR UNION (KPKU) Thursday said

Pashmina artisans have been advocating for the installation of OFDA testing equipment to improve the quality of testing of pashmina fibre and produce for a long time. This equipment will help in removing all sub-standard raw materials from the market, leading to the betterment of the entire pashmina industry he said in a statement.

a brand.

"We would like to appreciate the efforts made by Director Handicrafts, Mehmood Ahmed Shah, for making this equipment installation possible, even though the idea was mooted ten years ago, and the government of India had provided the necessary funds. Shah has been an ardent supporter of promoting pashmina crafts and has been the voice of artisans since he joined the department," he said.

"With the installation of OFDA testing equipment, we are



While discussing about its importance, he further said the installation of this equipment at CDI Srinagar will not only improve the quality of raw materials but also streamline the process of pashmina production..

This, in turn, will enhance the reputation of Kashmir pashmina and increase its credibility as

confident that the pashmina industry in Kashmir will undergo a significant transformation, and the artisans will benefit from the improved quality and value of their products."

This is a significant step towards realizing our vision of creating a sustainable and prosperous pashmina industry in Kashmir.

State Taxes Deptt Enforcement Realises Rs. 25.34 Lacs From Erring

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The State Taxes Department Enforcement (Central) Kashmir has realised a penalty amount of Rs. 25,34,808, which is by far the highest single penalty realised by the office under the Jammu and Kashmir GST Act, 2017 against one loaded goods vehicle for failing to produce any documents as required to be accompanying the goods on movement/ transit.

The vehicle bearing No. JK01AD 3557 was apprehended on a tip-off by a team of officers lead by Assistant Commissioner Enforcement (Central) Kashmir, Shabnam Rashid and comprising of inspectors, SIs/ Guards of the central Enforcement Wing, during a Nakka laid on NH-44 between Hyderpora Bye-Pass and Batamalo Bye-Pass.

The team of Officials was constituted by the Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Department Enforcement (Central) Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina.

The Driver/ Person in Charge of the vehicle disclosed that the loaded goods are cigarettes only but failed to

produce any documents as required to be accompanying the goods on movement/ transit. Accordingly, FORM GST MOV- 01 and MOV- 02 were issued to the driver/PIC on spot and vehicle was detained at Excise and Taxation Complex, Solina, Rambagh, Srinagar.

Further proceeding U/s 129 of JK GST Act, 2017 were initiated and physical verification of the goods was conducted on the same day under the supervision of DC/AC Enforcement (Central) Kashmir and accordingly penalty was calculated under aforementioned section.

On 10 May, 2023 the owner of the goods appeared before DC Enforcement (Central) Kashmir and moved an application for release of goods. The goods were released after realising of penalty amount of Rs 2534808.00.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner State Taxes Department Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Rashmi Singh and Additional Commissioner State Taxes Department (Adm. & Enf.) Kashmir Shakeel Maqbool (ICAS) expressed their satisfaction and applauded the efforts of the team.

Govt Waives Duty And Agri Cess On Crude Soya Bean, Sunflower Oil Imports

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The finance ministry has exempted imports of crude soya bean and sunflower oils from basic customs duty and agriculture infrastructure and development cess till June 30, subject to certain conditions.

The duty exemption is applicable only for importers holding TRQ (Tariff Rate Quota) licence for 2022-23 fiscal.

Under TRQ, a certain volume of imports are allowed at relatively low tariffs. Once the volume limit is reached, a higher tariff applies to additional imports. TRQ is allotted to importers by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

Through a notification, the finance ministry allowed imports of crude soya bean oil and crude sunflower oil at zero basic customs duty and zero AIDC for TRQ licence holders for FY23 up to the June 30, 2023.

"This notification shall come into force on the 11th day of May, 2023, and nothing contained in this notification shall apply after the 30th of June, 2023," the ministry said.

Spicejet Says No Plans To Seek Insolvency Proceedings

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Budget carrier Spicejet on Thursday said it has no plans to file for insolvency proceedings and has also started the process of reviving its grounded fleet with USD 50 million.

The statement from Spicejet comes at a time when a lessor has filed an insolvency resolution plea against the airline and crisis-hit rival Go First being admitted for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday.

While citing the recent developments in the Indian aviation market, Spicejet said it has no plans whatsoever to file for insolvency.

"We want to scotch any speculation that may have arisen due to the filing by another airline. The airline is firmly focussed on its business and remains in active talks with investors to raise funds," it said in a statement.

On May 8, the NCLT issued a notice to the budget carrier on



the insolvency plea filed by lessor AirCastle (Ireland) Ltd and the matter is scheduled for a hearing next week.

Besides, lessors have sought the deregistration of three planes of Spicejet.

"There is absolutely no question of filing for insolvency. Any rumour regarding the same is completely baseless. We are focused firmly on reviving our grounded fleet and getting more and more planes back into the air. Work on this front has already begun, and the company is using the USD 50 million ECLGS funds and our own cash," Spice-

Jet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said.

Spicejet also said that it has initiated the process of reviving its grounded fleet with the USD 50 million funds received by the airline from the government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) and internal cash accruals. Shares of the airline fell 1 per cent to Rs 29.62 in the afternoon trade on the BSE.

