

Stakeholders Hope G20 In Kashmir Will Help Lift Western Travel Advisories

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar- Tourism stakeholders in the Valley are hopeful that the upcoming G20 working group meeting in Srinagar will pave the way for lifting of Jammu and Kashmir-specific travel advisories by the European Union countries and the US, which can give a massive boost to the tourism sector.

A significant number of foreign tourists — even from the countries which have negative travel advisories in place — are visiting Kashmir and they feel the place is absolutely safe.

“As a tourism stakeholder, I welcome the G20 event. There are advisories in place from

various countries across the globe, which unfortunately have been in place since the 1990s. There has been a great transformation as far as the overall situation in Kashmir is concerned. It's very peaceful now and there have been certain instances where European countries have been discussing lifting these travel advisories,” said Syed Abid Rashid, Tourism Secretary to Jammu and Kashmir government.

He said representatives of the countries, which have issued the negative travel advisories, will be in the Valley for the G20 meet.

“I am sure these things will be discussed and keeping in consideration the present political



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

scenario and the peaceful environment of Kashmir, I am hopeful they will consider lifting these advisories. The footfall of

tourists from various countries is going to contribute to the overall tourism industry in Jammu and Kashmir,” Rashid added.

Manzoor Ahmad Wangnool, who has been associated with the tourism trade for several decades, said it was the best time to revoke the advisories.

“I think this is the best time to revoke those advisories. You see, for the last two years, all the hotels, houseboats are full. The credit goes to the department of tourism. Earlier, you know, we had COVID and business was almost zero. Now we have tourists calling us for reservations, they want to know if they will get hotel rooms or not. That is wonderful news,” Wangnool said.

On the arrival of international tourists, he said, “It was not that good in the last two years but it has started moving upwards. You

see the shikarwallahs and the ponywallahs and those associated with tourist trade. They are doing wonderful business. This message goes across the country and abroad. It will take some time, we are showing them the best hospitality of Kashmir.”

“Kashmir is safe for tourists, especially international tourists,” he added.

Foreign tourists say they feel safe in the valley and are amazed by the hospitality of the people.

“I am in Srinagar for three days and I am feeling very safe and fine... I walked the whole city and I don't feel unsafe,” Labeouf, a German national, said.

He said he was aware of the advisories from **More on PIO**

G20 MEET IN J&K India Slams UN Rapporteur's Criticism

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India on Tuesday strongly rejected as “baseless and unwarranted” UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Fernand de Varennes’ statement objecting to holding a G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir alleging human rights violations there, and attacked him for acting “irresponsibly to politicise this issue”.

Permanent Mission of India in Geneva also asserted that India as G20 president has the prerogative to host its meetings in any part of the country.

In his statement, Fernand de Varennes alleged that holding a G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir while “massive human rights violations are ongoing is lending support to attempts by India to normalise the brutal and repressive denial of democratic and other rights of Kashmiri Muslims and minorities”.

Slamming the statement, India’s **More on PIO**

33 Year Hunt Ends, Mirwaiz Assassins Arrested: Police



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Tuesday declared that two Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militants involved in the broad daylight murder of Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Farooq have been arrested after a pursuit of over three decades.

With the arrest of Javid Ahmad Bhat alias Ajmal Khan and Zahoor Ahmad Bhat alias Bilal, police said, the 33-year-old murder case of the then chief priest of the Valley, has reached its logical conclusion.

Mirwaiz Mohammad Farooq was assassinated inside his Nigeen residence on May 21, 1990. Killing of Mirwaiz was the first major political assassination in Kashmir then.

Addressing a press conference at police control room (PCR) here, Special Director General of Police (CID), RR Swain said that the two accused were associated with Hizbul Mujahideen and were evading arrest for over

three decades.

The duo, hailing from Srinagar, he said, took shelter in Pakistan and Nepal before surreptitiously returning back to Kashmir a few years ago

“They maintained a low profile, changing addresses and shifting residences to avoid the gaze of law enforcement agencies. They have been handed over to CBI as proclaimed offenders, Swain said.

The senior police officer said the arrested militants included the one who had entered into the bedroom of Mirwaiz and opened fire at him.

A case regarding the killing of Mirwaiz Muhammad Farooq was lodged in police station Nigeen under FIR 61/1990. The case was transferred to CBI on June, 11 1990 for investigation.

“Then the case was transferred to the CBI. The CBI had presented a charge-sheet against one accused after arresting him before the TADA court **More on PIO**

G20 MEETING

Security Along Jammu-Srinagar Highway Reviewed

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Army and other security agencies on Tuesday reviewed the security along the strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway ahead of the G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place in the summer capital Srinagar from May 22 to 24.

The officials said a brigadier level officer force chaired a high level meeting with senior police and CRPF officers at Ramban to review the security arrangements along the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country.

“Table-top exercise conducted by #IndianArmy & Security Agencies in #Ramban to fine tune response to a security scenario in a coordinated manner,” Jammu-based White Knight Corps of the Army wrote on



KO File Photo | Abid Bhat

its official Twitter handle.

Security has been beefed up across Jammu and Kashmir following intelligence inputs about possible attempts by militants to carry out a strike before or during the meeting.

The anti-infiltration grid along the borders and security

of vital installations, including railways stations and bus stands have been strengthened, while more checking points have come up along the highways and important cities and towns to thwart any militant attempt, the officials said.

They said multi-tier security

of Army, Border Security Force, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) besides Village Defence Committees have been activated along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC).

They said the security at Jammu railway **More on PIO**

Reinstated Govt Employee's Absence Can't Be Treated As Leave: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: In a significant ruling, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held that when a Government servant is fully exonerated, he shall be given full pay and allowances and his absence be treated as a period spent on duty.

“...When the Government servant has been fully exonerated, the Government servant shall be given full pay and allowances to which he would have been entitled had he not been dismissed, removed, compulsorily retired before attaining the age of superannuation or suspended, as the case may be, and this period of absence from duty shall be treated as period spent on duty,” said a bench of Justice M. A. Chowdhary.

The court's direction followed while allowing a petition by Dr Wajid Ali who had been suspended after a “sting operation” against him by a TV news channel but was later



exonerated due to lack of “scientific evidence” by the enquiry committee constituted for the purpose.

The court's observations followed contention by Dr Wajid Ali's counsel that once an officer or official is discharged of the charges levelled against him; he cannot be treated on leave which amounts to inflicting punishment.

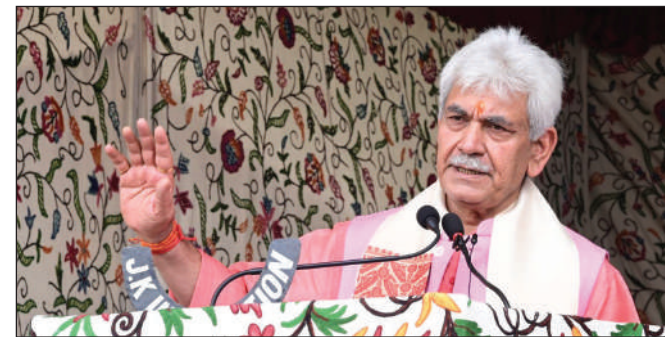
Pertinently, while the government ordered reinstating of Dr Wajid Ali, it had directed for treating the period of his suspension w.e.f. 6th of January, 2018

till his reinstatement as “leave whatever kind due to him.”

“In the considered opinion of this Court, the Petitioner (Dr Wajid Ali) has been fully exonerated as the charge has not been conclusively established by the Enquiry Officer. The competent authority, who reinstated (him), was, itself, under an obligation to treat him on duty for the period of suspension and not on leave whatever kind due and also without a warning to be careful in future.”

Dr Wajid Ali, along with two other Doctors of the SKIMS Institute, had been placed under suspension on 6th of January, 2018 and an enquiry was ordered into the matter. During the suspension, they were directed to remain attached with the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir. Thereafter, a full-fledged enquiry was conducted which took more than a year and, during the enquiry, the video footage **More on PIO**

70% Population Of J&K Dependent On Agriculture: LG



Observer News Service

Budgam: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that 70% population of Jammu and Kashmir was dependent on agriculture and the pace of progress in reviving agri & allied sector in the last three years gives hope that more and more youth will be inspired to take up farming and we will be able to build a better future for our young generations.

“We have accorded higher priority than ever before on increasing the sustainability of farm livelihoods. The 29

projects being implemented under HADP will ensure each one of our villages are seen as a centre of rural prosperity,” Sinha said.

He made these remarks while addressing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan at Panchayat Hardapanzoo here on Tuesday.

The LG said that the orientation and training programme will enable seamless implementation of 29 projects of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) and it will further strengthen agriculture & allied sectors to achieve the goal of inclusive growth. **More on PIO**

Shifting Detenues To Outside Jails

Supreme Court Transfers Petition To J&K HC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred to the Jammu and Kashmir High Court a plea alleging that over 20 people detained under the public safety law have been shifted out of the union territory prisons to jails in various states like Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

A bench comprising Chief

Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said since the high court is seized of pleas challenging the 2018 amendments made in the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act of 1978, it will be appropriate if the present petition is heard there only.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the union territory, said the family members are **More on PIO**

Raj Bhawan Celebrates 'Sikkim Day'

Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan on Tuesday hosted the celebration of the statehood day of Sikkim. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended his heartfelt greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of their Statehood Day.

“Situated in the eastern Himalayan region, Sikkim is blessed with nature's richness, divinity of Teesta River, string of lakes & breathtaking views of ancient monasteries in majestic mountains,” said the Lt Governor. Sikkim is one of the most beautiful states of **More on PIO**

Pakistani Man Repatriated

A Pakistani man who was apprehended after attempting to cross the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district was on Tuesday repatriated to his country, officials said. Mohammad Usman (30), a resident of Karela village of Kotli in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PCK), was intercepted by troops after he entered Tarkundi village along the LoC late Sunday evening, they said. He was nabbed and later handed over to Pakistan Army personnel **More on PIO**

Man Arrested For Killing Shopkeeper

A man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly beating a shopkeeper to death in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The incident took place on May 12, they said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct an in-depth investigation into the murder of Chandrakant Laxman Khopkar, they said. Aman Singh of Samba's Kheli Mandi village has been arrested **More on PIO**

Leopard Found Dead In Reasi

A fully-grown leopard was found dead near a forest in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, an official from the wildlife protection department said. The villagers of Salal Surman noticed the carcass of the big cat and informed the department which immediately rushed a team to the scene, the official said. He said the carcass was shifted to a veterinary hospital of the department here for postmortem to ascertain the cause of its death. **More on PIO**

53000 Tourists Visit Sanasar Tulip Garden

Sanasar Tulip Garden -the J&K's second biggest and Jammu division's biggest Tulip garden, witnessed a huge footfall of the tourists this year. More than 53 thousand tourists from different places of the country visited the spread over 40 kanal (5 acres) of land in the picturesque Sanasar area famous for its green Alpine meadows. Around 2.75 lakh tulip bulbs of 25 varieties had been planted. The Tulip Garden was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, J&K UT, **More on PIO**

Pedestrian Killed In Budgam Accident

A pedestrian was on Tuesday killed after he was hit by a load carrier at Aripanthan Beerwah area near Jamia Masjid. Officials said that a pedestrian identified as Momin Ahmad Dar, son of Muhammad Amin of Aripanthan was hit by a load carrier (JK04C- 8131) driven by Muhammad Lateef Sheikh, son of Ab Rashid of Kawoosa Khalisa. They said that the pedestrian was taken to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Magam where doctors declared him dead. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident—(KNO)

S H O R T T A K E S



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Govt. Of Jammu And Kashmir
Officf Of The Child Development Project Officer,
Poshan Project HS Bugh Qaimoh

Advertisement Notice: No; 1 of 2023

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project HS BUGH QAIMO

Reference: 1. Government order No 222- JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022

2. Government Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project H S Bugh, as per the details given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	Poshan Project H S Bugh	Sangniis (Aganwadi Workers)	14
Total			14

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Worker on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

a) Date of commencement for submission of application -15.05.2023

b) Last date for submission of applications is 29..05.2023

c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection

d) Annexure C- Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A'

Format of Application

- Name of POSHAN Project _____
- Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
- Post applied for _____
- Name of the Candidate _____
- Father's Name _____
- Husband's Name _____
- Residence _____
- Ward.No. _____
- Address for correspondence _____
- Contact No. _____
- Date of Birth _____
- Age as on 01.01.2023 _____
- Academic Qualification: _____

Sr. No.	Examination passed	Board	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

14. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)

15. Document Attached: _____

Signature of the
Date: _____

candidate _____

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) along with name and location of AWC.

Sr. No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD NO.	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
01	Khandiphari B	Ward No. 03	Aganwadi Worker	01
02	Arwani A	Wardpora 03	Aganwadi Worker	01
03	Arwani C	Malikhpora 05	Aganwadi Worker	01
04	Batengo B	Ward No. 01	Aganwadi Worker	01
05	Batengoo F	Ward No. 02	Aganwadi Worker	01
06	Gassipora C	Ward No. 04	Aganwadi Worker	01
07	Gundchall A (Mukdam Mohalla)	Gundchall Ward No.05	Aganwadi Worker	01
08	Gundi Nasir	Ward No 07	Aganwadi Worker	01
09	Hafizabad A	Ward No 04	Aganwadi Worker	01
10	Jablipora B	Ward No 05	Aganwadi Worker	01
11	Khrewan B	Ward No.05	Aganwadi Worker	01
12	Sangam Natipora	Sangam Ward No.01	Aganwadi Woker	01
13	Shoul A	Ward No. 03	Aganwadi Worker	01
14	Sofigund A	Ward No. 01	Aganwadi Worker	01

Eligibility:

A. For Anganwadi Workers

1. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.

2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years sha eligible.

3. The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the war shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying of the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.

4) Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum Graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSHAN.

5) In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the ward can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN.

6) Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria to be considered.

7) In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

8) Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

ANNEXURE C

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

1. All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.

2. Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class 10th for Angan Wadi Helper and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.

3. The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

Child Development Project
Officer Poshan Project HS Bugh

No.: CDPO/HSBUGH/ESTT/72-83

DIPK-1692/23

Dated: 16-05-2023

We need to prepare for the public safety hazards posed by AI

For the most part, the focus of contemporary emergency management has been on natural, technological and human-made hazards such as flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, industrial accidents, extreme weather events and cyber attacks.

However, with the increase in the availability and capabilities of artificial intelligence, we may soon see emerging public safety hazards related to these technologies that we will need to mitigate and prepare for.

Over the past 20 years, my colleagues and I along with many other researchers have been leveraging AI to develop models and applications that can identify, assess, predict, monitor and detect hazards to inform emergency response operations and decision-making.

We are now reaching a turning point where AI is becoming a potential source of risk at a scale that should be incorporated into risk and emergency management phases mitigation or prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

AI and hazard classification

AI hazards can be classified into two types: intentional and unintentional. Unintentional hazards are those caused by human errors or technological failures.

As the use of AI increases, there will be more adverse events caused by human error in AI models or technological failures in AI based technologies. These events can occur in all kinds of industries including transportation (like drones, trains or self-driving cars), electricity, oil and gas, finance and banking, agriculture, health and mining.

Intentional AI hazards are potential threats that are caused by using AI to harm people and properties. AI can also be used to gain unlawful benefits by compromising security and safety systems.

In my view, this simple intentional and unintentional classification may not be sufficient in case of AI. Here, we need to add a new class of emerging threats the possibility of AI overtaking human control and decision-making. This may be triggered intentionally or unintentionally.

Many AI experts have already warned against such potential threats. A recent open letter by researchers, scientists and others involved in the development of AI called for a moratorium on its further development.

Public safety risks

Public safety and emergency management experts use risk matrices to assess and compare risks. Using this method, hazards are qualitatively or quantitatively assessed based on their frequency and consequence, and their impacts are classified as low, medium or high.

Hazards that have low frequency and low consequence or impact are considered low risk and no additional actions are required to manage them. Hazards that have medium consequence and medium frequency are considered medium risk. These risks need to be closely monitored.

Hazards with high frequency or high consequence or high in both consequence and frequency are classified as high risks. These risks need to be reduced by taking addi-

tional risk reduction and mitigation measures. Failure to take immediate and proper action may result in severe human and property losses.

Up until now, AI hazards and risks have not been added into the risk assessment matrices much beyond organizational use of AI applications. The time has come when we should quickly start bringing the potential AI risks into local, national and global risk and emergency management.

AI risk assessment

AI technologies are becoming more widely used by institutions, organizations and companies in different sectors, and hazards associated with the AI are starting to emerge.

In 2018, the accounting firm KPMG developed an AI Risk and Controls Matrix. It highlights the risks of using AI by businesses and urges them to recognize these new emerging risks. The report warned that AI technology is advancing very quickly and that risk control measures must be in place before they overwhelm the systems.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides Licence under name and style ALFALAH FRUIT CARE KOIL PULWAMA. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ashaq Hussain Ganie
S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie
R/o Koil Pulwama

fko

Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division, Srinagar

e-TENDERING

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender Notice: e-NIT No: 06 of 2023-24 Dated: 12-05-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt./ Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

S/N	Name of work	Adv. Cost (.. In Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR	Time of Completion	Geo-Reference
01	Digging of Tube Well (Complete Job) at Khanmoh Nursery, Range Srinagar, Social Forestry Division Srinagar. Year 2023-24 (Scheme- CAPEX)	3.220	"D" Class PWD Contractor	Rs.200/-	Rs 6440/-	30 Days	-
02	Digging of Tube Well (Complete Job) at Futlipora Nursery, Range Budgam, Social Forestry Division Srinagar. Year 2023-24 (Scheme- CAPEX)	3.220	"D" Class PWD Contractor	Rs.200/-	Rs 6440/-	30 Days	-
03	Digging of Tube Well (Complete Job) at Waheedpore Nursery, Range Ganderbal, Social Forestry Division Srinagar. Year 2023-24 (Scheme- CAPEX)	3.030	"D" Class PWD Contractor	Rs.200/-	Rs 6060/-	30 Days	-

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.Q.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded
Position of TS	Accorded
Receiving /Opening Authority	Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date.	13-05-2023
Download Start Date.	15-05-2023 from 01:30 PM
Bid Submission Start Date.	15-05-2023 from 01:30 PM
Bid Submission End Date.	24-05-2023 upto 06:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid. (online)	25-05-2023 at 02:30 PM
Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be opened at any convenient date and time after complete evaluation of technical bids received.

