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22nd-24th May 2023



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Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1 WISE Internship (WISE-IPR) 2023

Description: WISE Internship (WISE-IPR) 2023 is an opportunity offered by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology to women scientists. This one-year training programme provides theoretical knowledge of IPRs as well as on-the-job training at various centres in the country.

Eligibility: Open for applicants between 25 to 45 years. The applicants must be pursuing M.Sc. in Basic or Applied Sciences/B. Tech./MBBS or equivalent degree/M. Phil./M. Tech./M. Pharma/M.V.Sc. or equivalent degree/Ph.D. degree in Basic or Applied Sciences or equivalent.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 35,000 per month
- Last Date to Apply: 31-05-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/WSIE7

Scholarship Name Dr. Reddy's Foundation Sashakt Scholarship 2023

Description: Dr. Reddy's Foundation Sashakt Scholarship 2023 is an opportunity offered by Dr. Reddy's Foundation (NGO) to encourage young women across India to pursue a career in science. Eligibility: Open for Indian

girl students who have opted for a B.Tech., M.B.B.S or B.Sc. in Natural/Pure Science degree. The applicants must have a good record of academic excellence.

- Prizes & Rewards: INR 80,000 annually for 3 years
- Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RFTS3



Image credit: istockphoto.com/pressureUA

Scholarship Name National Law University (P39A) Internship Programme 2023

Description: National Law University (P39A) Internship Programme 2023 is an opportunity offered by the National Law University, New Delhi to students enrolled in UG/PG programme. The university requires the

interns to remotely engage, on a contractual basis, in managing the written communications in certain languages with prisoners represented by Project 39A*, primarily for those, who are sentenced to death. Eligibility: Open for candidates who are enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate programme in Law, Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, Management or Media. The applicants must have reading and

writing proficiency in English/ Marathi/Punjabi/Gujarati or Malayalam.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 10,000 per annum
- Last Date to Apply: Round The Year
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NLU4

ASF ENTERPRISES

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Extension for the Submission of the Tender

The last date for the submission of the short term tender for the supply and commissioning of STM-1 (155.5) Internet Leased Line (ILL) at IUST Campus, Awantipora, J&K, issued vide No: IUST/DIT/23/145 Dated: 11-05-2023 is hereby extended up to 25th May 2023 The other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain same.

No.: IUST/DIT/23/159
Dated: 19-05-2023

Sd/-
(Director DIT&SS)

DIPK-NB-820/23 dated: 20-05-2023

Subject:- Grant of Registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name & style M/S "River Rock Tours & Travels"
Situating at Saida Kadal, Nigeen Road.

Public Notice

Whereas, I Amir Ali Zaildar S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Zaildar R/O :- Zaildar Mohalla, Saida Kadal, Srinagar , Kashmir intends to apply in the department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/S "River Rock Tours & Travels" Situating at Saida Kadal, Nigeen Road, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Register , Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now asper J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id:- ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the Valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

inf

Public Notice

That my old passport bearing No. E7021059 has lost its validity and now I have applied afresh for the same. There are certain spelling corrections, which I want to correct in new passport. That in old passport the spelling in my name is written as Rasiq Aslam Khan while as correct spelling is Rashiq Aslam Khan; That the spelling in the name of my mother has appeared in it as Kousar Jan while as the correct spelling is Kousar Jan; That in my matriculation certificate the spelling of my mother's name starts with Q (Qousar Jan) while as correct name starts with K (Kousar Jan) as per her domicile certificate. If anybody is having any objection on this account, he may approach to the Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of the notice in local newspapers later no request will be entertained on this account. **Rashiq Aslam Khan S/O. Mohammad Aslam Khan R/O. Ganderpora Eidgah, Srinagar Kashmir**

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohammad Yunis Saleem Bhat S/O Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/O Sazan village Bijarani Doda have purchased plot no 297 in Housing colony Baghimehtab from BASHIR Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Aziz Bhat R/O Baghimehtab Srinagar originally allotted in favor of Dr Mohammad Abbas Mir S/O late Mohammad Abdullah Mir R/O Youre Khoshipora Qazigund Anantnag. The following original papers issued by the J&K housing board stands misplaced/not traceable.

- 1) Allotment Letter
- 2) Possession Letter

I have applied for transfer of leasehold rights of above said plot in my favor. Objection if any May be conveyed to the Managing Director J&K housing board green belt park Gandhi nagar Jammu within period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. However no objection will be entertained after expiry of above said period.

Mohammad Yunis Saleem Bhat
S/O Bashir Ahmad Bhat
R/O Sazan village Bijarni Doda

nj

**From the office of
Advocate Azhar Nabi
Chamber No. 106/2H, District Court Complex,
Srinagar, J&K.**

Mushtaq Ahmad Zaz
Prop: Metro Motors
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Zaz
R/o Hilal Abad, Sector 1st, Qamarwari, Srinagar.
A/p Karan Nagar, opposite Neelam Cinema, Srinagar.

Versus

Public At Large
In the Matter of: Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148A of Civil Procedure Code.

That the Caveator(s) has reason to believe/apprehension that the Non-Caveator(s) may file a suit or other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court, District Court or Special Tribunal Srinagar on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation or cooked-up story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/exparte against the Caveator(s) and in such eventuality the Caveator(s) will be put to an irreparable loss & in-convenience. It would be proper that the Caveator(s) is given an opportunity of being heard by this Hon'ble Court/Tribunal before passing any order.

nj

S/d

Public Notice

I Riyaz Ahmad Teeli S/O: Abdul Salam Teeli R/O: Awantabowan Srinagar is applying for fresh Domestic electric connection. If anybody is a having any objection he/ she may contact concerned AEE, PDD, Sub-Division Nallahbal Nowshehra, Srinagar within 3 days after publication of this notice.

inf

Public Notice

I have lost my 9th pass certificate issued by Govt Higher Secondary School Palhallan Pattan . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Modh Saleem Wani S/O Gh Mohd Wani
R/O Yadipora Palhallan

fko

Public Notice

I want to change the name on Electricity Bill bearing consumer ID no: 0212040014546 from Mohd Irfan mir S/o late Abdul Khaliq mir R/O Singhpora Bla to Ajaz Ahmad mir S/o Mohd Ramzan mir R/O ..Singhpora Kalan Bla . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ajaz Ahmad Mir S/O Mohd Ramzan Mir R/O Singhpora Kalan Bla

ashk

Public Notice

I want to change the name on Electricity Bill bearing consumer ID no: 0212040009308 from Mohd Sultan Wani S/O Mohd Shabir WaniR/OWaltranan ToMohammadYaseenWaniS/OHussainWani R/O Walraman . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Yaseen Wani S/O Hussain Wani R/O Walraman

ashk

Public Notice

My DOB has been wrongly written in Aadhar Card as 09-01-2014 while my correct DOB is 09-01-2018 which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Officer Sheerabad within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Imran Hussain Rather
S/o Mohd Shafi Rather
R/o Tantraypora Magam

bmrg

In the Court of Additional Munsiff /Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Srinagar

Present: Shafeeq Ahmad Malik

Mst. Haleema V/S Mst. Amina Begum

Notice through Publication to
1. Mst Amina Begum W/o Mohammad Shafi Bhat
2. Adeel Bhat S/o Mohammad Shafi Bhat
3. Hina Bhat D/o Mohammad Shfi Bhat
R/os Kursu Rajbagh Srinagar

Whereas, above titled suit has been filed against you in this court and you have been conveyed as defendant no.1,2 & 3 The next date of hearing is fixed on 22-07-2023

Whereas, Summons were issued for your appearance in this court, but you avoided to acknowledge the summon, as a result the summon got returned as untraced. This way you did not appear before the Court to answer the suit and it appears that your attendance may not be procured through the issuance of ordinary summons. You are as such summoned through this Publication and directed to appear before this Court personally or through counsel on 22-07-2023 failing to which appropriate orders will be penned against you. In case the date fixed in declared as holiday the matter shall be taken up on next following day.