Last week, the airline announced plans to revive 25 grounded aircraft. The airline has around 80 planes in its fleet and is looking to revive 25 grounded Boeing 737 and Q400 aircraft.

Union Power Minister Lays Foundation Stone For Augmentation Of POWERGRID Ara Sub-Station Bhojpur

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy R. K. Singh laid the foundation stone for augmentation of 220/132 kV POWERGRID Ara Substation, a POWERGRID spokesperson said Thursday.

Singh laid the foundation stone in presence of Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Energy Minister, Bihar, Amrendra Pratap Singh, MLA, Ara, Raghavendra Pratap Singh, MLA, Barhara, Smt. Kiran Devi, MLA, Sandesh, Mr. Awadhesh Narayan Singh, Member, Bihar Legislative Council, Smt. Indu Devi, Mayor, Ara and Smt. Poonam Devi, Deputy Mayor, Ara. Chairman and Managing Director of POWERGRID K. Sreekant and Director Personnel Dr. V. K. Singh were also present.

The scheme would facilitate meeting demand of electricity for the next 10 years in Ara. Uninterrupted power supply will lead to industrial and commercial development of the area and also im-prove power availability in Bhojpur, Buxar and Rohtas districts.

The augmentation of POWER-GRID Ara sub-station will increase the total transformation capacity of the sub-station to 560 MVA. This initiative will speed up the pace of development in Ara, and give boost to economic and social development of the



region through a strong power infrastructure.

It will further strengthen Ara's connectivity with the national grid. Various works of rural development such as bathing ghat, PCC road, community hall, culvert, boundary wall, retaining wall etc. have been constructed by POWERGRID under Corporate Social Responsibility in Bhojpur.

Arrangement of bench desk in schools, high mast light and construction of toilets etc. have also been done under CSR. Apart from the core business of power transmission, POWERGRID, a Maharatna PSU of the Government of India, is playing a leading role in impacting lives through multifarious social development initiatives.

DC Pulwama Calls For Collective Efforts To Prevent Drug Abuse

Observer News Service

Pulwama: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom on Thursday convened 8th meeting of the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD).

At the outset, the DC discussed various issues related to menace of drug addiction, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug peddling, abuse, besides, cultivation of illicit poppy and cannabis in the district. He said that collective efforts are needed to curb the drug menace and all stakeholders shall have to work in tandem to enhance the rehabilitation of persons involved in drug abuse.

He emphasised on conducting awareness camps in schools and colleges on mass scale to sensitize the youth about hazards and ill effects of consuming drugs.

The Education Department was asked to promote anti drug abuse awareness in all educational institutions and its ill effects on society. The DC directed CEO to ensure that no tobacco product is sold near educational institutions as per rules and added that special teams shall be constituted for vigilance around institutions.

The DC directed all concerned officers for immediate completion of mapping of land used for bhang and poppy cultivation and submission of action taken in destruction of poppy and Cannabis. He also directed CAO and CHO to explore avenues for growing alternative crops in these areas besides providing valuable inputs to land owners.

He asked officers of all line departments to make coordinated efforts to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain besides taking stringent action against the persons

involved in this dangerous trade.

The DC said in order to combat this rising societal problem, multi-pronged rehabilitation, counseling and guidance policy is being implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures to curb the menace.

He sought cooperation from the elected representatives, religious heads, families particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth which also leads to other social evils and crimes.

Dr Basharat assured the departments that all requisite support will be provided by the District Administration for saving youth from the ill effects of the drugs.

The DC directed Assistant Drug Controller Pulwama and CMO Pulwama to get CCTV cameras installed at all medical shops, clinical establishments and chemist/ druggist shops for overall surveillance with regard to the containment of drug sales is enforced.

He also directed the Assistant Drug Controller to establish a 24*7 flying squad to check the unauthorized functioning of Chemists besides checking the sales of contraband drugs in the district.

The Police Department was asked to keep strict vigil against drug proliferation, consumption and to break the chain of drug peddling and consumption and intensifying awareness against such addictive substances involving concerned stakeholders from civil administration.

On the occasion, Officers apprised about the situation with regard to the drug menace and shared their suggestions and measures to be taken at District level to control the drug peddling and its consumption, besides measures for rehabilitation of drug victims.

IRIA To Host Remote Radiology CME In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With an aim to take radiology to every nook and corner of the country, the Indian Radiological & Imaging Association (IRIA) in association with YUWA IRIA is scheduled to organize a remote radiology program—an expedition to Kashmir, a high-powered CME at a local hotel in Srinagar.

According to the coordinator, Remote Radiology CME, Dr Imran Nazir Salroo, informed CME will be held on 14th May from 5 to 7 PM at a local hotel here. Dr Salroo, who is an Interventional radiologist at SKIMS Medical College, Srinagar informed that during the CME noted radiologists including Dr Amarnath C, Dr Rijo, Dr BM Maheesha, Dr Pankaj Sharma, Dr Gaurang Raval would deliver special presentation on some of the burning topics. President, IRIA, Dr Umesh Krishnamurthy, has hoped that the CME will greatly benefit the Jammu and Kashmir region. He said that radiology in India has evolved with a large number of medical practitioners including radiologists proving their mettle in the field and doing ground-breaking research. Postgraduate diplomas and degrees were started gradually in all the medical colleges across the country, which has helped the practitioners to divulge deeper into the research part.