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the Website:-https://jktenders.gov.in.

1. The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 25-05-2023 at 2:30 PM in the Office of Regional Director, Kashmir, Department of Social Forestry, Raj Bagh Srinagar. In case of date of opening of the bid being public holiday, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

2. Bids must accompany cost of tender document as shown against each work in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406-Forest. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

3. In light of Govt. Notification issued by the Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:-07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned and for that the bidder must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M.H.0406-Forest.

4. Performance security at 3% of the advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR shall have to be deposited by the lowest bidder (L-1) and will remain in force for a period till the satisfactory physical completion of the contract plus "defective liability period" of six months.

5. That I shall be under obligation to execute the work as per terms and conditions mentioned in the work order/ agreement signed and in case of violation/non-adherence to these conditions, department would be at liberty to impose the penalty/ initiate action as warranted under rules.

6. After receiving electronic message of financial Bids. The L1 Bidder should deposit the Original Performance Security in the form of CDR/ FDR/ pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Srinagar in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Srinagar during working hours within 02 days. If L1 bidder fails to submit the original documents / Performance Security within 02 days, the department will cancel the tender and action shall be taken against the contractor to debar in future tendering process as decided by the Department.

7. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents and relevant documents of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Srinagar within two days of opening of financial bids on-line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L-1 bidder within two days after opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process.

8. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" options as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in

9. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per IT Act, bidders can get Digital Signature Certificate from approved vendor.

10. The Bidders have to submit their financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical /hard form.

11. The price bids offered by the bidders, shall, in no case be higher than the advertised cost against each item of work as no post bid negotiation shall be allowed after the opening of the financial bid. The bids offered higher than the advertised cost against each item of work individually and/ or as whole shall render the financial bid liable to be rejected / disqualified and the next lowest bidder (L2) as the case may be shall accordingly be considered for award of contract, if otherwise, found qualified.

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

13. Bidders must ensure to upload ONLY SCANNED COPIES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS i.e. PAN card, GSTIN, especially Govt. Treasury receipt (cost of Tender Document), Registration Card, Affidavit etc. (No. Photostat/ Xerox scanned copies of documents shall be accepted/ entertained) and hard copies of all these documents should also reach in the Office of Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Srinagar within two working days after the opening of financial bid (only L1 & L2 bidders). No registered post/courier will be accepted.

14. The Department shall be responsible for online submission of the bid due to any reason (Technical or otherwise).

15. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the e-NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.

16. The accepting department however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

17. The contractor shall arrange the key materials on his own from authorized dealers for the above said work and quality of material shall be of standard specifications notified by Government/ Competent authority and have to be verified/ passed by the concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer and or concerned Range officer designate of the department before start of work/ during the course of work.

18. No Advance payments shall be made. Payment will be made to the contractor only against work done or after completion of work within given time limit in all respects as per specifications after issuance of work completion certificate by the concerned Range Officer and after inspection of DFO concerned respectively. Part payment, if any, against the work done released shall be treated as an account payment and the same is subject to final adjustment after work completion.

19. The contractor shall be under obligation to get the quality/ quantity of work checked from PCCF/Director, Regional Director, DFO or his authorized representative and contractor shall adhere to the guidelines/ directions issued during such inspection in the interest of quality, quantity and time line of the works.

20. In case the offer bid is below 25% advertised cost, the offer will be outrightly rejected.

21. Any bidder who had failed earlier to execute the e-tendered works in the department his bid can be outrightly rejected, keeping in view his past performance.

22. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD Form 25(double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

No.-: 400-04/SF/Acts/Sgr

DIPK-1656/23

Dated:- 16/05/2023

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Srinagar

Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Ltd.

Head office : Baramullah Kashmir

APPENDIX-IV POSSESSION NOTICE

[Rule-8(1)] (For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Nodal Officer of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Branch Sumbal under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFEAS) Act. 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 8 and 9 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a Demand Notices dated: **08-03-2023**, calling upon the Borrower **Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/O: Gh Hassan Bhat R/O: Rakhi Shilvat Sumbal District Bandipora Kashmir**, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **Rs.59,15,006-00 (Rupees Fifty nine lakhs fifteen thousand six rupees only) as on 08-03-2023**, and interest thereon within sixty days from the date of receipt of the said notice The said borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken physical/symbolic possession of the mortgnged property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the security interest enforcement) rule 2002 on dated. IT. MOYDA 3 The said Borrower, Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Head Office Baramulla, for an amount **Rs.59,15,006-00 (Rupees Fifty-nine lakhs fifteen thousand six rupees only) as on 08-03-2023** and further interest thereon together with incidental expenses, costs, charges less repayment. **Description of the mortgaged immovable property** Mortgage of land measuring 16 Marlas under survey No:1093 min, khewat No:265 and Khata No:586 along with double storied residential house in the name of Shri Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/O: Gh Hassan Bhat R/O: Rakh Shilvat Sumbal Bandipora (Borrower).

Dated : 12/05/2023

Nodal officer
Baramullah Central Cooperative Bank Ltd.

From Office Of The Advocate Irfan ul Rashid

Lic No: 575/2017

In the case of
Mohammad Ismail Sheikh 2.Mukhtar Ahmad Sheikh 3
Rafiqa Bano 4 Shugufta 5 Mehmooda 6 Tasleema all sons
and daughters of late Abdul Ahad Sheikh R/o Rawalpora
Asthpanpora

(Caveator)

V/S
PUBLIC AT LARGE
(Non-Caveators) In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C

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

nj

Sd/- Advocate

Office of Adv Badrul Duja
J&K High Court at Srinagar

Caveator :
Feroz Ahmad Khanyari
Showkat Ahmad Khanyari
Ajaz Ahmad Khanyari
All Sons of Ghulam Rasool Khanyari
R/o: Sangeen Darwaza Hawal Srinagar

V/S
PUBLIC AT LARGE
(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C

The caveator has reasons to believe/apprehension that the non-caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before a Court of Law on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation or cooked up story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at his back/exparte against the caveator and in such eventuality the caveator will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order. Hence this caveat.

nj

Sd/- Advocate



Lady Dies Another Injured In Separate Road Accidents In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An elderly lady from Palhallan Pattan area in north Kashmir's Baramulla district died in a road accident on Tuesday near Children's hospital here in Bemina.

Officials said that an unknown bike rider hit a pedestrian identified as Raja Begam (60), wife of Muhammad Jamal Gojri of Palhallan, in front of Children's hospital Bemina.

The biker, however, managed to flee from the spot, they said.

The injured lady was immediately taken to JVC hospital in Bemina by her sister for treatment where she was de-

clared dead on arrival. Police have taken cognizance of the accident.

Meanwhile, a woman from Kupwara was injured in a road accident near SDA office in Bemina area of Srinagar on Tuesday.

An official said two vehicles collided with each other near the SDA office resulting in injuries to a woman, who has been shifted to JVC hospital Bemina for treatment.

She has been identified as Raja Begum (56) wife of Ghulam Hassan Bhat of Langate Kupwara in north Kashmir.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and both vehicles have been seized.

Boy Slips To Death In Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An 8-year-old boy died after losing balance in a row boat outside his residence in Dal Lake Srinagar.

Locals said the boy as per routine stopped his row-boat outside his residence and as he stood up from the boat, he lost balance and fell into the water body. Locals fished out his body shortly after the incident.

The incident occurred in Guchi Mohalla inside the Dal Lake.

Ghulam Hasan, the head of the locality said the boy was well-trained in boat rowing; however, unfortunately, he slipped into the lake after losing balance.

He identified the victim as Nasrullah Guochu son of Muhammad Yaqoob.

Locals appealed to authorities to maintain the normal water level in the lake. They said the authorities, in order to make Dal Lake look more attractive; have raised the water level of the world famous lake.

NIT Srinagar Faculty Member Bags Two Patents

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Dr. Vivek from Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has bagged two patents on systems for prediction and prevention of landslides and detecting seismic activities and generating real-time earthquake warnings.

The innovative system and method that promises to effectively mitigate landslides using a combination of advanced technologies.

The present invention provides a novel

solution to this problem. The system comprises a network of sensors placed on the slope, continuously monitoring its condition, including its stability and moisture content.

The data collected from the sensors is then analyzed using machine learning algorithms, which generate real-time alerts to warn of potential landslide risks.

Second patent was granted on 'A system of detecting seismic activities and generating real time earthquake warnings.

Two Day Travelling International Film Festival Begins At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-day Travelling International Film Festival started at the University of Kashmir on Tuesday, with special focus on key themes including gender, equity, diversity and inclusion.

The festival titled 'Samabhav' has been organized by Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC) in collaboration with Men against Violence & Abuse (MAVA), with active partnership from KU's Centre for Women's Studies and Research, Media Education and Research Centre and Department of Social Work.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan inaugurated the film festival as chief guest and hoped that it would be a great experience for young students to learn about film-making and the need to highlight social issues through the medium of films.

She said youth can

act as enablers of a positive change in the society by raising awareness on issues like gender inequality using films as a medium to convey their message.

The VC also congratulated EMRC, MAVA and other associating partners for organizing the important film festival.

Dean, School of Social Sciences, Prof Irshad A Nawho, a guest of honor at the inaugural session, highlighted various initiatives taken by the University of Kashmir to hassle-free academic progression of women students and research scholars.

Harish Sadani, Co-Founder and Executive Director, MAVA, said the 5th edition of Travelling International Film Festival is a completely student-centric program, where students will be analyzing, reviewing, debating and discussing the short-films, documentaries and feature films soon after their screening during the festival.



Traffic Police Department seized dozens of two-wheelers as part of special drive against violators in Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Complaint Lodged Against Sub-Lease, Misuse Of Temple Land In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Peace Forum (JKPF) has filed a criminal complaint to Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, seeking immediate lodgment of case against a few government departments including Jammu & Kashmir Bank for their alleged involvement in usurping the land belonging to Durga Nag Temple in Srinagar.

Satish Mahaldar, Chairman JK Peace Forum accused the management of the Durga Nag Temple, Revenue Department, SMC and the J&K Bank for allegedly aiding and abetting illegal activities that violated established laws and led to transfer of endowment property owned by the "deity" of the shrine to the third parties and the unauthorized construction of commercial structures on those properties,

including hotels, motels and commercial complexes.

He said that despite the fact that SDA has given in writing that structures are illegally being raised on the said land, a fake power of attorney was provided at that time to come up with some structures on the land.

There are certain questions that have been racked up with the higher ups in the formal complaint. We demand an immediate lodgment of a case in this regard against all the involved, he said, adding that this is absolutely a mafia, who are illegally taking away the property of migrants.

In the complaint, JK Peace Forum has said that it is most humbly requested that complaint be accepted and the relevant police station be instructed to register an FIR in the matter, book all those

responsible—whether they were involved before 2007 or after—and evict everyone in possession of temple endowment property using documents that have not been processed by local law to return it to the "Deity" of the Durga Nag Temple in Srinagar.

"Until then, steps should be taken to secure every store, building and piece of land that has been given to a third party in violation of the rules and regulations that have been established from time to time. Additionally, bank officers and officials should be charged with financial fraud for assisting the mafia in promoting illegal and criminal activities in Kashmir Valley that led to the usurpation of the endowment properties of the "Deities" that Kashmiri Pandits worship and obliged," the complaint reads—(KNO)

City To Have Robust, Reliable Public Transport System: DC Srinagar

Says Bus Service On 12 To 13 Newly Identified Routes Soon

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the city facing a dearth of the public transport system, authorities are all set to introduce a new lot of mini-buses and auto rickshaws on "hungry routes", the trial of which has already been conducted, officials said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, who is also the chairman of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA), said they have already conducted a trial run of all the routes that are to be introduced soon.

"There were many hungry routes in Srinagar, and a survey was conducted for them, and in

a recent RTA meeting, it was decided that a new lot of mini-buses and autos will be introduced in the city," the DC said while talking to the media persons on the sidelines of the opening of a reading facility in the Magarmal Bagh area here.

He said that following the survey, they have found around 12-13 "hungry routes" in Srinagar city, on which they are going to start the minibus service soon. "We have already conducted a trial of the services on the new routes. The frequent complaints from passengers will be addressed," he said.

The DC said that the public transport system in Srinagar is get-

ting better now. Earlier, the transport system was not "organized and robust" which had caused the increase of private vehicles on the roads. "In Srinagar city, we have a carrying capacity of around 3 lakh two-wheelers and four-wheelers, while on a daily basis; we have around 5 lakh vehicles plying on roads. Very soon, we are going to have a robust and reliable public transport system in place," he said.

People from many parts of Srinagar have been complaining about the non-availability of public transport services on their routes, while many areas demand e-rickshaw service.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

26 Shawwal
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	3 :52
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5: 21
Magrib	7:30
ISHA	9: 04

This Day In History

- 1756 -Britain declares war on France (7 Years' or French & Indiann War)
- 1803-John Hawkins & Richard French patent the Reaping Machine
- 1814- Denmark cedes Norway to Sweden (National Day)
- 1865- The International Telegraph Union (later the International Telecommunication Union) is established.
- 1897-The first successful submarine that can run submerged for any considerable distance and combines electric and gasoline engines is launched in the USA by its designer John Philip Holland
- 1902- Greek archaeologist Valerios Stais discovers the Antikythera mechanism, an ancient mechanical analog computer.
- 1940-Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium & begins invasion of France
- 1940- Nazis bombs Middelburg/B IJzerdrat begins illegal defiance
- 1948- Soviet Union recognized Israel
- 1949- British government recognises Republic of Ireland (previously Irish Free State)

From KO Archives

Move To Shift Capital Sparks Debate

AM Sofi

Srinagar - Even as the proposal to shift the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir is yet to take off, controversy dogs the idea with debate rag-ing for and against the govern-ment move.

Giving vent to the opposi-tion to shifting of the capital, several political parties, includ-ing main opposition National Conference, said the massive expenditure needed for moving the secretariat and other offices could be diverted to building schools, hospitals and roads in the state.

"We need no new capital at an exorbitant expenditure of Rs 3.500 crore which could be uti-lized for the betterment of Kashmiris by constructing schools, colleges, hospitals and roads which are in a dilapidated condition across the valley," NC President Omar Abdullah told PTI.

Ridiculing the idea, another senior leader of the party Ali Mohammad Sagar said "instead of finding ways and means to mitigate the problems of the people the PDP-led coalition government is trying to squan-der the funds for unproductive projects."

He asked the coalition gov-ernment to desist from changing the capital for "petty politi-cal gains."

CPI(M), which supports the coalition government from out-side, opposes the idea. State Secretary of CPI(M) M Y Tari-gami said "I don't think it is a very serious move yet.

The government complexes should be moved a little away from the market and the beauti-ful city but not relocated in any other place. Why go there (Parihaspora) to Lalitaditya. The kings are buried there let them rest in peace.

"It is wrong to assume that government wants to benefit villagers by moving the capital city. The government has in fact done very little for the upliftment of rural areas," he said.

Author of the proposal to shift the capital and Finance Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig said the basic objective behind a new capital was to decongest and develop Srinagar as an exclusive tourist resort 'with heritage villages and other amenities to make it among the most attractive tourist destinations on the globe.

The proposal for a new capital has received the Centre's nod which would be ready within next three years at an. estimated cost of Rs 3.500 crores, he said.

Opposing the idea, Chair-man of National Democratic Front and former MP Abdul Rashid Kabuli accused the gov-ernment of not attending to the problems of Srinagar, a city of 15 lakh people.

Shifting capital from Srinagar to Parihaspora and moving government offices to rural areas is like shifting of Union capital from Delhi to South India, Kabuli said.

The city of great antiquity has had a chequered history which dates back to 250 BC when king Ashoka founded Srinagar as capital which occupied the site of the present Pandrethan about five runs from Srinagar and named it as Srinagari.

The place was the venue of the Buddhist conference during the reign of Kanishka and Muslim preachers, Syed Sharifuddin Bulbul and Mir Syed Ali Hamdani chose this place to spread Islam, he said, adding the latter capitals of Kashmir founded by successive rulers lost their importance to the city.

It was during the Dogra rule (1846-1947) that Srinagar besides being the capital of Kashmir was elevated to the status, of the summer capital.

Travellers and tourists have been drawn in numbers to see symbol of the paradise on earth and pilgrims and preachers have found the city a place for attainment of ultimate spiritual contentment.

(Kashmir Observer, 17 May, 2005)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Directorate of Animal Husbandry Kashmir

INTEGRATED DAIRY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IDDS)

With an aim to generate self-employment among unemployed youth and creating infra-structure for procurement, processing and marketing of milk, Department of Animal Husbandry Kashmir has come up with **Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS)**.

Who can apply?
Individual farmers, Group of individuals, Milk processing unit holders, Milk federations, Retailers /Self Help Groups, Dairy cooperative societies and Farmer Producer Organizations.