Given under my Hand and Seal of this court.

nj

1st Additional
Munsiff Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my motor cycle bearing Regd No; JK01R-4367 while travelling from Samboora To Panthachow Srinagar . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of RTO Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arshid Ahmad Dar
S/o Abdul Rashi Dar
R/o Zaffron Colony Sempora Sringar

NJ _r

از نیابت پھالان

عنوان :- OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بحق زبیر حمید چارولد عبدالمجید عباس کانسٹموضع ناپرواری پورہ تحصیل پٹن

اشتیہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل نا پرواری پورہ تحصیل پٹن میں بیچھلے چالیس سال سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور ابھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل نمار ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل مذکورہ نے نوشل کانسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر نمبر

TP/BGQ/2022-23/115 مورخہ 29-08-2022 تحصیل پٹن سے

حاصل کی ہے اب سائل OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کس کوئی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا تمیز یا ہودوہ بعد شہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر آئے ہئے عذر یا تمیز و دالت ہذا کو فوری اذات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد کر ذر سے میعاد کوئی عذر یا تمیز قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

G20 Will Boost Tourism, Bring More Investments To Kashmir: LG

Says Srinagar City Being Developed As World-Class City Under SSCL

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday expressed optimism that the upcoming G20 meeting in this capital city will give a big boost to the tourism sector besides bringing in more investments to the Union Territory.

The high-profile event, beginning May 22 in Srinagar, Sinha said, would showcase Kashmir's rich culture and hospitality on a global scale. The LG also hailed the support of locals to the administration for making preparations for the 3rd G20 working group meeting scheduled next week.

"I hope we will organize the event together and that its grand success will encourage tourism in the days to come, bring about more investment to the region, and at the same time showcase Kashmir's rich culture



and hospitality on a global scale," Sinha told the media after inaugurating Jhelum Riverfront side here on Saturday morning.

He also expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing J&K an opportunity to

host G20 meeting in J&K. Regarding the ongoing Smart City projects in Srinagar, the LG while congratulating the executing agency for completing Jhelum left Riverfront side said it is an international level space created by SSCL

having amenities like free Wi-Fi zones for children, cycle tracks and pathways.

"Jhelum Rajbagh riverfront is a model of urban excellence and it will enhance the quality of life of the citizens, contribute to socio-economic

More on P11

No Road Digging, Cuts Without Permission, Warns R&B Dept

Asks heads of departments to 'clearly mention the purpose' of road cut, execution plan & time of completion

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities on Saturday reiterated that no digging or road cuts will be allowed without getting a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department.

A senior R&B Department official said that they have already asked all the heads of the departments and executing agencies of the department to strictly adhere to the instructions while issuing road cut permissions to various government and

private organisations. He said that an NOC from the "road owning department and the department owning the service" is mandatory.

"Directions in this regard are clear and already communicated, however as the fresh

More on P11

Traffic Advisory For G-20: Boulevard Diversions For 2 Days

Just days ahead of the high-profile G20 meeting in this capital city, the traffic police on Saturday issued an advisory asking people to avoid taking Boulevard road on May 22 and 23 in view of the international event at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Complex (SKICC) here. Taking to its official Twitter handle, a spokesperson of Srinagar Traffic Police said that G-20 meeting related events are scheduled to be held at SKICC on 22nd & 23rd May and a large number of delegates from

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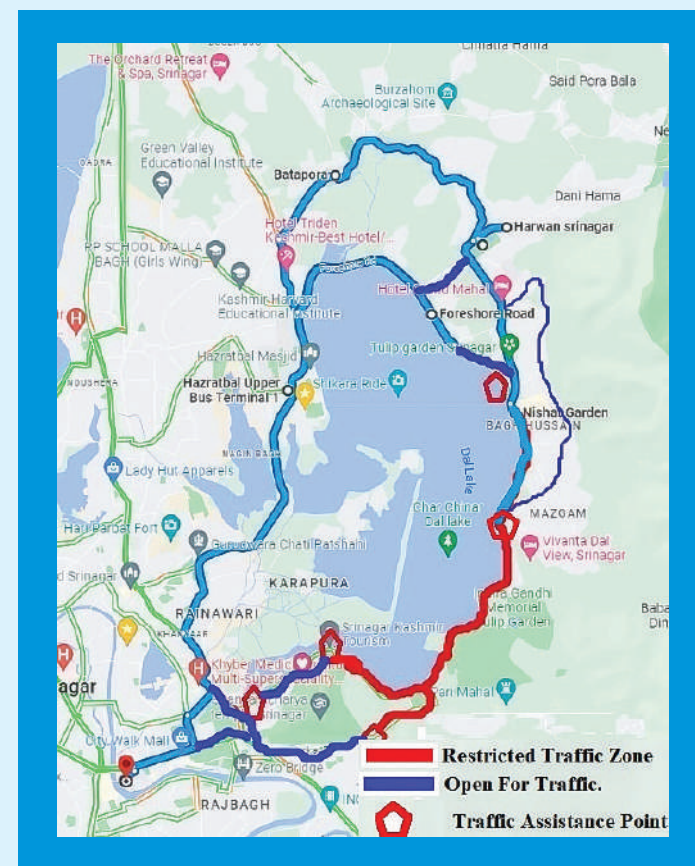
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G-20 meeting related events are scheduled to be held at SKICC on 22nd & 23rd May, 2023 and a large number of delegates from India and abroad are expected to attend. In order to avoid congestion on various routes during the meeting, following route plan/advisory is issued for general public to avoid any inconvenience.



- On 22nd May 2023, traffic movement on Boulevard Road from Nehru Park and Gupkar upto Kralasangri shall be restricted from 1030 Hrs. till 2200 Hrs.
- On 23rd May 2023, traffic movement on Boulevard Road from Nehru Park and Gupkar upto Kralasangri shall be restricted from 0800 Hrs. till 2200 Hrs.
- All such motorists intending to travel towards Nishat, Shalimar & Harwan are advised to adopt the alternate road from Dalgate, Rainawari, Hazratbal route instead of Boulevard Road axis.
- Traffic assistance points for all such vehicles shall be placed at Badyari, Nehru Park, Gupkar, Kralasangri & Nishat for ensuring smooth movement towards Nishat, Shalimar & Harwan.
- Likewise, motorists intending to travel from Harwan-Shalimar-Nishat and other adjacent areas towards Lal-Chowk are advised to travel via Foreshore- Hazratbal route instead of Nishat-Boulevard Road axis to reach their respective destinations.
- Traffic assistance points for all such vehicles shall be placed at Shalimar, Nishat, Kralasangri, Habbak Crossing, Duck Park & Habak crossing for ensuring smooth movement towards Lal chowk.
- Tourists intending to visit Mughal Gardens & other destinations are advised to follow the traffic advisory.
- Locals and Tourists from Nehru Park should use Gagribal, Buchwara road and Exit via Dalgate, likewise one way shall be followed from UNO office, CD Hospital upto Nehru Park.
- Motorists intending to travel from Gulab Bagh-Zakoora-Naseembagh-Habbak and adjacent areas should adopt Habak - Dargah- Khanyar route to reach Lal Chowk instead of Foreshore Road.
- Motorists are advised to park their vehicles at designated parking places only and avoid parking their vehicles on roadside. Wrongly parked vehicles will be towed.
- Emergencies shall be allowed to take the shortest route. In case any assistance is required, citizens are requested to contact Traffic Police at the Traffic Police Control Room No 103.

Any inconvenience is regretted.