The CME is supported by the SKIMS Medical College. Principal SKIMS Medical College, Srinagar, Dr Irfan Rabani has wished his best to the organizers, hoping that the programme would provide a platform for the medical practitioners to look into certain issues with greater concern.

Associate Professor, Head, Department of Radiology, SKIMS Medical College, Dr Muhammad Farooq Mir, wished the best to the organizers. Mir, who is a reputed name in radiology in Kashmir, said that in order to promote the study, the practice of diagnostic radiological and imaging modalities including X-ray, Ultrasound, C.T, M.R.I., PET CT/MRI and other imaging modalities, Radiobiology, radiation medicine, molecular imaging and interventional radiology and other related subspecialties, more and more such CMEs should be organized for the medical practitioners.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Climate Change

conscious lifestyle.

"I firmly believe under the leadership of PM, India will guide the world in building a sustainable society that will both be an economic powerhouse and a major contributor in restoring the delicate balance of Nature," the LG said.

"By adopting 'Green Growth' as one of the seven key priorities (Saptarshi), the Prime Minister has shown the world that India stands firm on its resolve to achieve the goal of Zero Carbon Emission by 2070," he added.

At the Y20 Consultation, the LG called upon youth to ensure ideas to create productive harmony between nature and human are translated into action and it contributes to a better world.

"Youth will lead the world in offering pragmatic solutions to climate & global challenges of the 21st century. I believe the young generation will synergise innovative ideas and actions to preserve natural resources and also become stakeholders in policymaking for sustainable development," he said.

In his address, Sinha also talked about the vision of India's G20 Presidency and collective responsibility of the global community to nurture the nature for benefit of humanity.

"Vision of India's G20 Presidency focuses on our shared responsibility to tackle two great challenges- Protect climate & promote sustainable development. As one family, we need to nurture earth that sustains life and commit for inclusive development to transform lives of common man," he said

The LG also highlighted the values and principles as enshrined in the ancient Indian scriptures on sustainable living and environment protection.

"The sustainable living is the Indian way of life. Long before the global community realized the importance of sustainable living our forefathers dedicated Prithvi Sukta, in Atharv Veda to mother earth highlighting its resources and urging the people to utilize them in a sustainable manner. Thousands of years before the term Sustainable Life Style was popularized across the globe, Yajurveda mentioned about harmonious living with earth, water, trees and to prioritize the use of natural resources," Sinha said.

He emphasised that the vision of our forefathers was not merely ideas confined to the books but were focussed on action from the community as every ancient Indian scripture calls for selfless act.

"We must adopt a balanced & holistic approach between development and nature to manage the challenges of accelerated growth and ecological sustainability. Our rights on natural resources are not absolute, it is temporary. This thinking should become part of our daily habit to ensure a prosperous earth for our future generations," he added.

The LG also reiterated his government's commitment to support sustainable development and lead the action against climate change.

LG's Advisor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar in his address, called upon the Youth and other stakeholders to join the efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prof Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Pankaj Kumar Singh, Director, Department of Youth Affairs, GoI; Prof Manzoor Shah, Y20 Chair, Kashmir University; Guru Prakash Paswan, Senior Faculty, Patna University and Akash Jha, Secretary Programs & Logistics, Y20 India also spoke on the occasion and impressed upon the youth to raise awareness & exchange ideas on the most pressing global issues.

On the occasion, Sinha inaugurated the Y20 Exhibition and released the Y-20 Chronicle of the University about the run-up activities to the event.

NIA Raids Continue

agency has tightened the noose around militant funding activities by groups involved in anti-India activities, while strengthening the security apparatus in the Valley.

"The searches, conducted at the premises of members and sympathisers of Jel, J&K, led the agency to the recovery of several digital devices and incriminating material," the agency said.

Investigations so far by the NIA, which had suo moto registered the case on February 5, 2021, have revealed that Jel (J&K) has been collecting money ostensibly for charitable purposes, such as promotion of health and education. It has instead been using the collected funds for carrying out unlawful activities.

The NIA has also found that Jel members have been collecting money, both within and outside India, through donations, particularly in the form of zakat, 'mowda' and 'Bait-ul-Mal' (Muslim community fund).

"They have been using the funds used for carrying out violent and secessionist activities, and also channelling them to proscribed organisations, such as Hizbul Mujahideen (HM),

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and others through well-organised networks of Jel cadres," it said.

The NIA said the Jel has also been motivating Kashmiri youth and recruiting new members in Jammu and Kashmir to join its militant and secessionist movement against India.

Security Stepped

infiltration from across the border, officials said on Thursday.

The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting will be held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) on the banks of the Dal lake in Srinagar from May 22 to 24.

Security has been heightened in Jammu, particularly in border districts, and around all vital Army and security establishments, the officials said.

Multi-tier security of Army, Border Security Force, police and Central Reserve Police Force besides Village Defence Committees has been activated along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC), they said.