Stake holders can apply for:

S.No	Component	Pattern of Assistance
1.	Establishment of Dairy unit (2cows /buffaloes= 1 dairy unit)	(a) 50% subsidy with the ceiling of Rs 0.80 lac/dairy unit (1unit=2 dairy animals) (b) 50% subsidy with a ceiling of Rs 0.90 lac /dairy unit (1 unit =2 dairy animals) for Women entrepreneurs &SC/ST beneficiaries.
2.	Establishment of Milk collection/ chilling/ processing unit <ul style="list-style-type: none">Modular milk pasteurization and packaging unit 500 LPD.Bulk milk cooling unit (250L to 2000 L)Automatic Milk collection unit along with facility for testing all milk adulterants (installed along with BMC 1000 liter capacity).Paneer, Khoa, Dahi, ice cream, butter ghee making machine &Cream separator.Cheese production units (mozzarella) vats for milk treatment, Milk coagulation, curd slicing cooking- stretching & moulding of any type of pasta, filata cheese kaladi cheese making/ packaging and branding.Milking machine fully auto-matic / semi-automaticMilking parlour	50% subsidy subject to maximum ceilings under different heads.
3.	Establishment of market infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">Milk ATM (vending machine) with the capacity of 250ml- 2000ml. Fixed or Mountable on vehicle.DG sets	50% subsidy subject to maximum ceilings under different heads.
4.	Establishment of Milk/ Milk product transportation system <ul style="list-style-type: none">Purchase of Refrigerated Vans/ Milk VansSupport for transportation of Processed Milk Products through air from Srinagar/Jammu airport to any destination in the country.	50% subsidy subject to maximum ceiling under different heads. 25% subsidy on airway bill with maximum ceiling of Rs.10/kg of milk product.
5.	Environment management of dairy farms <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dairy effluent / Dairy sewage treatment plantBiogas plant of different capacitiesCow dung dewatering system /cow dung drying / log making machine.Vermicompost unit	50% subsidy subject to maximum ceilings under different heads.

Assistance (50% subsidy)

The scheme and its support system in terms of subsidy shall be implemented through Department of Animal Husbandry.

Where to apply/ where to get information;
Concerned Chief Animal Husbandry Officer/ Block Veterinary Officer.

Issued in public interest by publicity Wing , Directorate of Animal Husbandry Kashmir

DIPK-1679/23

dated:16-05-2023

As Turkey Heads To A Presidential Election Run-Off, What's Next?



Agencies

After a hotly-contested first round of elections on Sunday, Turkey will have a run-off vote on May 28.

Here's what we may see happen next:

What can we expect from the run-off?

Analysts predict that incumbent candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan is more likely to win in a second round as he garnered a five-percentage point advantage from Sunday's first-round vote against his main contender, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

With more than 99 percent of votes counted, Erdogan had received 49.51 percent of the vote, electoral chief Ahmet Yener said. Kilicdaroglu had secured 44.89 percent, according to Yener, citing results from the Supreme Election Council.

Overall, Erdogan performed better than expected, with his alliance also managing to secure a majority in the 600-seat parliament. Political analyst Ali Carkoglu said Erdogan has "the momentum behind him" following those polls.

"Erdogan maintained his base of support in the heartland of

Anatolia, although he lost some support in the southeast ... He also maintained some credible level of support in the big cities," Carkoglu told Al Jazeera.

"He was very successful also in the earthquake-hit regions. Some people find it surprising, but he apparently delivered what they expected of him and promises that he will deliver even better in the aftermath of the election," the analyst added.

Meanwhile, there are some members of the opposition who are disappointed with Kilicdaroglu and consider him the wrong candidate as he was not able to chip away the conservative votes, Al Jazeera's Zeina Khodr said.

As for the third-place candidate, Sinan Ogan, he did better than expected, becoming a potential "kingmaker" who could play a pivotal role in the outcome of the second round if he endorses one of the two candidates facing off.

Ogan has yet to make any such endorsement. Onur Erim, an analyst at Dragoman Strategies, told Al Jazeera that he will want ministries or vice presidencies in exchange for an endorsement.

Congress Huddle In Delhi As Karnataka Wait For Next Chief Minister

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Amid the race for the Karnataka chief minister's post, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday met party president Mallikarjun Kharge and discussed government formation in the southern state.

Mr Gandhi drove to Mr Kharge's residence and held a closed-door meeting with the Congress chief for almost an hour and a half. Congress General Secretary Randeep Surjewala, who is in charge of the party's affairs in Karnataka, and AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal were also present at the meeting.

Mr Kharge earlier held discussions with party leaders from Karnataka and the three observers appointed by him to oversee the Congress Legislature Party meeting held in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The observers had sought the opinion of all newly-elected MLAs and also held a 'secret ballot' on their choice for chief minister. The observers discussed the findings of their report after speaking to the party MLAs in Karnataka and handed it over to Mr Kharge Monday night.

Both Siddaramaiah and state Congress president D K



Shivakumar are front runners for the chief minister's post and both are lobbying for it.

While former chief minister Siddaramaiah is in Delhi, Mr Shivakumar arrived in the national capital Tuesday afternoon. After arriving at Delhi airport, he did not speak to the media and walked away with folded hands parrying a barrage of questions from reporters.

Mr Shivakumar had earlier cancelled his visit to the national capital on Monday evening citing health issues, fuelling speculations that all is not well in the party.

Siddaramaiah and Mr Shivakumar will hold discussions with party chief Kharge, as well as with other senior leaders over government formation in Karnataka. Both

leaders are also expected to meet former party chief Rahul Gandhi.

Sources said former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi would also be consulted over the choice of chief minister and government formation in Karnataka.

The newly-elected Congress MLAs have already passed a resolution authorising party chief Kharge to appoint a leader of the Congress Legislature party, who will be the chief minister.

In the just-concluded Assembly elections, the Congress scored an emphatic victory with 135 seats while the ruling BJP and the former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal (Secular) secured 66 and 19 seats, respectively.

Rights Body Notice To Centre, States On Rise In Child Sexual Abuse Content Online

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Centre and states over a report that the circulation of child sexual abuse material on social media in India has increased by 250-300 per cent, officials said on Tuesday.

Reportedly, such contents are from foreign countries and the Indian investigation agencies have not come across any Indian-made material so far, the rights panel said.

The commission, in a statement, has observed that the content of the media report, if true, amount to a violation of human rights relating to the life, liberty, and dignity of citizens, and protection of the young children from the danger of their sexual abuse on social media.

The NHRC said it has taken suo motu cognisance of the media report that the circulation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) has increased by 250-300 per cent on social media in India.

Accordingly, it has issued no-

tices to the commissioner of police, Delhi; the director generals of the police of all states and Union territories, the director, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), and the secretary, the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, seeking a detailed report within six weeks on the steps taken to prevent such menace on social media, the statement said.

According to the media report, carried on May 15, about 4,50,207 cases of spread of child sexual abuse material have been reported in 2023 so far. Out of these, the Delhi Police has taken action in 3,039 cases. Of these, 44,7168 cases are currently being studied, it said.

"In some cases, even photographs taken lovingly, of young children by respective fathers, brothers and sisters in India have been classified as child sexual abuse by an American NGO. There were 2,04,056 cases reported in the year 2022; 1,63,633 in the year 2021, and 17,390 in the year 2020 of child sexual abuse material on social media in India," the statement said.



"Mother Will Give All": DK Shivakumar Amid Congress Chief Minister Dilemma

Agecneis

BENGALURU: Congress Karnataka president DK Shivakumar, one of the frontrunners for the post of Chief Minister of the southern State on Tuesday made it clear that he would not resort to "backstabbing or blackmail" regardless of the party's decision.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, DK Shivakumar said, "If the party wants they can give me the responsibility..... Ours is a united house, our number is 135. I don't want to divide anyone here. Whether they like me or not, I am a responsible man. I will not backstab and I will not blackmail." The Congress won 135 seats in the recently held election to the 224-member Karnataka assembly.

Mr Shivakumar earlier today arrived at the Bengaluru airport ahead of his departure for Delhi amid ongoing talks in the Congress party for the next Karnataka CM.

The Karnataka Congress



president will meet the party's high command ahead of the party's announcement on the top post.

"The Party is my god... We have built this party, I am a part of it and I am not alone in this," he said before his departure from Bengaluru.

"We have built this party (Congress), we have built this house. I am a part of it... A mother will give everything to her child," he said.

Asked about his expectations as the state party president, Mr Shivakumar said, "I don't want to comment on what has happened earlier. How it happened. That is a closed chapter we formed the government we lost the gov-

ernment, we lost a coalition government. Who is responsible for the victory and loss there is no use of talking about it now. Let us not sell this story... let us sell the future."

Congress leader Siddaramaiah, the other frontrunner for the chief minister's post, arrived in the national capital on Monday.

Mr Shivakumar, who celebrated his birthday yesterday had stayed behind in Bengaluru citing a stomach infection. Both he and Siddaramaiah had been called to Delhi by the top leadership of the AICC for a discussion. The Congress won 135 seats in the 224-member Karnataka assembly.

The party's central observers for Karnataka had yesterday briefed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on the views of the newly elected MLAs. According to party sources, Kharge will consult Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra before announcing a final decision.

"Baseless, Unwarranted Allegations": India Slams UN Objection To G20 Summit In J&K

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India today strongly rejected as "baseless and unwarranted" UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Fernand de Varennes' statement objecting to holding a G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir alleging human rights violations there, and attacked him for acting "irresponsibly to politicise this issue".

Permanent Mission of India in Geneva also asserted that India as G20 president has the prerogative to host its meetings in any part of the country.

IndiaUNGeneva strongly reject the statement issued by SR on minority issues @fernanddev and the baseless and unwarranted allegations in it. As G20 president, it's India's prerogative to host its meetings in any part of the country."

"We are aghast that @fernanddev has acted irresponsibly to politicize this issue, misused his position as SR to publicize on social media his presumptive and prejudiced conclusions in a gross violation of the Code of Conduct for SRs," the Indian mission said.

The UN Special Rapporteur



In his statement, Fernand de Varennes alleged that holding a G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir while "massive human rights violations are ongoing is lending support to attempts by India to normalise the brutal and repressive denial of democratic and other rights of Kashmiri Muslims and minorities".

Slamming the statement, India's permanent mission in Geneva tweeted, "We @In-

also alleged that the government is "seeking to normalise what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalising a G20 meeting and portray an international 'seal of approval', despite what Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for human rights, told the UN Human Rights Council a few weeks ago was a worrying human rights situation in the Kashmir region".

Journalist Shared "Sensitive" Defence Details With Foreign Countries: CBI

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI has registered an FIR against a freelance journalist for allegedly collecting sensitive information related to the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Army, and sharing them with intelligence agencies of foreign countries, officials said on Tuesday.

Following the FIR, the agency conducted searches on premises linked to Vivek Raghuvanshi, listed as India correspondent of a US-based portal on defence and strategic affairs on its web site, and people close to him at 12 locations in Jaipur and the National Capital Region (NCR), they said. The agency has booked Raghuvanshi under Section 3 (spying) of Official Secrets Act read with Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

A number of sensitive documents was recovered during the searches and sent for legal

scrutiny, the officials said.

Sources said the agency has launched an exhaustive probe to find Raghuvanshi's accomplices in India and abroad.

He was allegedly collecting sensitive information and minute details about the progress of various DRDO projects, the CBI alleged.

He was also collecting details of future procurement plans of the Indian armed forces which could have adversely affected the country's strategic preparedness, the agency alleged.

"It is alleged that he collected and passed on sensitive details about the future procurement of Indian armed forces which reveal the strategic preparedness of the country besides classified communications and information relating to national security, details of the strategic and diplomatic talks of India with our friendly countries and sharing such classified information with intelligence agencies of foreign countries," the CBI spokesperson said.



NEWS MAKERS

How Private School Teacher Became UP Civic Body Head In Matter Of Weeks

Press Trust of India

RAMPUR: Life changed drastically for Sana Khanam when she married Mamoon Shah. From being a teacher at a private school, she became the chairperson of Rampur Nagar Palika Parishad in a matter of weeks.

They married on April 15. The very next day she filed the nomination papers. Mr Shah himself wanted to contest for the post but could not since it was reserved for women.

He said that he has been in social work for the past 20 years and worked for polio eradication in the city. He was the Rampur city president of the Congress earlier but crossed over to the Aam Aadmi Party recently.

"The wedding decision was taken on April 13 and it took place on April 15. The wedding took place as the post of chairperson of Rampur Nagar Palika Parishad was reserved for women," Mr Shah said, adding, "Sana filed her nomination papers on April 16."

The newly-elected chairperson of Rampur Nagar Palika Parishad categorically stated that the marriage was an arranged one. "It was a very good month (Ramzan) when the marriage



took place. It was pre-destined. The decision to contest the polls was made after the marriage as the seat was declared reserved for women," Sana Khanam said. She said that during campaigning she saw the problems of the people from very close quarters and will now work to redress those in the best possible way. Ms Khanam also said that her students are excited about her win in the urban local bodies polls.

Ms Khanam of Aam Aadmi Party bagged 43,121 votes, while BJP candidate Masarat Mujeeb was the runner-up with 32,173 votes. The Samajwadi Party's Fatma Jabi came third with 16,273 votes in the district which was considered a bastion

of party leader Azam Khan.

The 45-year-old Mamoon Shah said the locals love him as he stood with them during their hour of crisis. "People who have only voted for Azam Khan in the last 40 years voted for us this time. They admitted that it was I who helped them, but despite that, the vote used to go to Azam Khan," he said.

Thanking the people for supporting her, Ms Khanam told PTI, "I would thank everyone who supported me, and helped me to register a win. Things were a bit tough, but with 'Mamoon sahab' (husband) by my side and with the support of the people, we got success. If there is teamwork, then overcoming any challenging situation is not difficult."

On-Duty Karnataka Conductor Helps Woman Deliver Baby On Bus

Agencies

CHIKMAGALUR, KARNATAKA: A woman gave birth to a baby on a moving bus with the assistance of a woman conductor of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) at the Bangalore-Chikmagalur route, says KSRTC.

The incident occurred on Monday and both the mother and the infant are doing well.

At around 1.25 PM, near Udayapura Agriculture College, the pregnant woman began experiencing labour pains. The woman conductor identified as S.Vasanthamm asked the driver to stop the bus and asked the passengers to disembark. She aided the woman to deliver the baby on the bus.

Further, since the lady was financially weak, the crew of the bus collected ₹1500 from the passengers of the bus and handed over the same for the emergency expenditure of the lady.

Later the lady was shifted to Shanthagrama Hospital by ambulance and was provided necessary treatment.

G.Sathyavathi IAS Managing Director, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) also appreciated the timely intervention of the woman conductor

"The timely humanitarian service of woman conductor in responding to the needs of the pregnant and saving the life of child and mother is highly appreciable. This exemplary service by the woman conductor is appreciated," G.Sathyavathi IAS told ANI.



Assam's Controversial Cop Junmoni Rabha Killed In Road Accident

Press Trust of India

NAGAON: A woman sub-inspector of Assam Police, who was embroiled in several controversies, was killed when her car collided head-on with a container truck in Nagaon district on early Tuesday, officials said.

Junmoni Rabha, popularly known as 'Lady Singham' or 'Dabang cop' after Hindi police movies, was alone in her private car and not in uniform.

The accident occurred at Sarubhugia village under Jakhlabandha police station of Kaliabor Sub-Division.

"After getting intimation at around 2:30 am, a police patrol party reached the spot and took her to a nearby hospital. Doctors there declared her dead," Jakhlabandha Police Station Officer-in-Charge Pawan Kalita said.

The container truck which was coming from Uttar Pradesh was seized by the police, but the driver fled from the spot after the accident, he added.

Nagaon Superintendent of Police Leena Doley reached the spot in the morning to take stock of the situation.

The police, however, don't know why the SI was going alone in civil clothes without any security in her private car towards Upper Assam. Her family members also expressed unawareness about her movement.

Junmoni Rabha, who was the in-charge of the Morikolung Police Outpost, has been known for being strict against criminals as well as alleged financial irregularities.

In June last year, she was arrested for alleged corruption in league with her former beau and was remanded to judicial custody by a court in Majuli district, leading to suspension from the service. The suspension was lifted later and she rejoined service.

She was entangled in another controversy in January 2022 when her telephonic conversation with BJP MLA Amiya Kumar Bhuyan from Bihpuria constituency was leaked.

They were engaged in an altercation after Junmoni Rabha had arrested some boatmen for operating country boats with machines fitted "illegally" and over alleged harassment of the people of Bhuyan's constituency by her.



WORKSHOP ON "DISASTER PREPAREDNESS"

Need To Learn Lessons From 2014 Floods: Principal Secy Education

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government College of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, organized a two day workshop on "Disaster Preparedness of Jammu and Kashmir" under India's Presidency G-20.

Principal Secretary Education, Alok Kumar, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The workshop was attended by NSS volunteers of Colleges, Higher Secondary Schools and NSS Nodal Officers working in different colleges of Srinagar district.

The inaugural session saw a galaxy of experts and consultants from the Department of DMRRR, trainers from SDRF 1st Battalion, Principals of Degree Colleges of Srinagar district and Head of Institutions of Higher Secondary Schools.

Principal Secretary, in his presidential address, spoke about sensitive geographical locations of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that we need to learn lessons from the destruction caused by Kashmir Flood of September 2014 and should take effective preparedness measures in advance.

He concluded his address by mentioning Benjamin Franklin quote "By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail".

Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Nazim Zai Khan, while speaking on the occasion, said that the department with the help of its SRDF Battalion 1st and 2nd is striving hard to mitigate the impact of disasters on people of Jammu and Kashmir. He also emphasized the need to integrate Disaster Management in school curriculum.

Senior Consultant, DMRRR, Waseem Shafi Dar, presented the structure of Disaster Management in J&K.

Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, Professor Yasmeen Ashai, spoke on disaster vulnerability of J&K, sustainable development and climate change impact on disaster scenario of the UT. She emphasized that such workshops will provide a common platform for all stakeholders to raise their concern regarding the theme.

Later, Principal Secretary released college publications including annual newsletters CASCADE and BAHAR besides Lesson Plan booklet by Interns of GMS Chattabal.

GDC Khansahib Organizes Public Lecture On G-20

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Debates & Seminar Committee in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, Government Degree College (GDC) Khansahib on Tuesday organized a public lecture on the 'Group of Twenty' (G20).