Muzaffar Ahmad Shah -JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Traffic City Srinagar

SMC Suspends Ward Officer For Facilitating Illegal Constructions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A ward officer in charge of two wards on the Srinagar outskirts has been placed under suspension for allegedly facilitating illegal construction without approval from the competent authority.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation has said that due to the action of the said ward officer, the Corporation has incurred losses, which will be assessed.

Official sources said that after receiving a complaint that the ward officer Sajad Ahmad Panjabi in charge of Ward 16 (Soura Bachpora) and Ward 14 (Zakoor) has illegally facilitated the construction work at a particular place, not encouraging the party to seek legal per-

mission, the civic body placed ward officer under suspension.

In order to assess the losses incurred by the Corporation due to the ward officer's action, Joint Commissioner Planning Ghulam Hasan Mir has been appointed as inquiry officer. He has been directed to furnish his report within a week.

The suspended ward officer has been attached to the office of the Chief Sanitation Officer.

Meanwhile ward officer Sheikh Ilyas of Ward 13 (Batapora) has been given additional charge of Ward 14 (Zakura) while Basharat Ahmed ward officer Nowshera (Ward 17) has been given additional charge of Ward 16 (Buchpora Soura).

SKIMS Organizes CME On "Evidence Based Management Of GI Cancers"

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Radiation Oncology SKIMS today conducted a day long scientific program on "Evidence based Management of GI Cancers". The program included intriguing & thought provoking scientific sessions including poster/oral paper presentations.

Director SKIMS & EOSG Prof. Parvaiz A Koul who was guest of honor on the occasion congratulated the department for organizing the event and expressed hope that the discussions during various sessions will be useful and knowledge shared will benefit the patient care management. He said the department has grown with a strong foundation with great contributions from former heads of the department including Professor M.Y Kharadi who was present on today's occasion as Chief Guest.

He recalled the services of M.Y Kharadi in shaping the department. GI malignancies are in forefront in numbers and the department of Radiation Oncology along with sister departments have done a lot of work to look into causation and treatment modalities, he added.

Former HOD Prof. M.Y Kharadi was chief guest on the occasion and thanked the organizing committee for the invitation. While addressing the participants he stressed on

creating awareness about GI Cancers and educating masses through media and educational institutions.

Prof. Kharadi appreciated Director SKIMS for being an able administrator and epitome of research and visionary. He further said that the department of Radiation Oncology has evolved as one of the best patient care centres and stressed upon administration to have constant check of machine dependent departments for best patient care services.

Dean Medical Faculty Prof. Bashir A Laway and Medical Superintendent SKIMS Dr. Farooq A Jan also spoke on the occasion. Prof Laway & Dr. Farooq A Jan congratulated the department for organizing the event and said the department is rendering the services round the clock despite the huge patient load.

Head of the department and organizing Chairman of the program Prof. Nazir Ahmad Khan welcomed the guests and participants and said the various scientific deliberations by prominent experts in the field in GI malignancies which are more prevalent in Kashmir will benefit the participants and patient care management at SKIMS.

Organizing Secretary of the event Dr. Shaqul Qamar Wani presented vote of thanks and appreciated administration for constant support

Residents Demand Hazratbal-Buchpora Road Widening

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hazratbal Buchpora Road in Srinagar city continues to be a major concern for commuters and the general public, prompting residents to appeal to higher authorities for urgent action.

The locals said the narrow road has been causing numerous problems, especially for students and the locals. Given that the area houses several schools, the locals said that vehicular movement often comes to a standstill for hours, resulting in employees and students being stuck in traffic jams and reaching their destinations late.

Despite approaching the LG administration,

divisional commissioner, and the Chief Engineer of R&B Department multiple times, residents' efforts to address the issue have proved futile.

The residents have been demanding the extension of the road from Hafiz Bagh to Habak for decades, emphasizing the urgent need for its implementation.

"As the UT prepares to host the G20 Summit in the upcoming days, the residents see this as an opportunity to draw attention to their long-pending demand on humanitarian grounds," they said, adding that they make a polite appeal to the G20 members, highlighting the importance of addressing this issue, which affects the daily lives of the local population.



Accompanied by the administrative higher-ups, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Inaugurates Jhelum left Riverfront side in Srinagar under SSCL on Saturday.KO Photo, Abid Bhat

G20 In Kashmir Srinagar Traffic Police Issues Advisory For Motorists

Observer News Service

Srinagar:Traffic Police Srinagar has issued an advisory for motorists in view of upcoming G-20 meetings scheduled to be held at SKICC on 22nd & 23rd May, 2023.

As a large number of delegates from India and abroad are expected to attend the meetings and in order to avoid congestion on various routes during this period, the following route plan/advisory has been issued for the general public to avoid any inconvenience.

On 22nd May 2023, traffic movement on Boulevard from Nehru Park and Gupkar upto Kral-sangri shall be restricted from 1030 Hrs. till 2200 Hrs, traffic police said in a statement.

On 23rd May 2023, traffic movement on Boulevard from Nehru Park and Gupkar up to Kral-sangri shall be restricted from 0800 Hrs. till 2200 Hrs. All

such motorists intending to travel towards Nishat, Shalimar & Harwan are advised to adopt the alternate road from Dalgate, Rain-awari, Hazratbal route instead of Boulevard Road axis.

Traffic assistance points for all such vehicles will be at Badyari Chowk, Nehru Park, Gupkar, Kral-sangri & Nishat for ensuring smooth movement towards Nishat, Shalimar & Harwan, it said.

Likewise, motorists intending to travel from Harwan-Shalimar-Nishat and other adjacent areas towards Lal-Chowk have been advised to travel via Foreshore-Hazratbal route instead of Nishat-Boulevard Road axis to reach their respective destinations.

"Traffic assistance points for all such vehicles shall be placed at Shalimar, Nishat, Kral-sangri, Habbak Crossing, Duck Park & Habak crossing for ensuring smooth movement towards Lal Chowk".

Tourists intending to visit

Mughal Gardens & other destinations have been advised to follow the traffic advisory.

Locals and tourists from Nehru Park should use Gagribal, Buchwara road and Exit via Dalgate, likewise one way shall be followed from UNO office, CD Hospital upto Nehru Park.Motorists intending to travel from Gulab Bagh-Zakoor-Naseembagh-Habbak and adjacent areas should adopt Habak - Dargah- Khanyar route to reach Lal Chowk instead of Foreshore Road.

Motorists have been advised to park their vehicles at designated parking places only and avoid parking their vehicles on roadside. "Wrongly parked vehicles will be towed", it added.

"Emergencies shall be allowed to take the shortest route. In case any assistance is required, citizens are requested to contact traffic Police at the traffic Police Control Room No 103", the statement said.

- 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

1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:48
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:23
Magrib	7:32
ISHA	9:08

This Day In History

- 1260 - Hao Jing, envoy of Mongol leader Kublai Khan imprisoned by order of the high Chancellor of China, Jia Sidao at the Song Dynasty court of Emperor Lizong while attempting to negotiate with the Song
- 1420 - Treaty of Troyes: Henry V of England and his heirs would inherit the throne of France upon the death of King Charles VI of France
- 1809 - Battle of Aspern-Essling: Austrian archduke Karl beats Napoleon
- 1856 - Lawrence, Kansas, is captured and sacked by pro-slavery forces
- 1864 - Russia declares an end to the Russian-Circassian War and many Circassians are forced into exile. The day is designated to be the Circassian Day of Mourning.
- 1879 - Battle of Iquique: Chilean naval forces overcome Peruvian ships (War of the Pacific)
- 1911 - French troop enter Fez in Morocco to quell anti-European agitation
- 1918 - US House of Representatives passes amendment allowing women to vote
- 1920 - Mexican President Venustiano Carranza is executed by army generals after fleeing an armed rebellion in Mexico

From KO Archives

Move To Shift Capital Sparks Debate

A M 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 raging for and against the govern-ment move.