Security and checkpoints have also been strengthened along the Jammu-Pathankot highway, all vehicles are being checked and all movements are being monitored, they added.

In view of the threat perception, the officials said, more than 10 Army and other schools on the highway and in border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have been closed and online classes will be conducted for students till May 25.

In an advisory, police urged people to remain alert and check their vehicles before starting them.

At Jammu's entry points, checking of vehicles and frisking of people are being done, the officials said.

In Poonch and Rajouri, cordon and search operations (CASO) are going on to track down the militants involved in the attacks on April 20 and May 5 in which 10 soldiers, including five paratroopers, were killed, according to the officials.

PIL For Hassle

different views, it will be appropriate that a Nodal Officer be appointed, who will give a consistent view on behalf of the various agencies before the Court.

"Under the circumstances, we appoint Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir to be the Nodal Officer, who may file the comprehensive affidavit on behalf of the respondents

(officials), based on the inputs received from the various departments, so that there is unanimity and consistency in the stand taken by the respondents," the court said.

Accordingly, it directed the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to file an affidavit taking into consideration various averments, assurances and undertakings made by the various departments in this Public Interest Litigation. The court ordered listing for consideration on June 7 the PIL filed by white Globe NGO in 2018 through senior Advocate Syed Faisal Qadri for upgradation of basic structures of ambulance as per European standards and importantly enduring coordination between different government Departments particularly traffic department and health department for hassle free movement and passage of ambulances and saving precious lives.

Excited Delegates

as the sole reason for growing climate change in the world, the visiting youth delegates said the world together can find a solution to the growing challenges of climate change.

They also congratulated India for India assuming the G20 presidency and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for choosing Kashmir to host one of the travelers track meeting scheduled to take place on May 22 and 23.

Hyungjin, a research scholar from South Korea, said the event will not only encourage tourism in the valley, which he said is also known as the paradise on earth, but also offer an all new experience to research scholars.

"I am super excited to be in Kashmir. Now I came to know why Kashmir is called paradise on earth. I was impressed by the pleasant environment of Kashmir. If we have to combat climate change, we have to bring drastic changes in ourselves first, together we can combat the issues and together we can destroy nature," said he.

Daria Kholkalcheva, a Russian delegate pursuing Computer Science in Delhi University said the problem of climate change has to be addressed globally and just not inside one particular country.

"It's really an overwhelming experience for me to be in Kashmir. I've been in India for eight months and when I arrived in Kashmir, I saw a lot of potential here. The problem of climate change is interconnected and interchangeable. Together we can solve the problem," Kholkalcheva told Kashmir Observer.

She said hosting the Y20 event in Kashmir

is itself a big development and spreading the message across the world is equally important.

Echoing similar views, Williams, another Y20 delegate from US, an environmental science scholar at Delhi University, said the young students and delegates could influence the world as far as issues of climate change are concerned.

"it's right time to speak about the climate change as world has seriously impacted by the issue, I am a nature lover and always keep concentrating on weather and climate and I think its within the reach and power of young generation to fight against the issue so that the future generations does not have an impact of the climate change," he added

Plea In SC

leader Manju Singh, Chairman Block Development Council, Ramnagar, Des Raj, and District Development Committee, Udhampur, member, Ashri Devi.

In a statement, Harsh Dev Singh, who is also a former Jammu and Kashmir minister, said, "J&K has been deprived of a democratic government for the last four years. Elections are being delayed and denied and continue to be postponed for one reason or the other."

He said he has prayed for the revival of a people's government in the Union Territory in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution and successive rulings of the top court. The date of hearing is yet to be fixed by the Supreme Court Registry, the senior advocate said.

Harsh Dev Singh said the court on several occasions has held that assembly elections must be held within six months in all those states and union territories where assemblies are pre-maturely dissolved.

Even in a recent judgment of the Supreme Court pertaining to the State of Maharashtra, the top court reiterated that there is statutory obligation to fill assembly seats within six months so as to ensure that people were not deprived of due representation, he claimed.

Harsh Dev Singh said assembly elections continue to be denied in Jammu and Kashmir on "flimsy" grounds.

"Sometimes they are denied on the grounds of security scenario, sometimes on the pretext of unfinished delimitation exercise, sometimes on the grounds of the Amarnath pilgrimage, while at other times by taking the plea of intense cold or hot weather conditions or heavy snowfall," he said.

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

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

KO PODCAST

Breaking Tendulkar's Record Will Be Emotional: Kohli



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Virat Kohli has admitted that breaking Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries would indeed be an "emotional moment" for him.

When Tendulkar ended his career with 49 ODI hundreds, including the final one which was also his 100th international ton, not many thought that anyone would get even close to the 'Little Master'.

However the 34-year-old Kohli now has 46 hundreds from 274 ODI games and will require three more to emulate his childhood idol and one-time teammate.

Kohli, when asked about his thoughts on reaching that mile-

stone, he quickly says, "it will be a very emotional moment for me". The conversation also included Kohli talking about his childhood memories of playing cricket with older boys and highlighting the importance of sports.