About 70 students and faculty members of the college participated in this program.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Sajad Padder, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the institution. The speaker dwelt on the origin & evolution of G20 with reference to the financial crisis of the 1990s. He deliberated on the structural and functional aspects of the forum: The Sherpa & Financial

Tracks & their working groups.

He further said, "India played a key role in G20 from the very beginning and accorded it a very high priority. All its summits since 2008 were attended by the Prime Minister. We have successfully used the forum in highlighting the issues of climate change, favourable terms of trade, multilateralism, equitable development etc."

While dwelling on India's G20 presidency, he focused on priority areas like green development, inclusive growth, digital public infrastructure and women led development.

Earlier, Principal of the institution, Dr Nargis Bano urged the faculty members to sensitize students about the G20 and India's role in it.

Seminar On Mental Health And Well-Being Held At IUST

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Islamic University of Science and Technology organized a one-day seminar on Mental Health and Well-Being on Tuesday.

The event organized by Centre for Vocational Studies and Dean of Students IUST was held to observe the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

Leading experts from different institutions of the valley including Prof. Parvaiz A Koul (Director SKIMS & Chief Guest), Prof. Masood T Bhat (Principal GMC Srinagar), Prof. Tariq S Qureshi (Principal GMC Anantnag), Prof. SM Salim Khan (Head, Department of Community Medicine, GMC Srinagar); Prof. Yasir Rather (Department

of Psychiatry, GMC Srinagar) and Ms. Zouya Mir (Clinical Psychologist, Kyber Medical Institute Srinagar) spoke on this occasion. The seminar witnessed good participation of the students, scholars, faculty members, officials from IUST and other institutions.

On this occasion, Prof. Shakil A Romshoo Vice Chancellor IUST said that we need to prioritise mental health, and dispel the stigma associated with it. He further said that IUST holding regular sessions for students to spread awareness about mental wellbeing. He urged for concerted efforts at multiple levels to realize the objectives of healthy society. He said the digital interventions as adopted can be further developed and leveraged in this regard.

Mirwaiz Assassination Case

BJP Terms Arrest Of Two Accused As A 'Landmark Achievement'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday termed the arrest of two absconding militant on charges of killing Mirwaiz Molvi Mohammad Farooq as one of the most momentous achievements.

In a statement issued to media, BJP spokesperson Abhijeet Jasrotia said that the protection extended to these 'criminals by the previous regimes' came to an end in 2019. He alleged that many individuals responsible for the brutal killings in Jammu and Kashmir had been shielded under previous regimes, thus evading punishment and roaming freely.

Expressing hope for justice to be served to the bereaved family of the slain head preacher, the BJP spokesperson also called for a compre-

hensive reinvestigation of similar cases, urging for strict actions against militants and their sympathizers.

He stressed the necessity of delivering justice to numerous families affected by such crimes that remain unsolved. Highlighting the recent arrests of Shabir Shah, Yasin Malik, and Bita Karate, Jasrotia commended the government's commitment to bringing justice to the victims.

He also lamented how these 'criminals managed to evade accountability' during the tenure of former Chief Ministers who held positions of authority within the unified command structure at the time.

"For us, it is always the intentions and intensity that matter," said Abhijeet Jasrotia, who serves as the Prabari for the Social Media for the BJP Jammu and Kashmir.



A GROUP OF WOMEN BEING trained in making copper utensils by the Jammu and Kashmir government's handicraft department at a centre in Srinagar.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Camera Trap Confirms Presence Of Snow Leopard In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The research team of the Jammu and Kashmir Department of wildlife protection has confirmed the presence of snow leopards in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park through camera trap photographs.

The development can help ensure the proper conservation of the endangered species.

The camera traps installed before snowfall in the 2,195.50 square kilometres national park have been retrieved and multiple images of snow leopards have been captured in the frames, wildlife warden, headquarters, Arun Gupta said.

Listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the snow leopards are mostly found at an altitude between 3,000 and 4,500 metres and have been sighted in the snow-bound areas of the Kishtwar National Park and its adjoining areas in Jammu region, parts of central and north Kashmir and Ladakh.

In November 2021, the wildlife department launched a first-of-its-kind snow leopard population assessment expedition under the snow leopard project of the Union Ministry of Environment with a focus on identifying the landscape housing the species and challenges for their proper conservation.

"In one camera trap frame, three snow leopards have been captured roaming amidst the pristine snow-covered landscapes in Renai catchment of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, while earlier the department through outsourced scientific study has also captured two individual (one adult



and one sub adult) in a single frame of camera trap in Nanth Nallah," Gupta said.

He said the study is part of the snow leopard population assessment and biodiversity documentation of protected areas being carried out by the department.

"The camera trap images showcase the remarkable adaptability of this elusive species, well-suited to thrive in the challenging high altitude environment of Kishtwar national park, which is renowned for its diverse array of flora and fauna, including several rare and endangered species," he said.

The park encompasses breathtaking alpine meadows, snow-capped peaks, and lush green forests, serving as a vital ecological corridor for many wildlife species.

Expressing his happiness over the sighting of the snow leopards, J&K Chief wildlife warden Suresh Kumar Gupta appreciated the efforts of the research team led by Regional Wildlife Warden Kumar M K and Wildlife Warden, Chenab Division Kishtwar, Majid Bashir Mintoo.

"The successful camera trap sighting of the snow leopards

is an affirmation of the effectiveness of the park's conservation strategies, which encompasses habitat protection, anti-poaching initiatives, community engagement, and scientific research," he said.

The chief wildlife warden said these combined efforts have created a conducive environment for the snow leopard population to flourish within the park's boundaries and adjoining areas.

"The snow leopard holds immense ecological significance, acting as a keystone species in maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem," he said.

By conserving this apex predator, he said Kishtwar national park also safeguards the diverse range of wildlife that co-exist within its boundaries, including the Himalayan Ibex, Musk Deer, and numerous avian species.

"This sighting of the snow leopard in the Renai area reinforces the importance of protected areas in safeguarding endangered species and underscores the need for collaborative initiatives involving local communities, governments and conservation organizations," he said.

Cong Vows To Form Next Govt In J&K With Friendly Parties

Statehood To J&K Will Be Restored In First Cabinet Meeting: JKPC Chief

Majid Nahi

SRINAGAR: Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President, Vikar Rasool Wani Tuesday exuded confidence that his party together with other friendly parties would form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir, and that the 'complexities', the former state is dealing with currently will be addressed accordingly.

Wani also claimed that the statehood to J&K will be restored as soon as the Congress forms the next government in the newly carved out Union Territory.

The Congress leader said that his party will emerge as the number one party of Jammu and Kashmir and will unquestionably form the next government.

Addressing media at PCC headquarters here, Wani said the BJP led central government has been meeting out step-motherly treatment to J&K and keep on delaying Assembly elections despite repeated claims that situation has normalized in the UT.

The UT Congress leader if the center conducts early polls in Gujarat and Karnataka, why was shying away to hold Assembly elections in J&K if the situation, according to the center, has normalized.

He said the landslide victory of Congress party in recently



concluded Karnataka Assembly elections are testimony to the fact that people have fed up with divisive and communal politics.

Wani said Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) of former Congress president, Rahul Gandhi strengthened Congress at the grassroots level and that the victory in Karnataka elections is the outcome of the Yatra of 'love and peace', which he claimed, unnerved the ruling dispensation.

Endorsing former minister and National Panthers Party (NPP) leader's petition in the Supreme Court of India against delay in Assembly elections in J&K, he said it is equally applied to every citizen of India and that the law should not be different in J&K than other states.

Regarding the recent assault on Kashmir students at

Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, Wani said all this is being done to flare up communal tensions in J&K. He urged both the communities not to sway into emotions and maintain communal brotherhood in any situation.

Hundreds of people in the near future will join Congress in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the Rahul Gandhi led Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"When Congress won elections in Karnataka, Raul Gandhi in a press conference said that the promises the party had made before elections will be adopted in the first cum first cabinet. I also would like to assure that all complex issues J&K is facing at the moment will be addressed in the first cabinet meeting, when Congress forms the next government in J&K," he added.

Health Dept Okays Rs 43 Cr Compensation For Land Owners Of AIIMS Awantipora

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Health and Medical Education department has released over Rs 43 crore, an unspent funds for paying compensation to land owners whose land was acquired for AIIMS Awantipora.

"Sanction is accorded to the release of Rs 43.62 crore as land compensation to Director, Health Services Kashmir for onward placement at the disposal of District Development Commissioner, Pulwama through transfer option via Director Health Services Kashmir for acquisition of Land measuring 272 Kanal for the establishment of AIIMS at Awantipora, Kashmir and realignment of approach for AIIMS respectively," reads an order issued by the health department.

The department has also issued the terms and conditions with the release of unspent funds and said the funds shall be utilized only after fulfilling all the codal procedures/formalities.

"The acquisition is completed within the approved cost only

and there shall be no cost escalation. Re-appropriation/diversion of funds is not allowed at any level," the order said.

"The utilization certificate of the released amount shall be furnished to the health department on time and the Director Finance, Health and Medical Education Department shall vouchsafe the availability of funds on BEAMS portal and accordingly release the funds to the concerned," it added.

"The instructions/conditions as contemplated in the BEAMS order shall be adhered/fulfilled in letter and spirit," it added.

The deadline for construction of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Awantipora is 31 December 31, 2024.

The AIIMS was approved by the central government in 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs 1,828 crore and will add 1000 beds to its current capacity in Kashmir, including 300 super-specialty beds.

The project will have a Medical College with a capacity of 100 students and a Nursing College with a capacity of 60 students—(KNO)

Dr Samoon Distributes Offer Letters Among ITI Pass Outs

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon on Tuesday distributed job offer letters among pass out

occasion.

Earlier, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon convened a meeting of Visiting/Village Prabhari Officers of Skill Development Department under B2V4.

Among others, MD, Skill



students from various government ITIs.

Pertinently, the 'Staffing Solutions Quess Corporation Limited' has selected eight candidates as 'Trainee' with their company from different ITIs in various trades.

"Skill Development Department is committed towards exploring job opportunities for its ITI pass out candidates with emphasis on conducting placement drives for providing them job opportunities in different sectors", Dr Samoon maintained.

Dr Samoon congratulated the selected students with a hope that they will perform their job with utmost devotion and sincerity. He expressed gratitude to the company for providing job opportunities to ITI students.

He impressed upon the students to participate in various placement drives with enthusiasm and make full use of their professional and technical skills for employability to various organization.

Director, Skill Development Department, Sudershan Kumar, was also present on the

Development Mission, Leena Padma; Special Secretary, SDD, Mohammad Ashraf Mir; besides, Visiting/Village Prabhari Officers of SDD Department attended the meeting through virtual mode.

Principal Secretary instructed the officers to keep proper follow up of the pending issues of Panchayats with the concerned authorities for redressal. He also asked them to ensure that panchayat level meetings are organized every first Monday of the month, in which all village level officers take part besides virtual participation of Village Prabhari Officers.

Principal Secretary also asked the officers to ensure that village development plans are fully integrated with the district and Capex budgets and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes across the departments. He also asked them to keep regular monitoring over 101 deliverables of different departments.

The participating officers also briefed the Principal Secretary about action taken on various issues and problems highlighted during B2V4.

G20: GDC Ajas Organises Exhibition Of Traditional Kashmiri Heritage

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The cultural committee of Government Degree College (GDC) Ajas Tuesday organized a remarkable display of traditional Kashmiri cultural items in the college campus, here under G20.

The exhibition included various traditional clothing, utensils, and musical instruments of the region. The main aim of the exhibition was to promote, preserve and showcase the richness and diversity of the traditional heritage of Kashmiri culture.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Parveen Kousar, who praised the efforts of the organizers in showcasing the cultural richness of the region. She appreciated the efforts of the students for their hard work to make the exhibition a grand success.

The display included a wide range of traditional Kashmiri items, such as shawls, Tila, Sozni, carpets, pottery, various agriculture items and em-

broidery, Lachka, Polari, Ornaments, Pahadi Costumes. The items were arranged creatively, with a focus on highlighting their unique features and intricate details.

In addition to the display, the event witnessed music performances by students, adding to the charm of the event. The performers enthralled the audience with their mesmerizing performances.

The exhibition had an overwhelming response and was attended by a large number of participants, including students, faculty members, and visitors. Besides, students from GHS Ajas were invited specially.

Participants were fascinated by the intricate designs and handicrafts of the region. They also got a chance to taste some authentic Kashmiri food and beverages. The event provided an opportunity to promote tourism in the region. By showcasing the unique features of Kashmiri culture, the event helped to generate interest in the region and its rich heritage.

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Wednesday | 17-05-2023

Alligator Gar fish in Dal lake

The discovery of the Alligator Gar fish in Dal Lake by the Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) is a cause of concern for the local fish in Kashmir. This is the first time that this rare species of fish, which is native to North America, has been found in Kashmir. The fish has a crocodile-like head and razor-sharp teeth and its appearance has raised concerns that it could be an invasive species and pose a threat to the natural aquatic life of Dal Lake.

While some experts have said that the fish is not harmful, proper research needs to be conducted to determine whether it poses a danger to the local fish varieties in the Kashmir valley. The LCMA and fisheries department are working together to analyze the situation and determine how the fish reached the lake.

This is not the first time that rare fish have been found in Dal Lake, as a Grass Carp fish was discovered in 2016, and another was found in Manasbal Lake. It is important to conduct proper research to protect the local aquatic life and preserve the ecosystem of Dal Lake.

This is important as the Dal lake, and the rest of the Valley have already witnessed the decline of Schizothorax, a native fish species in Kashmir. The numbers of this species have dwindled over the last four decades, and some of its species have already become extinct. Biologists have reported that only five out of the original 16 Schizothorax species can be found now, and even these remaining fish are under stress, with their numbers progressively declining.

The introduction of non-native fish species like trout and carp in the waters of the Valley is one of the major reasons for the decline of Schizothorax. The trout, being a carnivorous fish, started eating the eggs and fingerlings of Schizothorax, while carp have taken over most of the breeding grounds of this local fish. The rising pollution levels, encroachment, and diversion of water are also contributing to the destruction of the breeding grounds of Schizothorax.

The decline of Schizothorax is not only a threat to the local ecosystem. Efforts should be made to control the introduction of non-native fish species in the Valley's waters, and measures like regulating fishing activities and reducing pollution levels should be taken. This is why the Alligator Gar fish poses a fresh threat. It could very well threaten the existing fish species in our water bodies. So, authorities need to probe as to how this fish made its way to Dal lake and also chart a plan of action to eliminate its presence in the water body. That is, before it is too late.

OTHER OPINION

Be quick

According to a recent report by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, child marriages — an entrenched social malaise globally — have been declining, but not at a desirable pace. The data estimated that 640 million girls and women alive today were married in their childhood. Hearteningly, the rate at which such unions take place has declined over the past quarter of a century: while 25% of women were married before they turned 18 in 1997, the figure had dropped to 19% in 2022. But the deceleration, the Unicef report points out, is not quick enough. At the current rate, about 12 million girls aged between 12 and 17 years would still become child brides each year. Derivatively, some nine million underage girls are expected to be married off in 2030. This means that the global reduction rate in child marriage is falling too far behind — almost 20 times — to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of ending child marriage within the next seven years. Worse, the report has warned that it might be 300 years before the world can eliminate child marriage. Significantly, the slowing momentum has been attributed to the "global polycrisis", caused by a combination of factors such as the pandemic, increasing conflicts, and the discernible effects of climate change. Sub-Saharan Africa is particularly vulnerable due to high-intensity armed conflicts and rapid population growth. Stagnancy in progress is also visible in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, North Africa, eastern Europe and Central Asia.

But there is some heartening news too. South Asia — one of the hotbeds of patriarchy — is, surprisingly, leading the charge against child marriage. For instance, while still accounting for one-third of child marriages of the global total, India has recorded a uniform downward trend. With stringent laws, such as the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, improving literacy, targeted welfare schemes and potent public campaigns, India remains committed to battling this social malaise. Perhaps India's policies ought to be replicated at a regional level — the absence of robust policies against child marriage has halted progress in India's neighbours such as Pakistan and Afghanistan — as well as around the world.

Telegraph India

RIYAZ WANI

“
In a sense, 2023 is shaping up to be a rerun of 2018, when the BJP lost all big state elections including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan but won a landslide in 2019. A similar history can repeat itself

Karnataka Is Not A Bellwether

In a sense, 2023 is shaping up to be a rerun of 2018, when the BJP lost all big state elections including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan but won a landslide in 2019

The Congress sweep in Karnataka polls is the first decisive win for the party in any election in India following the takeover of the BJP as a national ruling party in 2014. And it comes in the wake of the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's cross-country march from Kanyakumari to Kashmir that ended on January 29, so, in a sense, attesting to yatra's effectiveness. But it is too soon to conclude that something has decisively shifted on the ground in favour of the Congress or the wider opposition. More on that later.

Congress, meanwhile, has cause to celebrate. It is not easy to face the all-encompassing Hindutva juggernaut and hold your own. More so, with the BJP campaign largely centered on the prime minister Narendra Modi who has so far single-handedly pulled off victories for the party. And in Karnataka, all of the BJP's tropes - Bajrang Dal, Hijab, Tipu Sultan, Kerala Story - were deployed to forge a broad Hindutva coalition across castes to ensure the saffron victory.

However, in retrospect, it is clear that the strategy didn't work. And this should be a source of deep concern for the BJP: it is this electoral formula that has made the party's extended winning spree so far possible. The appeal of Hindutva has killed all political competition. So, one of the takeaways from the Karnataka outcome is that this appeal may finally be wearing thin. The defeat of Karnataka follows the losses for the saffron party in Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal. Some analyses of the Karnataka result have pointed this out.

However, while this may be true to some extent, it is still a hasty conclusion. One way of looking at the result is that the issues of governance have trumped Hindutva, as ultimately it was the poor performance and the alleged corruption of the previous BJP government that undid it in the polls. The communally surcharged political environment and the unrest of the last two years triggered in part by the policies of the state government may have also worked to the party's detriment. And this is why a Hindutva-steeped campaign didn't resonate with the voters beyond a point.