Giving vent to the opposition to shifting of the capital, several political parties, including 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 utilized 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 squander the funds for unproductive projects."

He asked the coalition government to desist from changing the capital for "petty political gains."

CPI(M), which supports the coalition government from outside, opposes the idea. State Secretary of CPI(M) M Y Tariqami 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 beautiful 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 government 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, 21 May, 2005)

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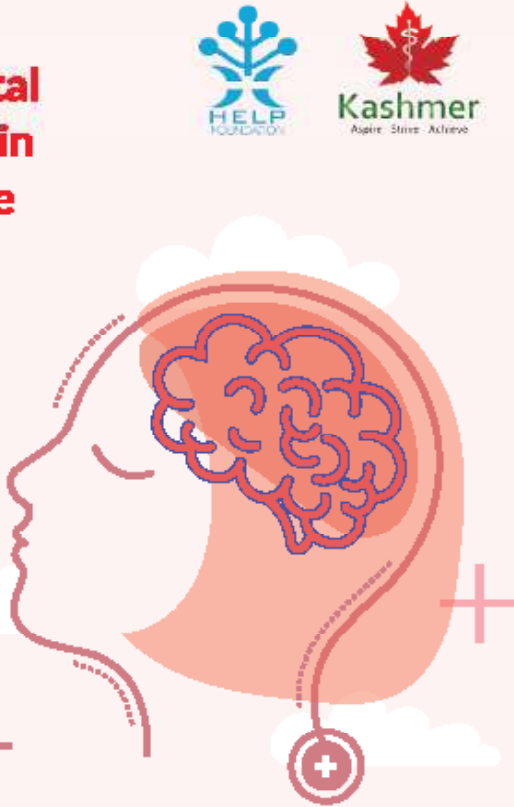
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Once Highly Sought After, Horologists Stare At Death Of Their 'Art'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Once a thriving and profitable vocation, clock and watchmakers in Srinagar today are living a life of penury with some even converting their repair shops into tea stalls to make ends meet.

These horologists blame the advent of smartphones for replacing traditional watches and alarm clocks, leading to the current decline in their trade.

Mohammad Yousuf Khanday who once was considered to be an expert in the craft now sells



tea at the same shop.

"Once I was a technically

equipped watchmaker. Today I am a chaiwala," Khanday said,

adding that he was associated with the trade for nearly 30 years.

"Due to the advent of smart phones, gradually this business started to die. We were very happy and satisfied with our profession. Being technically skilled, I used to service clocks and wristwatches and sell calculators as well," Khanday added.

However, as the demand for horology started declining, the 48-year-old changed his line of activity. "For the survival of my family, I started selling tea. Fortunately, I had the shop which I converted into a tea stall."

Another watchmaker Mohammed Hussain continued this profession for almost five decades.

"It is my family business. My father and uncle also used to do the same. I learned the skill of the trade at a very young age from my father. I was passionate about my work," Hussain said.

The watchmaker said he has seen good days as well.

"Earlier our work used to go on very smoothly and several people used to work in this line of profession. They were quite prosperous too. We used to

be busy repairing clocks and watches of all shapes and sizes," he recalled.

However, now smartphones have replaced the traditional clocks and watches and they have all of its features like the timer and alarm, Hussain added. Back in those days, there used to be numerous clock-repairing shops as well.

"But now we don't even get mechanics. No one wants to learn this skill as everyone has acknowledged that there is no future in this profession. But we are on the [More on PTI](#)

4 Youth Held For Filming Army Convoy

Srinagar: Four youth, including a driver were detained on Saturday for allegedly filming movement of an army convoy in Akhnoor belt of the Jammu region.

According to reports, three youth on board a tempo traveler (JKO2BL- 2251) were shooting the video of a Poonch bound army convoy near Muthi flyover in Jammu city. All the youth along with the driver were detained by the army and handed over to the local police.

The detained youth were identified as Mohammad Shafiq of Nagrota, Zafar Iqbal of Rajouri, Javed Iqbal from Mahore in Reasi, and the tempo driver Amir Malik from Gurdan Dard in Rajouri.

Joint Forces Review Security Situation

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Amid heightened security ahead of the G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir, a Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centre (SMAC) meeting on Saturday called for timely sharing of actionable information to counter anti-national activities in Udhampur district.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi range, Suleman Choudhary presided the SMAC meeting at district police lines Udhampur, which was among others attended by DIG north, CRPF, Rajesh Dhakral, SSP, Udhampur, Vinod Kumar and senior officers of the Army, the BSF, the Railway and intelligence agencies, a police spokesman said.

He said the meeting reviewed the prevailing security situation and highlighted the need for working in a coordinated and synergised manner to deal with anti-national and anti-social elements.

"Threadbare discussion was held on security scenario, law and order situation, movement and presence of militants, attempts to revive [More on PTI](#)

NIA Searches Multiple Places In J&K



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday raided multiple locations in eight districts in Jammu and Kashmir as part of its efforts to dismantle militant support systems in the Union territory, an official said.

Extensive searches were conducted in Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Awantipora, Anantnag and Kupwara districts in Kashmir and Poonch district in Jammu division, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The official said the raids were conducted at more than a dozen places in connection with various cases related to members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and overground workers involved in conspiracies hatched by proscribed militant organisations and their affiliates.

The searches also focused on the militant funding case registered suo motu by the agency on February 5, 2021, the spokesperson said, adding a large number

of incriminating documents and digital devices were seized during the searches and were being scrutinised to track further links of the suspects.

The militant funding case pertains to the collection of funds by JeI (J&K) ostensibly for charitable purposes but used instead for promotion of militant activities by proscribed militant organisations such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the official said.

The NIA had earlier charge-sheeted four persons in the case, involving well-organised cadres of the militant outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

On June 21 last year, the NIA registered another case against various banned militant organisations and their newly floated affiliates.

"The case related to the conspiracies being hatched physically and in cyberspace by these outfits for carrying out violent militant attacks in J&K with sticky bombs, improvised explosive devices and small arms."

"The banned [More on PTI](#)

Kot Bhalwal Holding More Prisoners Than Its Capacity

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: With as many as 999 inmates lodged in, the high-security Kot Bhalwal jail here is currently overcrowded as it is holding over 10 per cent more prisoners than its normal capacity, an official said on Saturday.

The information was given by the jail superintendent to the high court judge and executive chairman, J&K legal services authority, Justice Tashi Rabstan during an inspection of the premises, the official said.

The official said a six-member

team led by Justice Ranbstan visited the Central Jail on Friday and inquired about undertrial prisoners and the number of convicts serving their sentences.

The team was informed that against a total capacity of 903 persons, currently 999 inmates are lodged in the jail. They were also intimated about the shortfall in the sanctioned strength of the staff.

"There are 579 undertrials, 353 detainees and 67 convicts in the jail. Among these, 17 are foreign nationals but no female inmate was lodged in the jail," the official said. [More on PTI](#)



CRPF commandos on Saturday carried out a special security drill inside Srinagar's Dal Lake ahead of the high-profile G20 meeting scheduled to be held from May 22-24. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Intruder Shot Dead Along LoC In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A Pakistani intruder was shot dead along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.

The infiltrator was challenged by the troops guarding the Balakote sector in Mendhar sub division when he was trying to sneak into this side from across the border, the officials said.

The infiltrator was challenged by the troops guarding the Balakote sector in Mendhar sub division when he was trying to sneak into this side from across the border, the officials said.

They said the intruder paid no heed to the repeated warnings and tried to flee back when troops opened fire, resulting in his death.