"Sports teaches you some values of life, discipline and planning. It opens up your side, making you a productive person. No matter which profession you are in, the value of playing sport is immense.

"Don't make them [students] just play sports, teach them. It is important to teach them small details of what it means to play a sport," Kohli adds as he further recalls the incident that took off the pressure of studies from him when his school's vice principal advised him to religiously follow cricket."

JioCinema Reports Record 1,300 Crore Views In IPL

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Reliance-owned JioCinema, which has the live streaming right for Tata IPL, on Thursday said it has clocked over 1,300 crore video views in the first five weeks of the T20 cricket tournament.

The average time spent per viewer per match touched 60 minutes, said a statement from JioCinema, an OTT platform owned by Viacom 18.

"JioCinema continues to grow from strength to strength every week and it is based on clear evidence of consumer's outright preference of catching the TATA IPL on digital," said Viacom18 Sports CEO Anil Jayaraj.

JioCinema also breached the peak concurrency records of TATA IPL twice in five days.

"The combination of out-



standing cricket action and our robust platform proved the stellar opening weekend was just the beginning of bigger things to come," he said.

After witnessing an encouraging response, JioCinema has released a 360-degree viewing feature to delight fans, showcasing the power of immersive fan engagement on digital. "The number of advertisers on JioCinema who have signed up is also a new record as is the revenue booked, both significantly higher than last year on digital. The list of brands joining the digital bandwagon is expected to grow further," it said.

DYSSO Anantnag Celebrates Sports Week For Senior Citizens



Observer News Service

BIJBEHARA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag organised Sports Week for Senior Citizens in ZPEO Zone Bijbehara on Thursday at Dara Shikoh Garden in Bijbehara, Anantnag.

In the event, almost 43 senior citizens took part in different sports activities such as Carrom, Tug of War, Chess and 100 mts run. In these events, mostly the ex-

senior officers of YSS took active part, which included Nisar Ahmad Salroo (Ex-DYSSO Anantnag), Mohd Ibrahim Shah (Ex-ZPEO Bijbehara), Ab. Rehman Wagay (Ex-ZPEO Srigufwara), Bashir Ahmad Lone (Ex-ZPEO Bijbehara), Mohd Yousuf Shan (Ex-ZPEO Bijbehara) and other employees of the department, which includes Sajad Ahmad Dar-sarao Activity Incharge ZPEO Bijbehara and Shabir Ahmad Dar (Junior Assistant ZPEO Bijbehara).

IPL 2023: MI Take On GT In Crucial Matchup



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: An upbeat Mumbai Indians are likely to be tested to the hilt by table-toppers and defending champions Gujarat Titans in a vital Indian Premier League match here on Friday.

For the first time in this IPL, five-time winners MI have looked promising as they rose to the third spot in the points table with a six-wicket thumping of Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Tuesday.

The manner in which MI thrashed RCB -- chasing 200 inside 17 overs -- highlighted once again how successful their batting has been, even though for the second consecutive game they reshuffled the order in a bid to push their net

run rate.

Despite their best batter and captain Rohit Sharma enduring a lean patch with five single-digit scores on the trot, MI's batting has been nearly unstoppable here at the Wankhede Stadium as they successfully chased a target of 200 or above twice in three attempts.

Even against Punjab Kings, MI replied with 201 for 6 while chasing 215. However, the issue for MI this year is not restricted to Rohit's form or the absence of Jasprit Bumrah or Jofra Archer, but their bowling which has conceded four consecutive totals above 200, and nearly did so versus RCB again.

In the last three games here, opposition sides have raked up 214/8, 212/7 and

199/6, making the most of a flat wicket and perfect batting conditions -- something that GT would also like to target. MI's bowling did well against RCB to stop their charge in the middle-overs, but GT are not grappling with the issue of not having in-form batters lower in the order like RCB.

With eight wins in 11 matches, GT are on the brink of making it to the playoffs and be the first team to do so. Skipper Hardik Pandya and coach Ashish Nehra have successfully managed a conducive environment for the players who have flourished for the franchise this year as well, emerging as a strong contender for the title for the second year in a row.

Time: 7:30 PM IST.

PCB Threatens To Move Out Of ACC



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: In a desperate bid to host some matches of the Asia Cup in Pakistan, the PCB is now trying to convince the Asian Cricket Council to allocate just four first round games in Pakistan or else they would have no option but to pull-out of continental body.

PCB chairman Najam Sethi's 'Hybrid Model' of Pakistan playing its home games apart from India encounter, in their own country, has been rejected by other member nations. PCB, in turn, has rejected the idea of hosting Asia Cup games in Sri Lanka.

"Yes, Najam Sethi as part of the plan B of the hybrid model proposed by us for the Asia Cup has informed the ACC this week in Dubai that PCB would be satisfied hosting four games at home," a reliable source close to the cricket board said.

He said Sethi had also conveyed to the ACC in Dubai that if even this plan B of the PCB was rejected by ACC members then Pakistan would neither play in the Asia Cup and also withdraw from the Asian Cricket Council.

Sethi, according to the source, has proposed a Pakistan versus Nepal match and Afghanistan versus Bangladesh, Afghanistan vs Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka v Bangladesh matches in Pakistan.