But can we extrapolate the



Karnataka reaction to the rest of the country? Absolutely not. As things stand, Hindutva remains the reigning ideology of the country and PM Modi remains the overarching leader. And so far the opposition doesn't have a credible answer to both. There is no explicit alternative ideology or narrative peddled by either the Congress or the regional opposition parties. On the contrary, there has been an effort to either avoid taking on Hindutva directly or offer a Hindutva-lite as an alternative. This could be an outcome of a perceived popular support for Hindutva, forcing the opposition to grudgingly defer to it.

Similarly, a pan-India opposition leader has somehow failed to materialize. True, Rahul Gandhi has come a long way as a leader following his 4000 kilometre long yatra, but he isn't still there yet. As for his make-over, it still seems to be a work in progress. His statements are largely about some of the BJP's governance failures, not about the overarching ideological challenge posed by the saffron party. Hence the persisting absence of a cogent political narrative.

But the Karnataka win will certainly go some way to boost his political cachet - albeit, the party's performance in the state owes itself in major part to the efforts of its local leaders who harnessed deep anti-incumbency against the BJP to their advantage.

Is Karnataka a bellwether for the trend of politics in the country in near future? Not necessarily. The state, as of now, remains a standalone case, if not followed by more victories for the Congress or the opposition in the upcoming state elections.

Around nine Assembly elections are scheduled to be held before the general elections. Among them, the polls in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana will be very crucial. The BJP will hope to win all of them. But should the party suffer reverses in the majority of these states, this may not bode well for its 2024 chances. The elections in these four major states also represent a last chance for the opposition, especially Congress, to hurdle back into the reckoning. For now, the party can take heart from the victory in Karnataka, soon after the win in Himachal. It has put some wind in its sails as it prepares for more tests ahead.

But even if the BJP loses all these state polls, it could still end up winning the general election. In a sense, 2023 is shaping up to be a rerun of 2018, when the BJP lost all big state elections including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan but won a landslide in 2019. A similar history can repeat itself. It is true that the Pulwama bombing that killed 40 CRPF jawans played a role in salvaging the BJP's declining electoral fortunes at the time, but the popularity of the PM Modi was a factor too. It remains to be seen whether the PM's charisma will be sufficient to carry the BJP and the party through the upcoming Assembly polls this year and the crucial general election next year.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



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Facilitate Drug De-Addiction

A recent study conducted by Srinagar based Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (IMHANS) in a Drug De-addiction centre in Srinagar, found that over two-third of patients in the study had started substance abuse in the age group of 11-20 years. The most common substances of abuse identified included nicotine (94.4%), medicinal opioids (65.7%), cannabis (63.6%), benzodiazepines (45.5%), other prescription medications (43.4%), alcohol (32.5%), inhalants (11.1%), and cocaine (7.5%). The study revealed that poly-substance abuse was found in 91.9% of the studied patients. Inhalant use was seen predominantly among adolescents (54.5%) whereas nicotine (50.2%), cannabis (49.2%), alcohol (51.1%), opioids (58.4%), and benzodiazepines (53.48%) were more predominant in the age group of 21 to 30 years. According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment (MoSJE) in February 2019, 600,000 people, i.e. 4.6 percent of the total population of Jammu and Kashmir use opioid drugs, 80 percent of the drug addicts in Kashmir use heroin and morphine.

The problem of drug abuse not only affects the physical, mental and social health of the individuals but it disturbs and burdens the whole family. It also gives great threat to family happiness and creates individual, family, economic and social disorganization.

The Kashmir disputes such as political turmoil, armed conflict, Militancy, violence, terrorism, psychological distress, unfavorable environmental conditions and rapid socio-economic problems like poor industrial and infrastructural development, mass unemployment, corruption, poverty, underdevelopment etc. have leading a rising number of drug addicts in Kashmiri society. The use of tobacco, charas, Ganga,

cocaine, heroin, opiates cannabis, alcohol and inhalant substances etc. has been growing rapidly among the adolescents in Kashmir. The use of these illicit drugs posing a big threat to humanity by deteriorating adolescents mentally and physically, damaging family relations, spoiling potentiality, dreams, degrading the social and moral values and becoming a hindrance in shaping their career as well as progress and development of the societies

The measures of drug abuse are critical, because drug use, at its core, is a health issue. Unless we reduce demand for illicit drugs, we can never fully tackle cultivation, production or trafficking. Governments have a responsibility to counteract both drug trafficking and drug abuse, but communities can also make a major contribution. Families, schools, civil society and religious organizations can do their part to rid their communities of drugs. Businesses can help

provide legitimate livelihoods. The media can raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics. We can succeed if we reinforce our commitment to the basic principles of health and human rights, shared responsibility, a balanced approach to reducing supply and demand, and universal access to prevention, treatment and support. This will foster communities free of drug-related crime and violence, individuals free of drug dependence who can contribute to our common future and a safer world for all.

It is high time to save our generation from drug abuse and if we do not take concrete steps now, then after some years, the young generation of Kashmir will be destroyed. Police taking action against drug abuse is not enough. We as a society have to act responsibly.

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Behind Closed Doors

Confronting the Culture of Bullying and Harassment in Educational Institutions

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

As the sun set and I indulged in the literary wonder of my book, my cousin, a recent Class 10 examinee, paid me a visit. Amidst my engrossment, he implored me to grant him access to my mobile device to partake in the delights of gaming. With a twinkle in his eye and a grin on his face, he logged onto the free fire game, eager to embark on a virtual adventure. However, his escapade was rudely interrupted by the intrusion of a bully from his social circle, bent on harassing him. The tyrannical behaviour of the bully towards my cousin was ruthless and merciless. As I eavesdropped on their conversation, my cousin's once gleeful expression morphed into one of pallor and shame. Witnessing his distress, I too felt an indignant anger rise within me. How could someone derive pleasure from belittling and harassing another person? It was a stark reminder that innocence can sometimes come at a steep price. I implored my cousin to divulge the reason behind the bully's malevolent behaviour. His response only served to fuel my outrage. The bully had a propensity to harass and torment my cousin, regardless of any reason or provocation. I urged my cousin to report him, but he was apprehensive, citing the bully as a friend. Bullying is an insidious phenomenon that can take many forms, be it verbal, physical, mental, or even cyber. Its impact on the psyche of young students cannot be overstated, and its prevalence in Indian schools and colleges is a matter of grave concern. Harassment and bullying have long plagued our society. But yet the mechanisms to combat it are insufficient. As the great philosopher Aristotle once said, "It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." Let us strive to create an environment where bullying and harassment are not tolerated, and our youth can flourish without fear. However, according to a study conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in 2019, nearly 56% of students in Indian schools reported experiencing bullying. The study also found that verbal abuse was the most common form of bullying, followed by physical bullying and cyberbullying. Additionally, a survey conducted by the Indian National Bar



Feature image credits: ACLU Texas

Association in 2017 revealed that 70% of students in India have experienced some form of bullying in their lifetime. These statistics highlight the pressing need to address the issue of bullying and harassment in schools and colleges and to provide a safe and nurturing environment for students to learn and grow. It's important to note that many cases of bullying and harassment go unreported due to various reasons such as fear of retaliation, social stigma. Therefore, the actual number of cases could be much higher than what is officially reported.

The traumatic memory of being subjected to bullying and harassment in school still sends shivers down my spine. I distinctly recall a time when my weakness in mathematics made me a target of ridicule by a supposed friend. Their insensitive actions, such as making fun of my struggle to comprehend the lesson, amounted to nothing less than outright harassment.

One's deficiency in a particular subject ought not to be conflated with utter futility, for it is a common misap-

prehension among educators to believe that such pupils are irrevocably inept. Indeed, individuals possess disparate aptitudes and could excel in one domain whilst faltering in another. In the pursuit of maintaining discipline, some educators resort to criticizing students, but in doing so, they inadvertently open the door to harassment. As non-fiction author Brené Brown states, "Shame corrodes the very part of us that believes we are capable of change." By shaming students, educators risk undermining their confidence and motivation to learn, leaving them vulnerable to the bullying behavior of their peers. Instead of utilizing shame as a tool for discipline, educators should seek alternative methods that uplift and empower their students.

As the renowned author and educator Paulo Freire remarked, "The teacher is of course an artist, but being an artist does not mean that he or she can make the profile, can shape the students. What the educator does in teaching is to make it possible for the students to become themselves." By fostering a positive and supportive learning envi-

ronment, educators can help students reach their full potential and become the best versions of themselves. A heart-wrenching tale was relayed to me by a dear relative. His daughter was subjected to abhorrent behavior by a senior student, who forbade her from sitting with them on the bus and even went so far as to toss her belongings aside. The impact of such harassment on mental health cannot be overstated. Its insidious effects leave indelible marks on the psyche, as the bruises are not only physical but also deeply ingrained within the mind. The scars can last a lifetime, making it nearly impossible to erase the painful memories. It is imperative that bus conductors take note of such incidents and make it their duty to ensure that such behavior does not occur on their watch. A fundamental principle of decency is that everyone should be treated equally, with no one person being deemed superior or inferior to another. It is the responsibility of bus conductors to ensure that such principles are upheld and that every passenger feels safe and secure while

using their services. As the revered civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The smallest of acts of discrimination can have far-reaching consequences, and it is therefore critical that we remain vigilant in our pursuit of a just and equitable society.

How to Tackle Bullying and harassment

The scourge of bullying can leave deep emotional scars on its victims, causing immense pain and trauma. Educational institutions must prioritize creating committees that allow students to safely report incidents of bullying and harassment. The existence of such committees will ensure prompt and fair investigations of any complaints filed. It is crucial to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students to learn and thrive. Yet, taking proactive measures to protect oneself and seeking help is crucial. Start by confiding in someone you trust, be it a loved one or a trained professional. Opening up about your experience can offer much-needed support and a fresh perspective. Documenting the bullying incidents, including dates and times, can serve as crucial evidence if you decide to report the matter to an authority figure. Standing up for yourself is also an empowering act that sends a clear message that bullying is not acceptable. Engaging in self-care activities, such as exercise, reading, or spending time with loved ones, can help to promote mental well-being and reduce stress. It's essential to remember that you are not alone in this fight. Numerous resources and people are available to support you and guide you through this challenging time. As the celebrated author and activist Maya Angelou once said, "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, and how you can still come out of it." With courage and resilience, you can overcome the scourge of bullying and emerge stronger and more empowered than ever before.

The author is a columnist and is pursuing msc In zoology From HNBGU Uttarakhand Dehradun. He tweets @peermohdamir

Deadly Heat waves Threaten to Reverse India's Progress on Poverty and Inequality

Ramit Debnath and Ronita Bardhan

Record-breaking heatwaves in April 2022 put 90% of people in India at increased risk of going hungry, losing income or premature death, according to our new study.

After 2022 was designated the hottest in 122 years, extreme heat has appeared early again this year with over 60% of India recording above-normal maximum temperatures for April, according to the country's Meteorological Department. El Niño, a natural climate event that can increase global temperatures, is also expected to occur this year.

The increasing frequency of such deadly heatwaves could halt or even reverse India's progress in reducing poverty, food and income security and gender equality, harming the quality of life for over 1.4 billion Indians.

As a natural phenomenon, extreme heat is projected to occur once every 30 years or so in the Indian subcontinent. This is no longer the case thanks to man-made climate change. India has suffered over 24,000 heatwave-related deaths since 1992 alone, with the May 1998 heatwave being one of the most devastating as it claimed over 3,058 lives.

During the May 2010 heatwaves, temperatures in the western city of Ahmedabad reached 47.8°C and raised heat-related hospital admissions of newborns by 43%, prompting the city to become one of the country's first to implement a heat action plan meant to guide preparations and emergency responses to heatwaves which has since saved thousands of lives. The 2015 heatwave killed over 2,330 people and prompted the government ministry for disaster management to set guidelines for preventing deaths during heatwaves and push Indian states to develop their own plans.

A person covers a child with a blanket to protect them from the sun on a street in India.

Failure to implement these strategies may stymie India's economic progress. If proper heat action plans are not developed, ex-



sive heat could cost India 2.8% and 8.7% of its GDP by 2050 and 2100, respectively. This is a worrying trend, especially given India's goal of becoming a 10-trillion-dollar economy by 2030.

A 'real-feel' measure

Heat action plans are only useful if they can represent the consequences of heatwaves over the entire population. For Indian authorities to recognise when deadly heat is present (and emergency action is needed), the government has to know how conditions feel for the public.

We used an environmental health measure popular in the US called the heat index to determine how hot the human body is likely to feel in relation to air temperature and humid-

ity levels. This helped us to map how sensitive people were to heatwaves across India and discover that 90% of the country was in danger of severe repercussions during last year's heatwave.

It's important to accurately measure India's vulnerability to lethal temperatures. The metric used by the Indian government, known as the climate vulnerability index, does not account for the physical dangers of heat to human health. Our research showed that combining air temperature and relative humidity levels gave our heat index a "real-feel" measure for extreme heat. In other words, how extreme heat felt for people experiencing it.

Stop underestimating heatwaves

Underestimating the effects of extreme heat in India could reduce or even reverse its progress on a range of goals for sustainable development. These include those related to poverty, hunger, health and wellbeing, equality, economic growth and industrial innovation and biodiversity. This is especially concerning given that India's progress towards achieving these goals has slowed over the last 20 years while the number of extreme weather events has increased.

Extreme heat, for example, can exacerbate drought by drying up the soil and disrupting rainfall patterns, ultimately blighting crop production and food security, which endangers the health and wellbeing of a large portion of Indian society. Being a primarily agricultural economy, productivity losses in this sector threaten the jobs and health of

millions of marginal and small landholding farmers, as well as their ability to adapt and take up new livelihoods. Another worrying tendency with heatwaves is increasing water-borne and insect-borne diseases, which could further strain India's already beleaguered public health system.

Every year, millions of people from rural areas migrate to India's cities in search of a better quality of life. But heatwaves have a disastrous effect on the country's urban population too. Practically the entire city of Delhi and its 32 million inhabitants were threatened by the 2022 heatwaves. Most migrants are forced to settle in the city's poorest quarters, where the effects of heatwaves are particularly catastrophic. Sadly, these communities also lack the means to buy air conditioners that might ease their misery.

Present procedures for assessing the sensitivity of India to climate change will not help people resist the exceptional heat seen in recent years and must be upgraded immediately.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that heatwaves in South Asia will grow more powerful and frequent this century. Heat action plans will be crucial in speeding up efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects, but they must represent the complexity of India's vulnerabilities to climate change. The emphasis on making Indian cities resilient to extreme heat is critical, since cities will see a population explosion in the next ten years, with 70% of Indian building stock yet to be created. There is a chance to incorporate methods for adapting to extreme heat by designing new homes that are easier to keep cool.

With many more people in India expected to be hit by even greater heat extremes in the future, finance, urban design and education are necessary to help people adapt.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Smartwatches Could Detect Higher Risk Of Heart Failure

ANI

A new study claimed Wearable devices such as smartwatches could be used to detect a higher risk of developing heart failure and irregular heart rhythms in later life.

The peer-reviewed study, published in The European Heart Journal - Digital Health, looked at data from 83,000 people who had undergone a 15-second electrocardiogram (ECG) comparable to the kind carried out using smartwatches and phone devices.

The researchers identified ECG recordings containing extra heartbeats which are usually benign but, if they occur frequently, are linked to conditions such as heart failure and arrhythmia (irregular heartbeats). They found that people with an extra beat in this short recording (one in 25 of the total) had a twofold risk of developing heart failure or an irregular heart rhythm (atrial fibrillation) over the next 10 years.

The ECG recordings analysed were from people aged 50 to 70 who had no known cardiovascular disease at the time.

Heart failure is a situation where the heart pump is weakened. It cannot often be treated.

Atrial fibrillation happens when abnormal electrical impulses suddenly start firing in the top chambers of the heart (atria) causing an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate. It can be life-limiting, causing problems including dizziness, shortness of breath and tiredness, and is linked to a fivefold increased risk in stroke.

Lead author Dr Michele Orini (UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science) said: "Our study suggests that ECGs from consumer-grade wearable devices may help with detecting and preventing future heart disease."



"The next step is to investigate how screening people using wearables might best work in practice.

"Such screening could potentially be combined with the use of artificial intelligence and other computer tools to quickly identify the ECGs indicating higher risk, as we did in our study, leading to a more accurate assessment of risk in the population and helping to reduce the burden of

these diseases."

Senior author Professor Pier D. Lambiase (UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Barts Heart Centre, Barts NHS Health Trust) said: "Being able to identify people at risk of heart failure and arrhythmia at an early stage would mean we could assess higher-risk cases more effectively and help to prevent cases by starting treatment early and providing lifestyle advice

about the importance of regular, moderate exercise and diet."

In an ECG, sensors attached to the skin are used to detect the electrical signals produced by the heart each time it beats. In clinical settings, at least 10 sensors are placed around the body and the recordings are looked at by a specialist doctor to see if there are signs of a possible problem. Con-

sumer-grade wearable devices rely on two sensors (single-lead) embedded in a single device and are less cumbersome as a result but may be less accurate.

For the new paper, the research team used machine learning and an automated computer tool to identify recordings with extra beats. These extra beats were classed as either premature ventricular contractions (PVCs), coming from the lower chambers of the heart, or premature atrial contractions (PACs), coming from the upper chambers.

The recordings identified as having extra beats, and some recordings that were not judged to have extra beats, were then reviewed by two experts to ensure the classification was correct.

The researchers first looked at data from 54,016 participants of the UK Biobank project with a median age of 58, whose health was tracked for an average of 11.5 years after their ECG was recorded. They then looked at a second group of 29,324 participants, with a median age of 64, who were followed up for 3.5 years.