The whole area has been cordoned off and further details are awaited, the officials said.



BSF Downs 3 Pak Drones In 24 Hours

The Border Security Force (BSF) intercepted four Pakistani drones and shot down three of them along the International Border in Punjab in four different incidents in over 24 hours, a spokesperson of the force said on Saturday.

While three drones were intercepted by the BSF on Friday night, the fourth one was shot down on Saturday night. [More on PTI](#)

Court Rejects Bail Plea Of 3 Drug Peddlers Arrested Last Year

M Ahmad

Srinagar, May 20: A court here has rejected bail plea of three "drug peddlers" arrested by police in November last year.

The three persons were arrested by police near Kooli Pora crossing in Khanar area here on 21 November 2022, according to prosecution. The trio, as per prosecution, were found in suspicious circumstances and were arrested from a Ford Figo vehicle which was parked on the roadside. On questioning, the prosecution said, they disclosed their name as Mohammad Younis of Batwara BB Cant, Suhail Ahmad Bhat alias Junaid alias Monga of Budoo Bagh Khanar



and Mudasir Ahmad Dar of Chadoora Budgam. "On spot their search was conducted. On their search, one blue polythene bag was recovered from the jacket of Mohammad Younis which was containing 5 bundles of 90 strips, total 720

Sposmoproxixon plus capsules, two mobile phones of Note 08 pro and Samsung."

From Suhail, the prosecution said, four strips, total 32 Sposmoproxixon plus capsules and cash Rs. 4000 and Realme Mi-9 phone were recovered. From Mudasir's pocket, the prosecution said, one key of the vehicle, cash Rs. 2000 and a mobile phone were recovered.

"Infact accused/applicants in consultation with [More on PTI](#)

Farooq, Mehbooba In Bangalore For Congress Swearing-in

Srinagar: National Conference president and MP Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Peoples Democratic President Mehbooba Mufti attended swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Congress government in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The top brass of the Congress party including the Gandhi family members - Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, party's national president Mallikarjun Kharge were present on the occasion.

The Chief Ministers of the Congress-ruled states

including Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, and Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel attended the event.

The party had also sent an invitation to numerous opposition parties and their leaders.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his Deputy Tejashwi Yadav, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, and Farooq Abdullah were also present [More on PTI](#)

S H O R T T A K E S

IAF Grounds MiG-21 Squadrons For Now

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has temporarily grounded its fleet of around 50 MiG-21 fighter aircraft following the crash of one of the jets in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh nearly two weeks ago, people familiar with the matter said on Saturday. Three persons were killed after the MiG-21 aircraft crashed into a house in Hanumangarh shortly after it took off for a routine training sortie from the Air Force Station at Suratgarh on May 8. The people cited above said all the MiG-21 aircraft are currently undergoing technical evaluation and [More on PTI](#)

2 Teachers Suspended Over Private Coaching

The department of education on Saturday ordered suspension of two government teachers for violating service rules and offering their services to students at a private coaching centre. "Pursuant to regular online/offline complaints and as reported by the designated monitoring teams, two teaching personals were found involved in private coaching at SCI Pulwama on May-18 contrary to the service rules and repeated directions from the department to desist from the practice," reads an [More on PTI](#)

Criminal Booked Under PSA In Udhampur

A notorious criminal was detained under Public Safety Act (PSA) in the Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. Ajay Singh, a resident of Shiv Nagar, was involved in a number of criminal activities including attempted murder, stabbing and drug trafficking, a police spokesperson said. "He has become a threat to the peaceful atmosphere and tranquillity and was booked under PSA on the orders of Udhampur District Magistrate after police prepared a dossier and recommended [More on PTI](#)

Man Found Dead In Rajouri Woods

Body of man was recovered from forest area in Rajouri district on Saturday. Official sources said that the man had apparently gone to fetch wood from nearby forests but did not return back. Subsequently police were informed and a team of cops recovered the body from Ghai Forest. The deceased person has been identified as Zafar Iqbal son of Mureed Hussain Mughal of Ghambir Mughlan Hattan Seri area of Rajouri. Confirming it, a police official told a local news agency GNS that inquest proceedings under [More on PTI](#)

In March, the government informed the Rajya Sabha that it would become a 5 trillion dollar economy even before the IMF's estimate of 2026-27. How does this number trickle down to the citizens here? Does economic growth and happiness have any correlation?

There's a need to look into the intersection of economy and happiness to allow for a growth that is citizen focused, sustainable and effective.

Happiness is an inherent human desire, and economists have been concentrating a lot of their research on this topic. A sub-field of economics termed "the economics of happiness" deals with the correlation between happiness and economic growth.

What Does Happiness Mean Economically?

Although it can be challenging to define happiness, economists have made an effort to measure it using a variety of indicators, including happiness indices, subjective well-being, and life satisfaction. These measures, which are aimed at capturing people's opinions of their own well-being, can be influenced by a variety of factors, such as personal values, wealth, health, and social relationships.

When we discuss the economics of happiness, we fundamentally want to know how variables like income and employment affect people's happiness and sense of fulfilment in life. Happiness measurement is a complex task, though. It is a complicated, multifaceted idea that is susceptible to a wide range of internal and external variables.

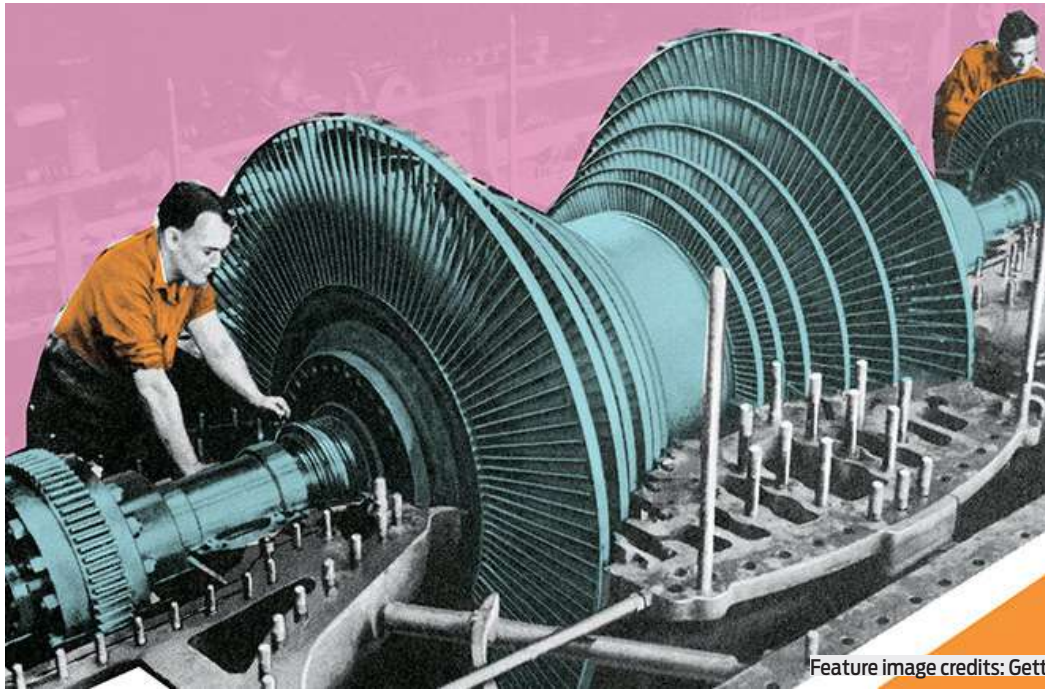
Surveys and questionnaires that allow participants to rate their own level of life satisfaction or subjective well-being are methods economists have used to measure happiness. In these surveys, individuals are frequently asked how happy they are with their jobs, relationships, health, and other aspects of their lives. The average level of life satisfaction or well-being for a population can be calculated by adding together these responses.