The source also added that Sethi had told the ACC officials that PCB would be happy playing most of its remaining matches in Dubai and the tournament's majority games can be held in Dubai including the final.

"The one challenge now facing the ACC and us as hosts is that Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India are insisting the event shouldn't be held in UAE in September as the weather is very hot," the source said.

"In the recent past, BCCI has organized the entire (half) of IPL in UAE between September and November (in 2021) while the last two Asia Cups have also been held in UAE during the same period," the PCB source reminded.



ICC Rankings: India Slip To 3rd Spot; Australia No. 1

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India dropped to third position behind Pakistan and three points adrift off world number one Australia in the latest ICC ODI Men's Team Rankings announced on Thursday.

Five-time world champions Australia improved their rating from 113 to 118 following the annual update, maintaining a slender lead over Pakistan (116 points) and India (115 points).

According to the ICC release, "Prior to the annual rankings update, Australia were at the top with 113 points with India behind them on decimal count."

"Pakistan were ranked third, with 112 points, and briefly went to the top of the charts after their victory in the fourth ODI against New Zealand this month." Pakistan could have stayed at the top position had they managed to complete a 5-0 clean sweep against New Zealand.

With only three rating points

now separating the top three teams, an interesting battle at the top of the rankings is imminent in the year of the World Cup.

The ICC's annual rankings considered all ODI series completed since May 2020 "with series completed before May 2022 weighted at 50 percent and all subsequent series weighted at 100 percent".

"This means that Pakistan have now pipped India in the second spot, with their 4-0 away series defeat in England no longer being counted. Their 3-0 series loss in England in 2021 also has a reduced weightage, helping them leapfrog India in the charts," the ICC said.

India have been heavily impacted by their 2-1 series loss at home against Australia this year.

Among other teams, New Zealand are placed fourth with 104 points followed by England, who have 'witnessed a massive 10-point drop in their rating' are at fifth with 101 points.

Sports Ministry, BCCI, SAI Served Notice From NHRC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The National Human Rights Commission issued a notice to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Thursday over reports that the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and four other bodies do not have an internal complaints committee to address sexual harassment charges.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has also sent notices to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the WFI and several other national sports federations over reports that they either do not even have an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) or a properly functional ICC as required by law, according to a statement issued by the rights panel.

The notices come at a time when several wrestlers are protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi demanding the sacking and arrest of WFI president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh over charges of sexual harassment of women grapplers.

The NHRC has taken "suo motu cognisance of a media report that there is no Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) as mandated by the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act, 2013".

"Reportedly, the wrestling body is not the only one not having a duly constituted ICC. In addition to it, there are as many as 15 of the 30 national sports federations who do not meet

this mandatory requirement," the statement said.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, amount to a violation of the law, and thus is a matter of concern as it may impact the legal right and dignity of the sportspersons.

Accordingly, it has issued notices to the secretary, department of sports in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; the SAI, the BCCI, the WFI, and 15 other national sports federations of handball, volleyball, basketball, weightlifting, yachting, gymnastics, table tennis, billiards and snooker, kayaking and canoeing, judo, squash, triathlon, kabad-di, badminton, and archery, as mentioned in the news report, "which either do not have even an ICC or properly functional ICC as required in the law", the statement said.

These sports bodies have been asked to submit detailed reports within four weeks including the present status of the ICC in their organisation as well as the steps taken or proposed to be taken to address the issue, the rights panel said.

According to the media report published on May 4, "five federations, including the WFI, do not even have an ICC. Four federations do not have the stipulated number of members and another six federations lack the mandatory external members. It is also stated that one federation had two panels, but neither had an independent member," the statement said.



Premier League Season Reaches Final Weeks With Man City Leading Arsenal In Title Race

Agencies

The title race between Manchester City and Arsenal is headed to the wire. The fight for Champions League qualification has tightened up. It's surely down to two from a group of four teams for relegation.

There's so much still to play for in the Premier League with only two weeks remaining.

Here's a look at the state of play at the top and the bottom:

TITLE RACE

As many expected, defending champion Manchester City has produced its trademark end-of-season burst to move into first place ahead of long-time leader Arsenal, which stuttered just when a first title since 2004 was looming into view.

City — enjoying a 10-match winning run in the league — leads by one point with four games left, one more than Arsenal.

It's far from over, however. City has the tougher run-in, with games to come at an Everton team fighting relegation, at home against Chelsea, and then at Brighton and Brentford — two of the more surprising teams this season with good home

records. City also has the second leg of the Champions League semifinals against Real Madrid to plan around next week.

Arsenal is at home against Brighton, at Nottingham Forest and closes with a home match against Wolverhampton.

If Arsenal wins its final three games, City will need three victories in its final four games to guarantee retaining the title.

TOP FOUR

It has looked for some time that Newcastle and Manchester United would secure the two automatic Champions League qualifying places behind City and Arsenal, but Liverpool's six-match winning run has made things interesting.

Liverpool has climbed to fifth and is one point behind fourth-place United and three behind third-place Newcastle, having played one more game than both of them.

Liverpool likely needs to win its remaining three games — at Leicester, at home against Aston Villa and at last-place Southampton — and hope either Newcastle or United slip up.