After adjusting for potentially confounding factors such as age and medication use, the researchers found that an extra beat coming from the lower chambers of the heart was linked to a twofold increase in later heart failure, while an extra beat from the top chambers (atria) was linked to a twofold increase in cases of atrial fibrillation.

The study involved researchers at UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science, the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing at UCL, Barts Heart Centre (Barts Health NHS Trust) and Queen Mary University of London. It was supported by the Medical Research Council and the British Heart Foundation, as well as the NIHR Barts Biomedical Research Centre.

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Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Shadipora

Email:midshadipora@gmail.com

NOTICE/INVITINGTENDER

e-NIT No. 13 of 2023-24.

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

S. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs.)	Earnest money @2% in the shape of CDR/FDR	Tech. Sanction	Time of Completion	M.H of Account
01	Repairs to 10 cusec HZ pump, Kirloskar Make at Dewatering Scheme Zubwan of MISD Sumbal	38795.00	50.00	776.00	61 of 05/2023	07 days	2711 M&R

Position of funds: Available

Key Dates of the Tender

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

a.	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	15/05/2023	(1550 Hours)
c.	Bid Submission Start Date	15/05/2023	(1550 Hours)
d.	Bid Submission End Date	23/05/2023	(1500 Hours)
e.	Date & time of opening of Bids	24/05/2023 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer MID Shadipora	
f.	Submission of performance security (PS)	i) The successful bidder has to provide @5% performance security of allotted amount within seven days after opening of tender.	

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non-Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0701 - Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan/ receipt or e-Challan to be pledged in favor of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Shadipora.

2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days

3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

No: MIDSh/Ts/767-71

DIPK-1684/23 dated: 16-05-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mech. Irrigation Division
Shadipora

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

Office Of The Zonal Medical Officer

Zone Zadibal, District Srinagar

Email ID:-zmozad@gmail.com

AUCTION NOTICE

Subject:-Notice for open auction of dead stock/Un Serviceable/Condemned junk items of Medical Zone Zadibal.

It is notified for information of general Public that auction for dead stock/Un Serviceable Condemned junk items scheduled to be held on 27-May-2023 at 12:00 noon in the hospital premises of UPHC Lal Bazar (Near Police Station).

The details of auction notice/items available for auction can be collected from Zonal Headquarter Zadibal on any working day between 10:30 AM to 4:00PM, within five days from the date of publication of this notice.

Terms & conditions:-

1. That the interested parties will have to deposit Rs 10,000/- (Ten thousand) in the shape of CDR for participations in the auction pledge to ZMO Zadibal.

2. That bidder will be allowed in the auction with one helper.

3. The auction committee has liberty to accept or reject without any reason.

4. That items will be sold to highest bidder on "as is where is basis".

5. That the GST rates as applicable shall be charged over and above the value of highest bid.

6. That the rates be quoted excluding GST.

7. That successful bidders shall have to deposit full bid amount on spot after the bid is over and declared successful by the chairman auction committee (Zonal Medical Officer Zone Zadibal).

No.-:ZMO/Z/184
DIPK-1653/23
Date:16-05-2023

Zonal Medical Officer
Zone Zadibal

Facilitating Customer Convenience, J&K Bank Enters Into Tie-Up With Top Builders In Mohali



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With a view to facilitate its customers hassle free home purchase in the upcoming housing projects at Kharar near Mohali, J&K Bank Tuesday entered into tie-ups with three top rated builders of Tricity area of Chandigarh UT, Punjab and Haryana.

The MoUs were inked with the builder companies M/S East Avenue Infracore for their Nirwana Heights Project, M/S Omni Pacific Colonizers Pvt Ltd for their Amayra Luxury One Project and M/S Ubber Realty for their Ubber Mew Gates Project.

Zonal Head Kathua, Sanjeev Kumar signed the MoUs on behalf of the Bank at a simple but impressive function held at the Bank's Mohali Cluster Office. He also exchanged the copies of these agreements with the representatives of the builder companies in presence of Cluster Head (Mohali) Iftikhar Abdullah, Branch Managers of Tricity Area, official of marketing team and functionaries of builder companies.

While impressing upon the representatives of builder companies to extend every possible concession to the customers

of the Bank as most preferred clients, Zonal Head reiterated the Bank's commitment to explore means and take measures to bring value to its customers across its area of operations.

He instructed the marketing team on the occasion to reach out to maximum number of customers for availing benefits accruing out of such tie ups and explore more such avenues for customer convenience.

Stressing upon the significance of such tie-ups, Cluster Head (Mohali) urged the companies to give wide publicity to the arrangement and ensure preferential treatment to the customers of the Bank with special offers and hassle-free delivery.

The representatives of the builder companies echoed the confidence of participants that the objectives of the tie-ups will be achieved because of the win-win-win proposition for customers, bankers and builders.

Pertinently, through these tie-ups, Bank will facilitate its customers especially from J&K and Ladakh hassle-free loans, assured delivery at preferred rates and waiver in many charges pertaining to such purchases if they plan to own a flat near Chandigarh and Mohali.

Shalini Becomes Thriving Entrepreneur By Availing Tejaswani Scheme

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Shalini Khokher, from border Village Gania of Nowshera subdivision, a thriving entrepreneur in the beauty parlour business, has a remarkable story that exemplifies the power of opportunity and support. Her journey began at a time when there were no specific programs for women to establish their own businesses in the District Rajouri. However, after the abrogation of Article 370, a new ray of hope emerged for the girls like Shalini, and a number of women-centric schemes were launched. One such scheme was the Tejaswani scheme of Mission Youth.

Shalini narrated that she had applied for the Tejaswani scheme and was pleasantly surprised when the district administration, led by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, immediately sanctioned the subsidized loan in her favor. In the past, applicants had to go through a lot of hassle to get their loans sanctioned, but the single-window system on an online mode has made life easier for people.

Shalini proudly states that the abrogation of Article 370 has

been a blessing for her and her family. Previously, they had to struggle a lot to make two ends meet, but now she is earning a substantial amount and supporting her family. She is also training other girls in her area and motivating them to take advantage of the benefits of the scheme.

Shalini's success story is a testament to the fact that the abrogation of Article 370 has opened doors for people like her who were previously struggling to make a living. With the launch of women-centric schemes and the ease of doing business, people in Jammu and Kashmir are now optimistic about their future.

The story of Shalini Khokher is not just a success story but an appeal to the government to continue supporting and empowering women entrepreneurs. With the right opportunities and support, women can achieve their dreams and contribute to the growth of the nation. The abrogation of Article 370 has given people like Shalini a new ray of hope, and it is up to all of us to keep this hope alive. It is imperative that the government continues to provide support.

76% Of Regional Parties' Income Last Year Came From Unknown Sources: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The income of regional political parties from unknown sources in the financial year 2021-22 amounted to ₹887.55 crore, accounting for 76 per cent of their total earnings, according to the Association of Democratic Reform (ADR).

The figure indicates a rise in parties' income from unknown sources in comparison to 2020-21 when the total income of regional parties accounted for ₹530.70 crore, of which ₹263.93 crore or 49.73 per cent came from unknown sources.

According to the report, donations over ₹20,000 are defined to have come from "known" sources as their donor details are available through contribution reports as submitted by regional parties to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The "unknown" sources are income declared in the annual audit report by these parties but without giving the source of income.

At present, political parties are not required to reveal the name of individuals or organisations giving less than ₹20,000 and those who donated via electoral bonds.

The ADR stated such unknown sources include dona-



tions via electoral bonds, sales of coupons, relief funds, miscellaneous income, voluntary contributions, and contributions from meetings or morchas.

The details of donors of such voluntary contributions are not available in the public domain.

The ADR said the total income of political parties from unknown sources amounts to ₹887.55 crore, which is 76.15 per cent of their total earnings. Of the ₹887.55 crore, 93.26 per cent or ₹827.76 crore of this came from Electoral Bonds, the ADR said.

The Income from the sale of coupons formed 4.32 per cent (Rs 38.35 crore) and voluntary contributions (below ₹20,000) formed 2.40 per cent (Rs 21.29 crore) in income from unknown sources of 27 regional

parties.

Initially, 54 regional (recognised) parties were considered for this analysis. However, only 28 of them had filed both their Annual Audit and Contribution reports while the remaining parties had only submitted one out of the two reports.

While the total income of 27 regional political parties in FY 2021-22 amounts to ₹1,165.58 crore, the total income of political parties from known donors stands at ₹145.42 crore, which is 12.48 per cent of their total income, the report said.

The total income of political parties from other known sources like membership fees, bank interest, sale of publications, party levy etc. is ₹132.61 crore or 11.38 per cent of the total income.

Irdai Relaxes Norms For Surety Bonds To Expand Market For Such Products

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Regulator Irdai on Tuesday said it has relaxed norms for 'surety bonds', a type of insurance policy protecting parties involved in a transaction or contract from potential financial losses due to a breach of contract or other types of non-performance.

The changes are aimed at expanding the surety insurance market by increasing the availability of such products.

As per a circular issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), the solvency requirement applicable for such products has now been reduced to control the level of 1.5 times from 1.875 times previously prescribed. Further, the prevailing 30 per cent exposure limit applicable on each contract underwritten by an insurer, has also been removed.

The regulator had issued 'IRDAI (Surety Insurance Contracts) Guidelines' in January 2022.

Irdai said the amendments have been made on



the basis of the evaluation of various representations received.

The amendments follow the earlier notification removing the cap on premiums that could be underwritten in a financial year by mono-line insurers transacting only surety insurance business.

Irdai said the current revisions are aimed to expand the surety insurance market by increasing the availability of such products and creating the opportunity for more insurers to service the increasing demand

from various sectors of the economy.

"Surety insurance will increase liquidity of contractors and provide strong boost especially to the infrastructure sector," it said in a statement.

Surety bonds serve as a risk mitigation tool for maintaining integrity, quality, and adherence to contractual terms, ultimately contributing to the smooth functioning of projects especially in infrastructure sector and fostering a healthy business environment.

FCIK for Timely Replacement Of DIC Managers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Valley's apex industrial chamber, the Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has conveyed its displeasure to the General Administrative Department (GAD) for not heeding its demand of timely replacement of General Managers in District Industries Centres (DICs) of Kashmir Division.

In a statement, FCIK regretted that most of DICs remained without full time General Managers from time to time during past over 3 years resulting in great inconvenience caused to both existing and prospective entrepreneurs disrupting their normal work and process.

"Records revealed that 7-8 out of 10 District Industries Centres (DICs) in the valley had been rendered headless from time to time" stated FCIK adding that neither the pleas made by concerned department nor the protests of organisation through media moved the concerned to fill the vacant positions.

"It has been observed that whenever a General Manager was transferred for some other assignment, the position in DIC would be left unfilled" stated FCIK, adding that it was during the recent mass transfers that some positions in DICs were filled.

FCIK protested that, among others, two most important DICs of Budgam and Pulwama were currently without full-time Gen-

eral Managers leaving enterprises of the organised industrial estates of Sanat Nagar, Rangreth, Ompora, Budgam, Lassipora, Pulwama, Chatpora, Wuyan, Sempora etc apart from hundreds of units established in unorganised sector in the lurch.

"While the Industrial Growth Centre Lassipora had made J&K proud after it was declared as South Asia's largest apple grading-storage Centre recently, hundreds of enterprises housed in the estate continued to suffer on account of a full-time General Manager", regretted FCIK.

"Besides General Managers, the industry in Kashmir also suffered on account of frequent transfer of the Directors of I&C Kashmir during past three years" stated FCIK. "While the incumbent Director of I&C Jammu was holding the post since December, 2018, the Kashmir Division witnessed transfer of about 6 Directors during the same period" observed FCIK, adding that currently I&C Kashmir was being looked after by an officer of another department as his additional assignment.

FCIK stated that while GAD was primarily responsible for placement of necessary staff in all industry-related departments which it couldn't be shielded away with by making stop-gap arrangement for a department considered crucial and important for industrial development and employment generation.

Basmati-Rich Farmlands In Jammu Adopt Reaper Technology To Get Rid Of Stubble Burning Menace

Press Trust Of India

CHAKROHI BORDER (R S PURA): India's basmati-rich agriculture fields in Jammu and Kashmir's R S Pura border belt have adopted a new technology, wherein modified reapers are used to get rid of the menace of stubble burning.

The department of agriculture (DoA) has introduced modified reapers to cut stubble and convert it into fodder.

"The use of reapers will not only end farm fire and pollution but also create fodder for cattle," Manager, Seed Multiplication Farm Chakrohi, Rakesh Khanjuria told PTI.

Khanjuria said that use of new technology not only prevents pollution, farm fires and destruction of minerals in soil and insects, but creates fodder for cattle of the region and employment for the local youth.

Officials said that the introduction of reapers to create fodder instead of pollution should be introduced not only in the entire J&K but also in Punjab and Haryana.

"Delhi, Haryana and Punjab, where such incidents are increasingly taking place, should adopt this (reaper technology of stable chopping). It should be used in the entire J&K. This will control pollution and will give a fillip to mushroom and dairy enterprises," he said.

Farmers and harvesters are working against time to reap 13 varieties of wheat sowed on 850 acres in fertile agriculture land on two sides of border fencing on the International Border in



Jammu and Kashmir's Chakrohi that was off limits till a year ago, due to Pakistani shelling.

Seventy per cent of harvesting has been done. The crops were sown after India and Pakistan agreed on a ceasefire in 2021.

The Seed Multiplication Farm, which is spread on nearly 1,000 acres on two sides of the border fencing in the Chakrohi-Jora farm belt about 50 kilometres from Jammu, is said to grow the best seeds of wheat, basmati, oil, fodder and vegetables.

The introduction of the modified reaper has become a source of income generation for the locals and low cost fodder for dairy industry and cattle owners.

"Today, the technology -- reaper, which has been introduced by the department of agriculture, has facilitated people getting fodder at their doorstep at cheap rates. They are using this for starting a dairy enterprise and are getting benefited too and getting good income", Khanjuria said.

Local youth have got jobs by procuring rippers based on modified tractors setup with an attached collection trolley and are earning their livelihood by selling fodder to people at their doorsteps.

Markets Fall After 2-Day Rally; HDFC Twins, Reliance Drag Sensex Over 413 Points Lower

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices ended lower on Tuesday after two days of rally, dragged down by index majors HDFC twins and Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 413.24 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 61,932.47 even after beginning the trade on a firm note. During the day, it fell 498.3 points or 0.79 per cent to 61,847.41.

The NSE Nifty went lower by 112.35 points or 0.61 per cent to end at 18,286.50.

"Markets took a breather as profit-taking emerged as the key factor which dragged the Sensex below the psychological 62,000 mark. While strong FII buying and upbeat domestic economic readings had been aiding the rally over the past few weeks, global uncertainty over interest rate movement and slackening demand would prompt investors to book profit at regular inter-

vals," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Among the Sensex firms, HDFC, HDFC Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, Reliance Industries and Maruti were the biggest laggards.

Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Titan, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Wipro, Asian Paints and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge gained 0.18 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.12 per cent.

Among the indices, auto declined 0.97 per cent, financial services fell by 0.53 per cent, consumer discretionary (0.38 per cent), bankex (0.36 per cent) and commodities (0.34 per cent).

Industrials, IT, telecommunication, capital goods, oil & gas and power were the gainers.

"The domestic benchmark's ascent towards record high was interrupted by sell-

ing pressure in heavyweight stocks, although small and mid-cap stocks outperformed. As anticipated, the Euro zone economy experienced a modest growth of 0.1 per cent QoQ in the Jan-Mar period, following a stagnant previous quarter. In the US market, cautious trading prevailed as debt-ceiling negotiations took precedence," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In Asia, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong markets ended in the green, while Shanghai settled lower.

European markets were trading mostly in the green. The US market had ended with gains on Monday.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.65 per cent to USD 74.82 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were buyers on Tuesday as they bought equities worth Rs 1,406.86 crore, according to exchange data.

'73% Job Seekers Prefer Large Corporates Over Start-Ups'

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: With the current economic uncertainties and the recent challenges faced by the startups ecosystem, 73 per cent of job seekers interviewed said they prefer large corporations over start-ups, a report said on Tuesday.

Around 73 per cent job seekers prefer stable and established companies to work with and grow within the organisation, a report by jobs and professional networking platform apna.co revealed. The report is based on a survey of 10,000 job seekers and 1,000 Human Resource recruiters.

The report further stated that only 27 per cent of employees would still consider switching to start-ups for career growth.

This indicates that professionals are focusing on upskilling and keeping themselves relevant to grow in their current organisation, it noted. While employers are preferring a skills-first approach, job seekers prioritise career growth opportunities, along with salary over location and commute, work-life balance and culture of the company, when searching for a job, said the report.

SEBI Mulls Expanding Definition Of QIB For Debt Securities

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Capital markets regulator SEBI on Tuesday proposed expanding the definition of qualified institutional buyer (QIB) for investing in debt securities in a bid to increase the supply of funds to the issuers of such securities.

The regulator suggested that certain categories of investors should be included in the QIB segment such as SEBI-regulated entities as well as multistate cooperatives with net worth of over Rs 500 crore.

Among others, pension funds, banking financial companies and housing finance companies, small finance banks, reinsurance companies, refinancing agencies such as MUDRA and universities should be included in the QIB category.

The proposed move would increase the potential investor base for issuers of debt securities and help in further developing the debt markets, Sebi said in its consultation paper.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sought public comments on the proposals till May 29.

In its consultation paper, the regulator noted that many investors, with large corpus, financial sophistication and ability to evaluate investment opportunities have

emerged. There are also existing entities which could be considered being recognised as QIBs for the same reason.

Such investors can serve to provide required funds to issuers through subscription to debt securities or non-convertible securities, and enhancing the depth in the bond market, SEBI said.

In addition, the regulator felt the need to consider parity for certain category of Indian investors with Foreign Portfolio Investors, who are included in the present definition of QIB.