The use of happiness indices, which are composite measurements that account for a variety of different variables thought to influence happiness, such as wealth, health, education, and social ties, is an additional strategy. The World Happiness Report, which evaluates nations based on a variety of characteristics including money, social support, freedom, and charity, is an illustration of a happiness index. It's important to keep in mind that these measurements do have some constraints, despite the fact that they can be insightful into how societal and economic issues affect happiness. For instance, a variety of biases and cognitive heuristics, such as the propensity to place more emphasis on negative than positive experiences, can have an impact on how people perceive their own well-being. Additionally, these measures could miss out on crucial components of happiness, including finding meaning and purpose in life, which are determined by individual values and beliefs.

Despite these drawbacks, the economics of happiness has grown in importance as a field for

The Economics of Happiness

Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena and M. Nayyar Azam



Feature image credits: Getty

“The necessity of reorienting economic policy away from straightforward, conventional economic development, towards more comprehensive measurements of progress is another significant conclusion of the economics of happiness. The effects of economic policies on well-being must be considered by policymakers, who must also make sure that economic growth is equitable and sustainable

research recently. This is due in part to the fact that decision-makers have begun to realize that ensuring citizens' well-being cannot be achieved solely through economic growth. We must consider how economic policies affect people's happiness and sense of fulfilment in life in order to build a truly prosperous and sustainable society.

The creation of gross national happiness (GNH) measures is one way that policymakers

are doing this. GNH is a counterpart for the gross domestic product (GDP) that considers not just economic development but also other aspects including cultural preservation, environmental sustainability, and the promotion of well-being and happiness. Countries like Bhutan have already made GNH a national policy objective, and other nations are now beginning to consider this type of approach as well.

"The economics of happiness" is a fascinat-

ing and vital area of research that intends to comprehend the connection between economic factors and people's well-being. Even though quantifying happiness is not an easy process, economists have created a number of indices and measures that can offer important insights into this intricate and multidimensional topic. We can build a more sustainable and prosperous society for all if we consider how economic policies affect people's happiness and well-being.

The Relation Between Happiness and Income

To a certain extent, there is a positive correlation between income and happiness, which is one of the main findings of the economics of happiness. This relationship is often termed the "Easterlin Paradox," so named after the economist Richard Easterlin who initially studied it. This paradox asserts that while money and material belongings do make people happier, the impact of income on well-being actually diminishes as income rises. While income plays an important role in determining happiness, other factors additionally have a big impact. Social ties, health, education, and personal values are a few of these. For instance, research has found that socially connected individuals typically experience greater levels of happiness than socially isolated individuals. Similarly, people who prioritize their own development and education tend to be happier and have more satisfaction with their lives.

Policymakers' Implications

The economics of happiness has significant implications for policymakers, who are becoming increasingly conscious of the necessity to give happiness preference when making decisions. This has prompted the development of policies like the gross national happiness (GNH) initiative, which aims to evaluate and promote happiness and well-being alongside economic progress.

The necessity of reorienting economic policy away from straightforward, conventional economic development, towards more comprehensive measurements of progress is another significant conclusion of the economics of happiness. The effects of economic policies on well-being must be considered by policymakers, who must also make sure that economic growth is equitable and sustainable.

The relationship between economic growth and well-being has become more widely recognized owing to the economics of happiness. Despite the fact that income is a key indicator of happiness, other elements including social ties, health, and personal values are as crucial. In making decisions, those making decisions must prioritize people's well-being and make sure that economic policies support fair and sustainable growth. We can make everyone in society happier and more successful by doing so.

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

What Is The Political Agenda Of Artificial Intelligence?

Santiago Zabala | Claudio Gallo

“The hand mill gives you society with the feudal lord; the steam mill society with the industrial capitalist,” Karl Marx once said. And he was right. We have seen over and over again throughout history how technological inventions determine the dominant mode of production and with it the type of political authority present in a society.

So what will artificial intelligence give us? Who will capitalise on this new technology, which is not only becoming a dominant productive force in our societies (just like the hand mill and the steam mill once were) but, as we keep reading in the news, also appears to be “fast escaping our control”?

Could AI take on a life of its own, like so many seem to believe it will, and single-handedly decide the course of our history? Or will it end up as yet another technological invention that serves a particular agenda and benefits a certain subset of humans?

Recently, examples of hyperrealistic, AI-generated content, such as an “interview” with former Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher, who has not been able to talk to the press since a devastating ski accident in 2013; “photographs” showing former President Donald Trump being arrested in New York; and seemingly authentic student essays “written” by OpenAI's famous chatbot ChatGPT have raised serious concerns among intellectuals, politicians and academics about the dangers this new technology may pose to our societies.

In March, such concerns led Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, AI heavyweight Yoshua Bengio and Tesla/Twitter CEO Elon Musk among many others to sign an open letter accusing AI labs of being “locked in an out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one – not even their creators – can understand, predict, or reliably control” and calling on AI developers to pause their work. More recently, Geoffrey Hinton – known as one of the three “godfathers of AI” quit Google “to speak freely about the dangers of AI” and said he, at least in part, regrets his contributions to the field.

We accept that AI – like all era-defining technology – comes with considerable downsides and dangers, but contrary to Wozniak, Bengio, Hinton

and others, we do not believe that it could determine the course of history on its own, without any input or guidance from humanity. We do not share such concerns because we know that, just like it is the case with all our other technological devices and systems, our political, social and cultural agendas are also built into AI technologies. As philosopher Donna Haraway explained, “Technology is not neutral. We're inside of what we make, and it's inside of us.”

Before we further explain why we are not scared of a so-called AI takeover, we must define and explain what AI – as what we are dealing with now – actually is. This is a challenging task, not only because of the complexity of the product at hand but also because of the media's mythologisation of AI.

What is being insistently communicated to the public today is that the conscious machine is (almost) here, that our everyday world will soon resemble the ones depicted in movies like 2001: A Space Odyssey, Blade Runner and The Matrix.

This is a false narrative. While we are undoubtedly building ever more capable computers and calculators, there is no indication that we have created – or are anywhere close to creating – a digital mind that can actually “think”.

Noam Chomsky recently argued (alongside Ian Roberts and Jeffrey Watumull) in a New York Times article that “we know from the science of linguistics and the philosophy of knowledge that [machine learning programmes like ChatGPT] differ profoundly from how humans reason and use language”. Despite its amazingly convincing answers to a variety of questions from humans, ChatGPT is “a lumbering statistical engine for pattern matching, gorging on hundreds of terabytes of data and extrapolating the most likely conversational response or most probable answer to a scientific question”. Mimicking German philosopher Martin Heidegger (and risking reigniting the age-old battle between continental and analytical philosophers), we might say, “AI doesn't think. It simply calculates.”

Federico Faggin, the inventor of the first commercial microprocessor, the mythical Intel 4004, explained this clearly in his 2022 book Irreducible (Irreducible): “There is a clear distinction between symbolic machine ‘knowledge’ ... and human se-

“We accept that AI – like all era-defining technology – comes with considerable downsides and dangers, but contrary to Wozniak, Bengio, Hinton and others, we do not believe that it could determine the course of history on its own, without any input or guidance from humanity

mantic knowledge. The former is objective information that can be copied and shared; the latter is a subjective and private experience that occurs in the intimacy of the conscious being.”

Interpreting the latest theories of Quantum Physics, Faggin appears to have produced a philosophical conclusion that fits curiously well within ancient Neoplatonism – a feat that may ensure that he is forever considered a heretic in scientific circles despite his incredible achievements as an inventor.

But what does all this mean for our future? If our super-intelligent Centaur Chiron cannot actually “think” (and therefore emerge as an independent force that can determine the course of human history), exactly who will it benefit and give political authority to? In other words, what values will its decisions rely on?