Newcastle finishes the season



with games against Leeds, Brighton, Leicester and Chelsea, and probably requires two wins to get into the Champions League for the first time since 2002-03.

United appears more likely to be reeled in by Liverpool, having won only one of its last four league games.

EUROPA LEAGUE

The teams finishing in fifth and

sixth place will qualify for the Europa League, and they are currently Liverpool and Tottenham. Brighton is their main challenger, with Aston Villa having an outside chance, too.

With Liverpool almost assured of fifth place or higher, it should end up being a three-team shootout.

Tottenham is two points ahead of Brighton, which has five games still to play — because of various postponements during the season. Tottenham has three. Brighton has a very difficult closing stretch of games, including trips to Arsenal and Newcastle and the visit of City.

Tottenham still has Aston Villa, Brentford and Leeds to play. Villa, which is three points behind Tottenham ahead of the teams' meeting on Saturday, then plays Liverpool and Brighton.

The team that finishes in seventh place will secure a spot in next season's Europa Conference League.

RELEGATION

Last-place Southampton is eight points from safety with three games to go and is surely going down, ending its 11-year stay in the Premier League. Relegation will be confirmed as early as Saturday if the team

doesn't beat Fulham.

Two more teams will also be demoted and three points separate Nottingham Forest in 16th and Leeds in 19th, with Everton and Leicester in between. Wins might be hard to come by for all four teams in their final three matches.

Leeds and Leicester occupy the two relegation berths, and might have the most difficult schedule.

Leicester, in particular, has it tough with a home game against Liverpool on Monday followed by a trip to Newcastle. The easiest game will likely be West Ham at home on the final weekend, by which time Leicester might yet be relegated.

Leeds, now under survival specialist Sam Allardyce, hosts Newcastle and Tottenham on either side of a match at West Ham.

Everton, which has been in the top division since 1954, climbed out of the bottom three with a surprising 5-1 win at Brighton on Monday and has games remaining against Man City, Wolves and Bournemouth.

Forest might just need one more point to be safe but even that won't be easy with matches ahead at Chelsea, at home against Arsenal and at Crystal Palace. (AP)

IT Ministry To Send Notice To WhatsApp Over International Spam Calls

New Delhi: The IT Ministry will send a notice to WhatsApp on the issue of spam calls from unknown international numbers, Minister of State for IT Rajeew Chandrasekhar said today, asserting that the onus of ensuring user safety lies with the digital platforms.

The digital platforms are responsible and accountable for ensuring the safety of 'digital nagriks', the minister said, adding that the government will respond to every instance of alleged misuse or alleged breach of users' privacy.

The minister's comments assume significance as WhatsApp users in India have reported a massive surge in incoming international spam calls over the past few days. Many users complained on Twitter that a major chunk of these spam calls had country codes belonging to Indonesia (+62), Vietnam (+84), Malaysia (+60), Kenya (+254) and Ethiopia (+251).

Mr Chandrasekhar on Tuesday said the ministry is taking note of the matter and will send a notice to WhatsApp on the issue.

"The Ministry is taking note of it, they will send them a notice," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI).

He also said that the government is mulling guidelines on what should be permissions for preloaded apps. The minister made it clear that the platforms are responsible for ensuring the safety and trust of users.

"I have said repeatedly that openness trust, safety and accountability are the responsibility of platforms who deliver digital nagriks," the minister noted.

If there is an issue of spam, it is certainly an issue WhatsApp should look at or any messenger platform should look at, he added.

"Government will respond to every alleged misuse or alleged breach of privacy," he said.

One of the problems being examined at this point is also how these numbers are accessed by scammers.

"How are they able to identify which numbers are on WhatsApp...are they doing it blindly...is it some database they have got? If there is a database it is a violation of privacy, or if not are they are doing it through a bot... sending messages to random numbers... But that is certainly something platforms will be asked to look at," he said.

Chandrasekhar tweeted on Wednesday that the government will investigate a claim that WhatsApp accessed the microphone of smartphone users while the phone was not in use.

In a tweet, the minister had said the government will examine the alleged breach of privacy even as the new Digital Personal Data Protection Bill was being readied.

This followed a claim that WhatsApp accessed a user's microphone while he was sleeping.

WhatsApp responded saying it has been in touch with the Twitter engineer over the last 24 hours, who posted an issue with his Pixel phone and WhatsApp.

"We believe this is a bug on Android that misattributes information in their Privacy Dashboard and have asked Google to investigate and remediate," WhatsApp said in a tweet.

The company also claimed that users have full control over their mic settings.

To a question on some online gaming platforms opposing any idea of the self-regulatory organisation (SRO) backed by the association IAMA, the minister said it has already been clarified during the consultation process that no existing industry organisation can be an SRO.

"SRO has to be notified by the Ministry, which means SRO has to be approved by the Ministry as meeting criteria laid down in online gaming rules. There will be SRO that will be formed...100 will apply, and three will be selected based on who is most transparent, inclusive and who represents most stakeholders and who is more credible," the minister said.