Noting that QIBs are significant investors in debt securities, Sebi said that expanding the definition for investing into debt securities will serve to broaden the types, class and categories of investors, enhance access to investment opportunities within the primary issuance at electronic debt bidding platform and help in levelling the playing field within the bond market.

Under the proposal, SEBI said that such an entity will be required to provide a self-certification that it has the necessary expertise and skills to evaluate investments into debt securities, undertake risk management and to carry out due diligence in such form as shall be specified and furnish the same to the exchange prior to commencing investments as a QIB.

Slight delay in monsoon onset over Kerala; arrival likely on Jun 4: IMD

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A slight delay is expected in the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala and it is likely to arrive by June 4, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

Scientists, however, said the delay is unlikely to impact Kharif sowing and total rainfall over the country.

The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1, with a standard deviation of about 7 days.

"This year, the southwest monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be slightly delayed. The monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be on June 4 with a model error of 4 days," the Met office said in a statement.

Private forecasting agency Skymet Weather, however, said the monsoon is likely to reach Kerala on June 7 with an error margin of three days.

"The onset will be delayed and the advancement slightly sluggish over peninsular India. Hot weather will continue deep into June this year over central and northern parts of the country. This may not augur well



for Kharif sowing," it said in a statement.

The monsoon arrived in the southern state on May 29 last year, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.

The IMD said its forecasts for the monsoon onset over Kerala have proved to be correct during the last 18 years except in 2015.

The predicted monsoon onset is within the standard deviation of 7 days. It is unlikely to impact Kharif sowing and overall rainfall over the country, IMD chief M Mohapatra told PTI.

"There is no one-to-one

relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season. Also, the monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala doesn't mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. The monsoon is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features," he said.

M Rajeevan, former secretary of the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, said it is unlikely that the delay is due to Cyclone Mocha. "Had the cyclone developed around May 20-May 25, it would have really affected the

monsoon. The cyclone (Mocha) is already over."

"It could be due to insufficient heating over the Indian sub-continent. The progress of the monsoon also depends on other factors such as the phases of Madden-Julian Oscillation and how the El Nino is evolving," Rajeevan added.

The Indian monsoon is driven by the temperature and pressure difference between the Indian landmass and the Indian Ocean.

During summer months, the landmass heats up, creating a low-pressure zone that draws in moist air from the ocean, resulting in rainfall.

Large parts of the country, barring the eastern and north-eastern parts, experienced a prolonged wet spell between April 21 and May 7 owing to several back-to-back weather systems.

As a result, most parts of the country experienced significantly lower-than-normal day temperatures during the period.

Roxy Mathew Koll, climate scientist at Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, said a coastal El Nino has already developed in the east Pacific.

"It should develop into a mature state by June-July. This can potentially impact the onset, progression and the overall distribution of monsoon rainfall. The onset can be weak or delayed, and IMD onset forecast aligns with this," he said.

"If the monsoon onset is delayed and the ocean conditions are warm, there could be potential of cyclone formation close to the onset. That can change the course of the monsoon. This happened with cyclones Nisarga and Tauktae. However, forecasts don't indicate a cyclone yet. We'll need to wait and see," he said.

Private forecasting agency Skymet Weather said a powerful cyclone 'FABIEN' is moving over the south Indian Ocean in the equatorial latitudes, abeam southern peninsula.

"The hurricane-strength weather system will take nearly one week to clear the area. This monster storm is restricting the cross-equatorial flow and the build-up of the monsoon stream," it said.

Also, the Arabian Sea continues to host an anticyclone over the central parts in the lower levels of the atmosphere.

This acts as a deterrent for the smooth streaming of monsoon flow from the Arabian Sea to the west coast.

"Other pertinent features are also not likely to get aligned with the desired wind pattern over the next 10 days or more. There are no visible signs of establishing typical low-level jets of westerly winds, considered essential for the onset of monsoon," it said.

The IMD had last month said India is expected to get normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon season despite the evolving El Nino conditions. Skymet Weather had predicted "below-normal" monsoon rains in the country.

India has already seen four consecutive years of 'normal' and 'above-normal' rains during the monsoon season.

Normal rain is critical for India's agricultural landscape, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area relying on it. It is also crucial for the replenishing of reservoirs critical for drinking water apart from power generation across the country.

Rainfed agriculture accounts for about 40 per cent of the country's total food production,

making it a crucial contributor to India's food security and economic stability.

El Nino, which is the warming of the waters in the Pacific Ocean near South America, is generally associated with the weakening of monsoon winds and dry weather in India.

The El Nino conditions this year follow three consecutive La Nina years. La Nina, which is the opposite of El Nino, typically brings good rainfall during the monsoon season.

The Madden-Julian oscillation (MJO) is a large-scale intraseasonal atmospheric disturbance which originates in tropical Africa and travels eastwards. It is like a pulse or wave that lasts for about 30 to 60 days.

During the active phase of the MJO, the atmosphere becomes more favourable for rainfall. This leads to increased cloud cover, stronger winds, and enhanced convective activity, which results in heavier rainfall over the Indian subcontinent.

During the inactive phase, there is reduced cloud cover, weaker winds, and suppressed convective activity, leading to drier conditions and weaker monsoon rainfall.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Stakeholders Hope

the German government but travelled anyway to Kashmir. "I don't feel unsafe, no problem at all, it's absolutely the right time to revoke that (advisory)."

Daria, a youth delegate from Russia who was here for the recent Y20 event, said she had her reservations and worries about coming to Kashmir.

"To be honest, I was scared. I had some concerns but after coming here, all my doubts faded away. It is safe and I don't have those worries anymore. Based on my experience, they are not justified (negative travel advisories). I feel absolutely safe and secure here," she said.

Fleu, a traveller from France, said he was not aware of the situation in Kashmir but liked the place very much.

"I just arrived yesterday. So I don't have a complete picture but it is indeed a beautiful place, the mountains are beautiful and the lake also. People seem very nice," he said.

The three-day third G20 tourism working group meeting would be held here from May 22-24. Foreign delegates, participating in the meeting, will also visit famous ski resort Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

India Slams

permanent mission in Geneva tweeted, "We @IndiaUNGeneva strongly reject the statement issued by SR on minority issues @fernanddev and the baseless and unwarranted allegations in it. As G20 president, it's India's prerogative to host its meetings in any part of the country."

"We are aghast that @fernanddev has acted irresponsibly to politicize this issue, misused his position as SR to publicize on social media his presumptive and prejudiced conclusions in a gross violation of the Code of Conduct for SRs," the Indian mission said.

The UN Special Rapporteur also alleged that the government is "seeking to normalise what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalising a G20 meeting and portray an international 'seal of approval', despite what Volker Turk, the UN high commissioner for human rights, told the UN Human Rights Council a few weeks ago was a worrying human rights situation in the Kashmir region".

Kashmiri Youth Dies

construction site, our son was hit by a JCB and it was found that the Assam youth was involved in the act," the family members said.

They said that they have requested the Saudi government to perform the last rites of Zakir there only. "We have also urged the Saudi government to ensure stern punishment to the youth involved in Zakir's murder. We have been told that the accused has been arrested," the family of Zakir said.

33 Year Hunt

after which the court awarded life imprisonment to him," Swain told reporters.

He further said it was during the investigation

that CBI came to know that Hizb commander Abdullah Bangroo had hatched a conspiracy to kill Mirwaiz.

"Bangroo and his associate (both Hizb commanders) were killed in encounters while one accused was serving life imprisonment. Two more accused—Javaid Bhat and Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, both residents of Srinagar were arrested by the State Investigating Agency (SIA)," he said.

The special DGP said five militants were involved in the killing. While Bangroo and Rehman Shigan were killed in encounters, Ayub Dar underwent trial and was convicted for life, currently serving sentence in Srinagar central jail.

Javaid Bhat and Zahoor Bhat, Swain said, were absconding and hence escaped trial.

"It was actually the State Investigating Agency (SIA) that got the leads about the two militants and they helped the CBI in arresting them," Swain added.

He further said that Ayub Dar, the convicted militant, appealed against his conviction, which however, was upheld by the Division Bench of Supreme Court in Criminal Appeal No.535 of 2009 on 21 July 2010.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that the arrested Hizb men are now liable to immediately face trial in a designated TADA court in Delhi which has already completed the trial of Ayub Dar.

Mirwaiz Farooq, he said, was killed by Hizb militants for being a 'peacenik' and an 'Indian agent'.

"Before killing Mirwaiz, all the five HM militants had gone to Pakistan for terrorist training in 1990. Back in Srinagar, Abdullah Bangroo received instructions in April 1990 from his ISI handler in Pakistan to eliminate Mirwaiz," the spokesperson said.

Supreme Court

being provided the facility of meeting the detainees lodged in jails in other states and it has been an accepted practice.

While transferring the plea filed by Raja Begum and other relatives of detainees to the high court, the bench asked the Chief Justice of the high court to hear the petition expeditiously and gave liberty to senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners, to mention it there.

"It is needless to mention here that the high court will deal with the petition as per the orders of this court," it said.

Earlier, the top court on November 4, last year had sought responses from the Centre, the Jammu and Kashmir government and others on the plea alleging several persons, detained under public safety law, have been shifted out of the union territory prisons to jails in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Gonsalves, appearing for the relatives of the detainees, had said that they have been shifted out of jails in Jammu and Kashmir thus depriving their relatives the opportunity to meet

them.

He had said the people, detained under the local law, cannot be moved out of the Union territory as the statute was applicable to the Union territory only.

The detainees are in preventive detention under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978.

The plea was filed by a woman named Raja Begum and three others. One of the denouements, Arif Ahmad Sheikh, son of Begum, a resident of Parimpura in Srinagar, was shifted to the central jail in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

He was detained under the PSA on April 7, 2022.

Security Along

station was also tightened with all agencies directed to work in close coordination and keep a close watch to foil any attempt of anti-national elements to create any kind of sabotage.

Officers of Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force were also directed to intensify the patrolling at the railway platform areas and other sensitive areas of railway station Jammu, the officials said.

Reinstated Govt

was sent for forensic assessment as well. Charge sheet was served upon Dr Wajid Ali, who denied all the charges leveled against him. The Enquiry Officer submitted his report before the competent authority on 5 October, 2018, wherein it was submitted that the charge against Dr Wajid Ali could not be conclusively established, due to lack of scientific evidence.

The competent authority, accordingly, accepted the report of the Enquiry Officer and decided to reinstate Dr Wajid Ali with immediate effect.

"This Court also takes judicial notice of the submissions of the learned Counsel for both the parties that the Petitioner (Dr Wajid Ali) has, now, superannuated from service, as such, the direction to him to be careful in future also pales into insignificance."

70% Population

Highlighting the significant contribution of farmers in the progress of Jammu Kashmir, the LG called upon all sections of the society to honour the hard work of 70% of the population of UT dependent on agriculture.

"This 70% population is the biggest strength of J&K and despite numerous challenges they are toiling day and night to feed the people," he said.

He also shared the vision of the government, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for creating a strong ecosystem for the growth of the agriculture sector in J&K.

"The fast pace of progress in reviving the agriculture & allied sector in the last three years gives us hope that more and more youth will be inspired to take up farming and we will be able to build a better future for our young generations," he said.

Speaking on key features of the HADP, the LG said that the projects will enhance the capacity of small & marginal farmers, improve their access to technology, institutional credit, domestic & international market and develop critical infrastructure such as post-harvest processing facilities.

He also highlighted the reforms introduced to strengthen the agri-economy and to deliver socio-economic benefits to small and marginal farmers of the UT.

"We are implementing several new initiatives such as Rural Business and Service Hubs to provide critical inputs, market intervention in favour of farmers to ensure that the benefits of the crops reach directly to the farming community," Sinha said and congratulated the farmers of Budgam for transforming the agricultural scenario of the district.

He further reiterated the government's commitment towards creation of a support system to facilitate the farmers, who are adopting the cultivation of Exotic Vegetables, Niche Crops, medicinal, high density cultivation and floriculture.

"In the last financial year, 14 hi-tech poly green houses and 110 mushroom units were set up in the district. Moreover, five vegetable clusters growing organic, exotic & conventional vegetables have been established and all these efforts have resulted in the export of 43,000 MT of vegetables, 53 MT of Lal Mirch & 200 MT of sweet corn from the district during 2022-23," the LG said.

Addressing the local issues of public importance, Sinha said the administration is making consistent efforts for the welfare of the people and the work on the District Hospital for Budgam will start soon.

Nazir Ahmed Khan, Chairperson DDC, Budgam expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for introducing progressive agricultural reforms in the region.

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department and Prof. Nazir Ah. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the key initiatives taken for effective implementation of projects under HADP.

A total of 10,695 training sessions are being organized across the UT during the 4-month long Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, it was informed.

The Lt Governor also felicitated the progressive farmers on the occasion.

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam; PRI members; HoDs; senior officials; prominent citizens from all walks of life and farmers in large numbers were present.

Raj Bhawan Celebrates

India and also known as first organic state of the country. Progressive spirit of the state and sustained hard work of people can be seen in all-round prosperity & historic achievements in tourism, education, agriculture and sanitation,

the Lt Governor observed.

"In a historic move to strengthen the bonds between J&K and Sikkim and to foster the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', an agreement was signed last year for collaboration on capacity building for Saffron cultivation and to enhance interaction between researchers & farmers," said the Lt Governor

Today, the celebration of the Statehood Day of Sikkim from this land of Vitasta has further deepened the connect between the two regions, he added.

The Lt Governor also made a special mention of Padma Shri Tula Ram Upreti, a 98-year-old organic farmer from Sikkim and eminent Thangka painter from Sikkim, Padma Shri Khandu Wangchuk, and lauded their contributions in the respective fields.

Artists dedicating the love from Jammu Kashmir to Sikkim presented some spellbinding performances to mark the occasion.

Security forces Personnel and students from Sikkim living in J&K were the special invitees.

Pakistani Man

at Chakan-Da-Bagh crossing point in Poonch, the officials said.

Officials on Monday had said nothing incriminating was recovered from the possession of the man.

On April 29, Indian troops detained a father-son duo from PCK after they inadvertently crossed into this side in Poonch district. Both were later repatriated to Pakistan.

Man Arrested For

for his alleged involvement in the murder of Khopkar, who hailed from Maharashtra and was residing in the Upper Bazar area of the district. The victim ran a shop in the area, a police official said. According to a complaint lodged by Khopkar's wife, the official said, Singh allegedly beat up Khopkar while he was going to his shop on May 12, resulting in critical injuries to him.

The victim was rushed to the district hospital and later referred to the Government Medical College, Jammu where he succumbed to internal injuries, the official said.

He said a four-member SIT headed by a deputy superintendent of police has started its investigation into the case.

Leopard Found

However, the preliminary investigation suggested that the leopard could have died of natural causes.

53000 Tourists Visit

Manoj Sinha on April 8 in a grand function. The tourists from all over the country and even outside the country are visiting Tulip Garden in Sanasar in hordes thereby boosting the socio-economic status of the area. As per the Assistant Floriculture Officer, a total 53355 tourists have visited Tulip Garden Sanasar this year including 21150 domestic tourists 32203 from outside J&K and a few foreigners.

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

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Kashmir Abuzz With Sports Activities: DYSS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K is organising numerous activities in different sports in connection with the forthcoming event of G20 Meeting.

As per the official communication issued by the Joint Director of Youth Services and Sports Kashmir all the District Youth Services and Sports Officers of the division have been directed to ensure maximum participation of youth in different games and sports.

While following the directions, a huge number of youth belonging to different age groups was flagged-off for a long distance road race by senior YSS officers from the premises of Indoor Stadium, Wazir Bagh. The

race culminated at Government High School Rawalpura Srinagar.

A total of 225 Under-14, 290 Under-17 and 165 student athletes of Under-19 age group participated in the event.

Later an impressive closing ceremony was organised to felicitate the first three position holders of all the three age groups. Gaurav Sikarwar a senior police officer attended the function as Chief Guest. SHO Saddam Mudasir Nazir, Headmaster GHS Rawalpura and senior officers and officials of the YSS department were also present.

In another such activity held at Dangiawacha Baramullah, a Road Race under the banner of G-20 Summit Activities was flagged-off, by a senior police officer. More than 200 Boys participated in the event.

ZPEO Rainawari Conducts Senior Citizens Sports Meet



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As the part of sports week for senior citizens started by the YSS Department, Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO), Zone Rainawari conducted a Senior Citizens Sports Meet on Tuesday at GHSS Nowhatta, wherein 20 participants took part in multiple events including Carom, Badminton, Volleyball and Tug of War.

ZPEO Rainawari Madam Kousar

Jabeen was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The participants were very enthusiastic and anxious in the competition. "After a long period of time, we have had a striker or a ball in our hand and we feel the days of our adulthood," said one of the participants.

Convenor of the event Muzamil Dar PEM BHS Nowhatta thanked all the field staff of Zone Rainawari and all the senior citizens for making it a vibrant day.

Sports Activities Running On Pace: DYSS Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Department of Youth Services & Sports organised a number of tournaments for school-going children to senior citizens.

In these events, Zones Anantnag and Achabal hosted sports events for Senior Citizens in which 95 participants took part in Tug of War, Chess, Carom, Badminton and Kabaddi.

Zone Achabal also went for a

visit on the Historical place Vivananda Ashram Nagdandi Achabal along with 50 students.

Zone Qazigund concluded Zonal Level Kho-Kho and Kabaddi events for boys under the age groups of 14 and 17 in which a total of 877 students participated. In Zone Matan, Zonal Level Volleyball, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho events concluded under age group of Under-14 boys, with a total of 452 participants.

IPL 2023: PBKS Eye Big Win Against DC



Press Trust of India

DHARAMSALA: Punjab Kings will be eager to register a big win to keep their IPL play-off hopes alive against wooden spoons Delhi Capitals, who will play for pride when the two teams face off here on Wednesday.

It has been a roller-coaster ride for PBKS, with six losses and as many wins. They are placed at eighth spot with 12 points and are still in contention to make the qualifiers.