Chomsky and his colleagues asked a similar question to ChatGPT.

“As an AI, I do not have moral beliefs or the ability to make moral judgments, so I cannot be considered immoral or moral,” the chatbot told them. “My lack of moral beliefs is simply a result of my nature as a machine learning model.”

Where have we heard of this position before? Is it not eerily similar to the ethically neutral vi-

sion of hardcore liberalism?

Liberalism aspires to confine in the private individual sphere all religious, civil and political values that proved so dangerous and destructive in the 16th and 17th centuries. It wants all aspects of society to be regulated by a particular – and in a way mysterious – form of rationality: the market.

AI appears to be promoting the very same brand of mysterious rationality. The truth is, it is emerging as the next global “big business” innovation that will steal jobs from humans – making labourers, doctors, barristers, journalists and many others redundant. The new bots' moral values are identical to the market's. It is difficult to imagine all the possible developments now, but a scary scenario is emerging.

David Krueger, assistant professor in machine learning at the University of Cambridge, commented recently in New Scientist: “Essentially every AI researcher (myself included) has received funding from big tech. At some point, society may stop believing reassurances from people with such strong conflicts of interest and conclude, as I have, that their dismissal [of warnings about AI] betrays wishful thinking rather than good counterarguments.”

If society stands up to AI and its promoters, it could prove Marx wrong and prevent the leading technological development of the current era from determining who holds political authority.

But for now, AI appears to be here to stay. And its political agenda is fully synchronised with that of free market capitalism, the principal (undeclared) goal and purpose of which is to tear apart any form of social solidarity and community.

The danger of AI is not that it is an impossible-to-control digital intelligence that could destroy our sense of self and truth through the “fake” images, essays, news and histories it generates. The danger is that this undeniably monumental invention appears to be basing all its decisions and actions on the same destructive and dangerous values that drive predatory capitalism.

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

In First Meeting, Karnataka Cabinet Decides To Implement Congress's 5 Guarantees



Press Trust of India

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the newly sworn-in Karnataka Cabinet led by him in its maiden meet on Saturday accorded "in-principle" approval to implement the Congress party's five guarantees and initial estimates indicate that it would cost the exchequer Rs 50,000 crore annually.

The first Cabinet meeting was held immediately after Siddaramaiah was sworn in as Chief Minister, and D K Shivakumar as Deputy Chief Minister along with eight MLAs as Ministers.

"It's agreed upon. We will not go back (on the promises)," the Chief Minister said, adding, the assurances would be fulfilled notwithstanding financial implications, if any.

Siddaramaiah said initial estimation of the government is that the implementation of the poll promises would cost the exchequer Rs 50,000 crore a year.

The assurances promised before the elections would "most likely" be implemented after the next Cabinet meeting, he said addressing a press conference here.

The party's five poll guaran-

tees are 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kilograms of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), Rs 3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth, Rs 1,500 for unemployed diploma holders (both in the age group of 18-25) for two years (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti).

Political observers said the promise of guarantees found resonance with the people during the campaigning, particularly women, and played a key role in the stupendous victory of the Congress in the Assembly polls.

During the campaigning for the May 10 elections, Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi repeatedly assured the voters that these five guarantees would be approved in the first Cabinet meeting on the first day of coming to power.

Noting that the budget size of Karnataka is Rs 3.1 lakh crore, Siddaramaiah said: "I don't think it's impossible for our government to raise Rs 50,000 crore a year (for the five guarantees)".

Zelensky Meets With G7 Leaders As Ukraine Wins Access To F-16s

Agencies

HIROSHIMA: President Volodymyr Zelensky made a landmark visit to Hiroshima for talks with G7 leaders Saturday, after securing long-sought access to advanced US fighter jets for Ukraine's war effort.

Zelensky's surprise summit appearance — he had been expected to appear by video call — is his furthest foray from Kyiv since Russia's invasion began 15 months ago.

He arrived significantly buoyed by what he called a "historic" White House decision to allow Ukraine access to F-16 jets, among the most sophisticated materiel yet supplied by the West.

The group of seven rich democracies were huddled in Japan to discuss issues including the need for "constructive and stable" relations with China, which the bloc accused Saturday of "economic coercion."

But it was Zelensky's arrival, and debate about the future of the war in Ukraine, that has dominated the summit.

On landing, Zelensky said



the summit would bring "increased cooperation for our victory," and he declared that "today, peace will be closer."

After a bloody winter of fighting that saw Russian gains in the eastern city of Bakhmut, Ukraine's forces have regrouped for a counter-offensive but they remain dependent on the flow of Western weaponry.

Military experts say the aircraft would be a significant upgrade from Ukraine's aging Soviet-era fleet, offering greater ability to eventually strike targets in the air or on the ground.

They are also a potent symbol of Western support for Ukraine, forestalling any talk

of waning interest as the conflict grinds on.

Mick Ryan, a strategist and retired Australian major general, called the decision "very significant."

"F-16s have the sensors and weapon systems that are either equal to, or overmatch, Russian fighters," he told AFP, saying the jets would make life "more difficult" for Russian missile-launching aircraft operating in and around Ukraine.

Until now, US President Joe Biden had effectively vetoed the transfer of US-made F-16s, with officials citing long pilot training times and the risk of escalating the conflict with Russia.

MILITARY EXPERTS SAY THE AIRCRAFT WOULD be a significant upgrade from Ukraine's aging Soviet-era fleet, offering greater ability to eventually strike targets in the air or on the ground.

Russia: Giving F-16 Fighter Jets To Ukraine A 'Colossal Risk'

Agencies

Western countries will be running "colossal risks" if they supply Ukraine with F-16 fighter jets, a Russian official says.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko was responding to a question about the implications of providing the jets, which Ukraine has been requesting from NATO countries, the TASS news agency reported.

Ukraine has not yet won commitments to deliver the planes, but US President Joe Biden told G7 leaders on Friday that Washington supports joint allied training programmes for Ukrainian pilots on F-16s, senior United States officials said.

"We see that Western countries are still adhering to the escalation scenario. It involves colossal risks for themselves," Grushko was quoted as saying.

"In any case, this will be taken into account in all our plans, and we have all the necessary means to achieve the goals we have set."

Alexandre Vautravers, editor-in-chief of

the Swiss Military Review, said despite Russia's warning Moscow was unlikely to escalate the situation.

"Every time a new weapon system has been given to Ukraine, we have heard a lot of rhetoric — but very little in the way of action from Russia," he told Al Jazeera from Geneva. "I think the rhetoric today is not a sufficient deterrence."

Vautravers added Kyiv is also facing important technical issues that needed to be addressed for the F-16 fighters.

"It is rapidly running out of air defence missiles, and it is necessary to plug in the holes of Ukraine's air defence with these aircraft," he said.

But the Ukrainian leader had faced rejection until now from his Western allies who feared providing Ukraine with advanced offensive weapons could be met with an escalation by Russian President Vladimir Putin and the spread of the war in Europe.

Zelensky on Saturday thanked British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the G7 summit in Japan for his support in forming a coalition to deliver Western fighter jets.



Iran Asks Kabul to Supply Its Share Of Water In A Month

Agencies

A senior Iranian official has urged Afghanistan's Taliban government to commit to a major water treaty signed between the two countries nearly half a century ago and supply Iran with its share of water from the Hirmand River, also known as Helmand, within a month.

Iran's special representative for Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, made the remarks on Friday, reiterating that the Taliban must be held accountable for their refusal to deliver Iran's water rights if it is proven that there is enough water in dams built on the Hirmand River.

He went on to say that the Taliban officials are well aware that if they want to establish a stable government in the country, they must have constructive relations with their neighbors, including Iran.