More Than 71 Million People Internally Displaced Worldwide In 2022

Geneva, Switzerland: A "perfect storm" of overlapping crises forced tens of millions to flee within their own country last year, sending the number of internally displaced people to a record high, monitors said on Thursday.

An unprecedented 71.1 million internally displaced people (IDPs) were registered in 2022 -- up 20 percent from a year earlier -- amid mass displacement for Russia's war in Ukraine, as well as by the monsoon floods that drenched Pakistan.

A full 60.9 million new internal displacements were meanwhile reported in 2022, with some people forced to flee multiple times during the year, according to a joint report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

That marks an all-time high for new internal displacements, and an increase of 60 percent compared to the some 38 million fresh displacements seen in 2021.

That number is "extremely high", IDMC chief Alexandra Bilak told AFP.

"Much of the increase is caused, of course, by the war in Ukraine, but also by floods in Pakistan, by new and ongoing conflicts across the world, and by a number of sudden and slow onset disasters that we've seen from the Americas all the way to the Pacific."

"Very volatile" Last year, new internal displacements from conflict surged to 28.3 million -- nearly doubling from a year earlier and three times higher than the annual average over the past decade.

Beyond the 17 million displacements inside Ukraine last year, eight million were forced from their homes by Pakistan's monster floods.



Sub-Saharan Africa saw around 16.5 million displacements -- more than half of them due to conflict, especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Ethiopia.

The global internal displacement figures are only expected to grow this year, driven in part by fresh conflicts like the violence ravaging Sudan forcing hundreds of thousands to flee.

More than 700,000 people have already become internally displaced by the fighting that erupted on April 15, while another 150,000 people have fled the country, according to UN numbers.

"Since the start of the... most recent conflict in April, we've already recorded the same number of displacements as we did for the whole year in 2022," Bilak said.

"Clearly, it's a very volatile situation on the ground," she said, pointing out that those being newly displaced by the fighting were joining the ranks of more than three million people already displaced across Sudan.

"Food security crisis" While internal displacement is a global phenomenon, nearly three quarters of the world's IDPs live in just 10 countries: Syria,

Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, Colombia, Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan.

Many of them remain displaced due to unresolved conflicts that have dragged on for years and continued to force people to flee their homes last year.

And even as conflict-related displacement surged, natural disasters continued to account for most new internal displacement, spurring 32.6 million such movements in 2022 -- up 40 percent from a year earlier.

NRC chief Jan Egeland described the overlapping crises spurring ever more displacement around the world as a "perfect storm".

"Conflict and disasters combined last year to aggravate people's pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, triggering displacement on a scale never seen before," he said in a statement.

"The war in Ukraine also fuelled a global food security crisis that hit the internally displaced hardest," he said.

"This perfect storm has undermined years of progress made in reducing global hunger and malnutrition."

One Year On, Family, Friends, And Fans Honour Shireen Abu Akleh

Agenceis

One year after veteran Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by Israeli forces, nobody has been brought to justice for her murder.

The Palestinian American journalist -- beloved by viewers across the Middle East and the world -- was killed by an Israeli sniper on May 11, 2022, while covering an Israeli raid in the Jenin refugee camp.

Shireen joined Al Jazeera in 1997 as a field journalist, one of a few female Palestinian journalists at the time, and her career has blazed a trail for many young women aspiring to be journalists.

Demands for justice for Shireen's killing have so far remained unanswered.

In December, Al Jazeera Media Network asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate but no action has been taken.

The network conducted a six-month investigation to gather evidence for the request, which included witness accounts and video footage, among other material.

The United States has had a shifting position on the killing of one of its citizens, with State Department spokesman Ned Price telling reporters at the time: "We oppose it in this case... We maintain our longstanding objections to the ICC's investigation into the Palestinian situation."

The US position has been that the killing of Shireen was by Israeli gunfire and that it has "no reason to believe that this was

intentional". But this was not the result of an investigation by Washington, which her family has long called for, but rather a "summation" of Israeli and Palestinian investigations by the US security coordinator.

The network said it will continue to "ensure her killers are held accountable, including through the International Criminal Court in The Hague", in a statement on Thursday.

"The Network renews its appeal to international human rights and press freedom organizations to continue to support Shireen's case and help end impunity for crimes against journalists," the statement said.

Several memorial services are taking place on Thursday to honour her unique style of journalism and mark the anniversary of her murder.

In Doha, Qatar, Al Jazeera staff attended a memorial event where her legacy as a reporter with the 24-hour Arabic news channel was commemorated.

In the occupied West Bank, a foundation stone will be laid for a museum dedicated to her in Ramallah. Bir Zeit University will soon announce three winners of a media award named after Shireen.

On Tuesday, hundreds attended a cultural memorial organised by the Popular Art Center (PAC), a Ramallah-based Palestinian cultural organisation. On Sunday, hundreds of Shireen's friends and family gathered in Beit Hanina, occupied East Jerusalem, for a memorial mass in her honour.



Quick eats for busy people

Bun Maska

& Chai







Turkish doner kebab

Who Says Healthy Food Can't Taste Good?

BRING YOUR KIDS ALONG



JK BANK LAWNS, NEAR GHAT 6, BOULEVARD-SRINAGAR