However, they need to improve their net run rate (NRR), which stands at -0.268.

A 31-run win against the Capitals last week boosted their NRR and morale and the Shikhar Dhawan-led side will hope for an encore and then hope that other results go their way.

Punjab will have to put up a much-improved effort with the bat. Against Delhi, opener Prabhshimran Singh waged a lone battle.

Barring Dhawan, who has been their best batter, and to an extent Prabhshimran Singh, very few PBKS batters have contributed enough to their overall totals. Their bowlers also need to pull up their socks.

Boasting a sound bowling attack with Nathan Ellis, Sam Curran and Arshdeep Singh, PBKS have often failed to defend runs.

On the other hand, Delhi Capitals have had a nightmare of a season and have already been knocked out of playoff contention. The batting unit has been disappointed all season.

Delhi's Indian batters, barring Axar Patel, have flattered to deceive, putting up a dismal show.

The abject failure of Prithvi Shaw and Sarfaraz Khan has contributed significantly to Delhi Capitals' travails this season, forcing the think-tank to pack all their overseas players at the top.

Skipper David Warner, wicketkeeper-batter Phil Salt and

all-rounder Mitchell Marsh have given the team some momentum with the willow.

But once they are gone, the middle order just crumbles. In their previous game against Punjab, the Capitals looked on course for a comfortable win but then lost eight wickets for 67 runs. The Indian bowlers in the side are not faring as badly as the batters.

Three of DC's four wins have come on the back of dominant bowling displays. Old warhorse Ishant Sharma has done his job while the return of Khaleel Ahmed has also helped.

Anrich Nortje, who had returned home for personal reasons, is back but it is to be seen if Delhi continue with the four overseas batters at the top or bring the South African pacer to tighten their bowling attack.

The spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel have bowled economically.

Match starts at 7:30 pm IST.

Pakistan Unhappy With New ICC Revenue Model, Demands Clarity

Agencies

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is unhappy with the proposed new revenue distribution model for international cricket although it accepts that India, the game's financial engine, should get the biggest share, chairman Najam Sethi told Reuters.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's global governing body, has proposed a new revenue sharing model for the 2024-27 cycle to be voted on at its next board meeting in June. According to figures leaked to Cricinfo, India would claim 38.5%, while England and Australia would pocket 6.89% and 6.25% respectively. Pakistan stands to earn 5.75% of the ICC's projected earnings, primarily from its media rights sale.

The 12 full members of the ICC would collectively get 88.81%, while the rest would be distributed among its 96 associate members. "We are insisting that the ICC should tell us how these figures were arrived at," Sethi told Reuters from London.

"We are not happy with the situation as it stands.

"Come June, when the board is expected to approve the fi-



nancial model, unless these details are provided to us, we are not going to approve it."

India generates an estimated 80% of ICC revenue and Disney Star shelled out \$3 billion last year to acquire the 2024-27 media rights for the Indian market. Sethi said the PCB had already asked the ICC to explain how its finance and commercial affairs committee, headed by Indian cricket board secretary Jay Shah, determined the share.

Despite the fact that all nations will get more money, Sethi said at least two other test playing nations were not happy with the model and had sought more details. The ICC, which considered factors such as the performance of a country's men's and women's teams and their contribution to the ICC's commercial revenue, was not immediately

available to comment.

"In principle, India should get more, there is no doubt about that but ... how is this table being developed?" Sethi said.

The proposed revenue split has become a major talking point in world cricket, which is already facing a rapidly altering landscape because of the Indian-driven rise of franchise-based leagues.

Former England captain Mike Atherton, writing in The Times newspaper on Monday, criticised the "flawed" model, which he feared would only deepen the game's existing inequality. "If that distribution comes to pass, then the strong will get stronger, the weak weaker (relatively) and international cricket will continue to become less competitive — which is in nobody's long-term interest," Atherton wrote.

Pele's Mausoleum In Brazil Opens To Public

Agencies

SANTOS: The mausoleum built for the golden casket of Pele was opened for visitors on Monday.

On the second floor of a vertical cemetery in Santos, outside Sao Paulo, the mausoleum welcomes fans with two golden statues of Pele; the floor is artificial grass; the walls are images of fans in a stadium; and there's an endless soundtrack of cheers, as if Pele was still playing. The ceiling above the casket of the three-time World Cup champion is blue.

Pele was laid to rest here on January 3, five days after he died at age 82 of colon cancer.

Vila Belmiro Stadium, where Pele starred for 18 years. His family, instead, buried him on the second floor so fans could have better access.

"I am shaking. The energy of this place is surreal," said Erica Nascimento, a tearful 42-year-old economist.

Former footballer Roberto Milano, 56, was also moved.

"He is part of my life," Milano said. "As we grow old we need to follow the best role models. Maybe he was the biggest of them all of these role models."

Fans willing to attend must book a time on the Memorial cemetery website.



"This was made with a lot of love by people who knew him, who lived with him. It has the essence of what he was," an emotional Edson Cholbi do Nascimento, one of Pele's sons, said after a small ceremony with family and friends.

The mausoleum was planned by the owner of the cemetery, Pepe Alstut, who died in 2018.

Alstut hoped the mausoleum would be on the ninth floor, overseeing the Santos club's

Pele led Brazil to World Cup titles in 1958, 1962 and 1970. He is the only player to win it three times. Last month, a Brazilian dictionary added "Pele" as an adjective to use when describing someone who is "exceptional, incomparable, unique."

The announcement by the Michaelis dictionary was part of a campaign that gathered more than 125,000 signatures to honour the late soccer great's impact.

Djokovic Takes Issue With Norrie's Behaviour At Italian Open

Agencies

ROME: Novak Djokovic's angry glare made it clear how furious the 22-time Grand Slam champion was with his opponent.

And it wasn't just because Cameron Norrie hit him in the left calf with an overhead smash after Djokovic had already turned his back and conceded a point early in the second set of the Serb's 6-3, 6-4 win on Tuesday.

There were also other instances of bad sportsmanship from Norrie, Djokovic said after reaching the Italian Open quarterfinals for the 17th straight year.

Djokovic also took issue with how his British opponent took a medical time out just before he served out the match.

"I did watch the replay when he hit me. Maybe you could say he didn't hit me deliberately," Djokovic said when asked about his angry glare toward Norrie after the incident.

"It was not so much maybe about that. ... From the very beginning, he was doing all the things that were allowed. He's allowed to take a medical time-out. He's allowed to hit a player. He's allowed to say 'Come on' in the face more or less every single point from basically first game.

"Those are the things that we players know in the locker room it's not fair play, it's not how we treat each other," Djokovic said.



"He brought the fire, and I responded to that. I'm not going to allow someone behaving like this just bending my head. I'm going to respond to that."

Clearly motivated by Norrie's behavior, Djokovic produced his best clay-court performance of the year against the 13th-seed, who was not made available for comment.

Aiming for his seventh title at the Foro Italico, Djokovic had his entire game clicking after struggling at times in the previous rounds and in his previous two tournaments on clay.

Djokovic will next face seventh-seeded Holger Rune in a rematch of the Paris Masters final that the 20-year-old Dane won in November.

All On The Line As Real Madrid Face Man City In CL Semi-Final

Agencies

MANCHESTER: The 1-1 draw from the first leg leaves the tie finely balanced, with City perhaps slight favourites, but Real Madrid's skill and pace on the break means they will step onto the pitch at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday night thinking they have every chance of reaching yet another final.

Carlo Ancelotti's side may have won the European Supercup and the World Club Cup this season and then followed those tournaments up with the Copa del Rey after beating Osasuna in the final. However, they were well beaten in the Spanish Supercup by FC Barcelona and on Sunday saw how Barca assured La Liga with four games left to play, reports Xinhua.

Ancelotti will probably be safe whatever Wednesday's result is and he has done a good job to build a side that has a clear style of play, which is able to dominate smaller teams and hit others on the break with the



pace of Vinicius Jr, Fede Valverde and Rodrygo.

However, Madrid President Florentino Perez is notoriously capricious and at a club where second place is seen as a fail-

ure, a bad defeat on Wednesday would ask a few questions of Ancelotti's future.

Last season was a campaign of miracle fightbacks for Real Madrid as they came back from



the dead in the last-16 to beat Paris Saint Germain with three late goals when 2-0 down on aggregate and being outplayed.

They were also struggling in the quarterfinal against Chelsea

before battling through, while last season's semifinal saw them on the ropes against Manchester City in the last minute before two goals from Rodrygo in injury time took their semi-

final into extra time against a rival who probably still can't believe what happened.

All three of those fightbacks came in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, with 80,000 fans behind them, which was a big advantage for Madrid, but this time they are away from home and it is Manchester City who will have a wall of sound behind them.

Pep Guardiola's side has the disadvantage of not playing their Premier League game away to Everton until Sunday and although he rested Kevin de Bruyne, Jack Grealish, Bernardo Silva and John Stones, Guardiola made no secret of his unhappiness at having 24 hours less recovery time than Madrid, due to the Eurovision song contest.

Ancelotti in contrast was able to completely rotate his side for Saturday's 1-0 at home to Getafe and Madrid should go into the game slightly fresher than their rivals, who have had to dig deep in their efforts to win the Premier League.

Eduardo Camavinga should be able to play at left back after suffering a slight twist to his left knee on Saturday, while Ancelotti has confirmed that Antonio Rudiger will start again after he marked Erling Haaland out of last week's draw.

Whether Rudiger and right-back Dani Carvajal will be given as much leeway by the referee on Wednesday night as they got in the Bernabeu last week will be interesting to see, with Carvajal especially lucky to get away unpunished after several bad challenges on Grealish and any yellow cards (especially in the first half) would condition how Madrid defend.

The tie is in the balance, with many questions to answer: Can Madrid do it again on the break and can they keep Haaland as quiet as they did last week? If the answer is yes to both questions, they will go through: if not, expect Manchester City to reach the final for the second time in their history. (IANS)

Gazans Amid The Rubble Of Homes Flattened By Fighting



Agenceis

GAZA: After her house was levelled by an Israeli strike, Najah Nabhan wonders what will become of her and dozens of relatives left homeless by the latest fighting to hit Gaza.

"I'd barely reached the street, then the house was bombed," said Nabhan, standing next to a mangled heap of concrete slabs and breeze blocks that had been the family home.

Dozens of homes were destroyed during five days of fighting, which erupted when the Israeli military launched deadly strikes on top militants from the Islamic Jihad militant group.

Nabhan, 56, has been trying to care for her children and grandchildren, many of whom have disabilities, since they were left homeless on Saturday.

"I borrow clothes from the neighbors for them. I didn't take anything with me," she said, in the Bir Al-Najeh neighborhood of northern Gaza.

The family said they were warned in a phone call from the Israeli military that a strike was imminent, but the army did not detail why it targeted the house when asked by AFP.

In total, 103 homes were completely destroyed and 140 severely damaged in the fighting, the United Nations said Tuesday, citing officials in Gaza.

Belal Nabhan, 35, earns just 10 shekels (\$2.70) a day selling parsley in the market, and said he remains in a state of shock.

"People were screaming and we ran away... now 45 people are staying here, where will they go? They need shelter," he said, indicating relatives resting beside the rubble.

Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza, which is ruled by Islamist group Hamas, have fought multiple wars in recent years.

The ruins of past conflicts — such as a three-day escalation in August which killed 49 Gazans — are dotted across the densely populated Palestinian territory.

With Gaza's poverty rate at 53 percent, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, few people can afford to rebuild their homes.

In Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza, children clambered atop a huge mound of concrete and rebar flattened by Israeli bombardment.

In the tightly-packed neighborhood, Mohammed Zidan's home escaped a direct hit but the blast was so powerful it blew out the walls.

"Because you want to strike one person, you don't need to destroy a whole apartment complex," said the 29-year-old.

"I'm a young man, living in my house, with my children in my home. I'm focusing on my work. What's my fault, that you make me pay the price?"

As Zidan stepped over the remains of his bedroom on Monday, Palestinians elsewhere were commemorating the Nakba, or catastrophe.

It marks the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes, in the war which erupted when Israel was created in 1948.

"We will stay living the life of the Nakba, continuously," said Zidan, who has taken to sleeping on the street behind his home.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to an enquiry from AFP on why it targeted the neighborhood.

Camera Trap Spots Snow Leopard In High Altitude National Park In J&K's Kishtwar

Jammu: The research team of the Jammu and Kashmir Department of wildlife protection has confirmed the presence of snow leopards in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park through camera trap photographs.

The development can help ensure the proper conservation of the endangered species.

The camera traps installed before snowfall in the 2,195.50 square kilometres national park have been retrieved and multiple images of snow leopards have been captured in the frames, wildlife warden, headquarters, Arun Gupta said.

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"In one camera trap frame, three snow leopards have been captured." (Representational)

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Listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the snow leopards are mostly found at an altitude between 3,000 and 4,500 metres and have been sighted in the snow-bound areas of the Kishtwar National Park and its adjoining areas in Jammu region, parts of central and north Kashmir and Ladakh.

In November 2021, the wildlife department launched a first-of-its-kind snow leopard population assessment expedition under the snow leopard project of the Union Ministry of Environment with a focus on



identifying the landscape housing the species and challenges for their proper conservation.

"In one camera trap frame, three snow leopards have been captured roaming amidst the pristine snow-covered landscapes in Renai catchment of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, while earlier the department through outsourced scientific study has also captured two individual (one adult and one sub adult) in a single frame of camera trap in Nanth Nallah," Gupta said.

He said the study is part of the snow leopard population assessment and biodiversity documentation of protected areas being carried out by the department.

"The camera trap images showcase the remarkable adaptability of this elusive species, well-suited to thrive in the challenging high altitude environment of Kishtwar national park, which is renowned for its diverse array of flora and fauna, including several rare and endangered species," he said.

The park encompasses breathtaking alpine meadows, snow-capped peaks, and lush green forests, serving as a vital ecological corridor for many wildlife species.

Expressing his happiness over the sighting of the snow leopards, J&K Chief wildlife warden Suresh Kumar Gupta appreciated the efforts of the research

team led by Regional Wildlife Warden Kumar M K and Wildlife Warden, Chenab Division Kishtwar, Majid Bashir Mintoo.

"The successful camera trap sighting of the snow leopards is an affirmation of the effectiveness of the park's conservation strategies, which encompasses habitat protection, anti-poaching initiatives, community engagement, and scientific research," he said.

The chief wildlife warden said these combined efforts have created a conducive environment for the snow leopard population to flourish within the park's boundaries and adjoining areas.

"The snow leopard holds immense ecological significance, acting as a keystone species in maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem," he said.

By conserving this apex predator, he said Kishtwar national park also safeguards the diverse range of wildlife that co-exist within its boundaries, including the Himalayan Ibex, Musk Deer, and numerous avian species.

"This sighting of the snow leopard in the Renai area reinforces the importance of protected areas in safeguarding endangered species and underscores the need for collaborative initiatives involving local communities, governments and conservation organizations," he said.

UN Migration Agency Elects American As 1st Woman Director, Replacing Her European Boss

GENEVA: Amy Pope of the United States elbowed aside her European boss Monday to land the top job at the International Organization for Migration, winning her bid to become the first woman to lead the UN migration agency.

Pope, 49, defeated IOM Director General Antonio Vitorino of Portugal, the European Union candidate, who swept into the post five years ago by trouncing a candidate put up by the Trump administration for a job that has long been held by Americans.

Vitorino's prospects for a second term were clouded after Pope, with strong backing from the Biden administration, won the first round on a 98-67 vote. After a lunch break, word emerged that Vitorino had pulled out of the race.

His withdrawal paved the way for Pope to win by acclamation after member states decided to forgo what was suddenly a formality: the IOM rules requiring a two-thirds majority to win an election.

"It's an incredible moment in time to lead the International Organization for Migration, and I could not be happier to stand before you today to start that work," she told reporters after the closed-door voting by secret ballot and a speech to delegates afterward.

Pope and Vitorino shook hands and smiled as they arrived together for the announcement that she had won. She is expected to start her five-year term on Oct. 1, the IOM said in a statement.

The face-off was unusual in that Pope was looking to unseat her boss in a contest between allies. The United States and Portugal are fellow NATO members.

The move also caps a renewed push by the Biden administration to maintain or recoup top posts in UN institutions, including the World Food Program, children's agency UNICEF, and the International Telecommunications Union, in recent months — after the Trump administration largely shunned several Geneva institutions.

"Ms. Pope's election reflects a broad endorsement by member states of her vision to keep people at the heart of IOM's mission, while implementing key governance and

budget reforms to ensure IOM is prepared to meet the challenges it faces," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

Eight of the agency's 10 directors general since the International Organization for Migration was founded 72 years ago have been American. The organization has nearly 19,000 staff members working in 171 countries to promote "humane and orderly" migration.

"The situation at the southern border of the United States underscores why it's so critical that we approach migration from a much more comprehensive point of view," Pope said. "Many of those migrants have gone through extraordinary circumstances to end up at the border."

Its job in many of its 560 field offices is to provide migrants with food, water, shelter and help with government-imposed paperwork. The agency also collects and shares vast amounts of data about flows of people to governments, and advises them on policy decisions.

Vitorino won praise for boosting the budget and staff at IOM, helping to hire and promote more women into top positions, and reaching out to developing countries, supporters said. Vitorino, 66, is a former European Union commissioner for Home and Justice Affairs and think-tank chief who cut his teeth in politics as a Portuguese Socialist, much like UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Pope, a former prosecutor, served as migration adviser to President Joe Biden early in his administration and recently was Vitorino's deputy for reform and management.

The US and the EU are both major funders of IOM facing challenges with mass migration. Critics fault the EU for failing to do more to prevent migrants from taking often-deadly boat trips across the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa to Europe.

Geneva-based UNHCR, the UN refugee agency — which has some overlap with what IOM does — and others have expressed concern about how changes to US migration law will affect people trying to cross the US-Mexico border.

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