The Helmand River, the longest watercourse in Afghanistan, rises in the Hindu Kush Mountains west of Kabul and flows in an arc south-west until it empties out into the Hamoun wetlands, located in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Qomi further noted that nearly two billion cubic meters of water flew to Godzareh Lake last year due to the dam's condition contrary to what Taliban officials have claimed about the shortage of water due to drought and technical issues.

He added that Taliban technical officials say that over time, the dam's reservoir is filled with 60 percent of mud, arguing that this means the capacity of this dam is about 1.7 billion cubic meters, and if this water were to flow, Iran could have its share of water.

"Now the claim is that there is 60% mud. This should be seen by our technical experts," he stressed.

Qomi also reminded the ruling administration in Kabul that Iran has provided assistance to the people of Afghanistan more than any other country over the past decades.

Iran and Afghanistan have been locked in a long-running dispute over shared water resources. At the heart of the dispute is the Helmand River, which flows 700 miles (1,126 kilometers) south before flowing into Hamoun wetlands, located in Sistan and Baluchestan province.

NEWS MAKERS

Supreme Court Relief For Man Facing Death Penalty In Rape And Murder Case

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has quashed the conviction and death penalty awarded to a man for the alleged rape and murder of a six-year-old girl in 2010, saying "multitudinous lapses" in the investigation have compromised the quest to punish the doer of such a barbaric act in absolute peril.

Referring to the manner in which probe into the case was undertaken by the Maharashtra Police, the top court said numerous lapses blot the entire map and there were "yawning gaps" in the chain of circumstances rendering it far from being established.

A bench headed by Justice B R Gavi delivered its verdict on the appeals filed by the accused against the conviction and death sentence awarded to him by a trial court.

While allowing the appeals, the top court quashed the verdict convicting the



accused and directed that he be set at liberty forthwith, if not required in any other case.

The bench, also comprising justices Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol, said it was true that the unfortunate incident did take place and at a tender age of six, a life for which much was in store in the future was terrifyingly destroyed and extinguished.

It said the parents of the victim have suffered an unfathomable loss, a wound for which there is no remedy.

"Despite such painful realities being part of this case, we cannot hold within law, the prosecution to have undergone all necessary lengths and efforts to take

the steps necessary for driving home the guilt of the appellant and that of none else in the crime," the bench said in its judgement delivered on Friday.

"There are, in fact, yawning gaps in the chain of circumstances rendering it far from being established-pointing to the guilt of the appellant," it said.

The top court noted that an FIR was lodged in June 2010 at Thane in Maharashtra and the trial court, in November 2014, had convicted the accused and imposed capital punishment for the offence of murder.

It said the courts below had concurrently found the prosecution to have established the case beyond reasonable doubt that the accused, after sexually assaulting the minor girl, had put her to death and thrown the body in a drain to destroy the evidence.

The top court noted that it was a case of circumstantial evidence, as none has witnessed the crime for which the appellant stands charged.

Now Money Laundering Case Against Gujarat Conman

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has conducted searches at a dozen locations in Gujarat against alleged conman Kiran Patel who is accused of cheating people by impersonating as a PMO official while taking the Jammu and Kashmir administration on a ride.

The searches, carried out on May 19, resulted in seizure of documents related to immovable properties apart from recovery of "highly incriminating" material, the agency said in a statement.

"Further investigation in respect of his activities in J-K and other places is in progress," it said.

A total of 12 locations in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Morbi and Mehsana in Gujarat in the investigation relating to Kiranbhai Jagdishbhai Patel and his associates Jay Savjibhai Sitapara, Hardik Kishorebhai Chandrana, Vitthalbhai Motibhai Patel, Amit Pandya and Piyush Kantibhai Vasita were searched.

The ED alleged Patel, with criminal intention, employed high degree of forged means, impersonated himself as senior government official serving in PMO as 'Dr Kiran Patel, Additional Director, PMO (Strategies and Campaigns)'.



By resorting to cheating, forgery and impersonation, Patel duped gullible people and also intentionally induced people to do and also to omit to do activities, under a well-knit plan for securing monetary as well as material benefits, it said.

The money laundering case stems from an FIR of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"Kiranbhai Patel is a habitual scammer and imposter as other FIRs have also been registered against him and his family members in Gujarat for defrauding gullible people by pretending himself as a high-rank officer in the government and showing his political connections," it said.

Security Beefed Up Ahead Of Farmers' Meet In Support Of Protesting Wrestlers: Police

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The security has been beefed up at Jantar Mantar and on Delhi's borders ahead of a farmers' meeting in support of the protesting wrestlers on Sunday, police said.

Multi-layer barricades have been placed on the city's borders and checking has been intensified, they said.

The police also said vehicles entering Delhi will be checked

ditional security personnel will be deployed.

The protesting wrestlers on Saturday warned that a "big decision", which might "not be in the interest of the country", could be taken on Sunday to protest the "inaction" against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for his alleged sexual harassment of women grapplers.

The wrestlers have set May



as pickets increased.

According to a senior police officer, adequate security arrangements are being made in and around Jantar Mantar and added multi-layer barricades have already been placed at the protest site. The whole area will be covered by CCTV cameras to monitor the situation round the clock.

Another officer said patrolling will be increased on Delhi's borders. If needed, ad-

21 as the deadline for the khap mahapanchayat to decide on taking the agitation forward.

The wrestlers have been protesting at Jantar Mantar since April 23 demanding the arrest of the WFI chief, accused of sexually harassing seven female wrestlers, including a minor.

On April 28, the Delhi Police registered two FIRs against the WFI chief on the basis of sexual harassment complaints filed by the wrestlers.

Air Force Grounds Entire MiG-21 Jet Fleet For Checks After Rajasthan Crash

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has grounded the entire fleet of MiG-21 fighter aircraft till the checks are carried out and investigations into the reasons behind the crash over Rajasthan earlier this month are ascertained.

Three people lost their lives in the crash when a MiG-21 Bison aircraft airborne from the Suratgarh air base crashed over Hanumangarh in a village on May 8. "The MiG-21 fleet has been grounded till the investigations are carried out and reasons for the crash are ascertained," senior defence officials told ANI here.

The MiG-21 aircraft variants started getting inducted into the Indian Air Force over five decades and are on the verge of being phased out.

There are only three MiG-21 squadrons operating in the IAF

and all of them are going to be phased out by the early part of 2025, they said.

The fighter jet that crashed over Rajasthan was on a routine training sortie when it met with an accident. The pilot suffered minor injuries after which an inquiry had been launched to probe the exact cause of the crash.

The IAF has 31 combat aircraft squadrons including three of the MiG-21 Bison variant.

The MIG-21 was inducted into the IAF in the 1960s and 800 variants of the fighter have been in service.

The crash rate of the MiG-21 has been a cause of concern in recent times as many of them have met with accidents. The IAF is also looking at induction of the indigenous aircraft including the LCA Mark 1A and LCA Mark 2 along with the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft.



Officer Who Arrested Aryan Khan Questioned By CBI For Over 5 Hours

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The CBI on Saturday questioned former Mumbai NCB chief Sameer Wankhede for more than five hours in a case in which he is accused of demanding a ₹25 crore bribe from superstar Shah Rukh Khan for not implicating his son Aryan in the Cordelia cruise 'drug bust' case, an official said.

MR Wankhede reached the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) office in Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) around 10.15 am. Talking to media persons while entering the agency office, Wankhede just said "Satyamev Jayate" (truth alone triumphs). He didn't speak to media persons while leaving the office.

The Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer was given a lunch break for around 30 minutes at around 2 pm. He returned to the CBI office and joined the investigation. He left for the day at around 4:30 pm, the official said.

It was his first appearance before the agency after the case was registered against him, the

official said.

The CBI had summoned the former Mumbai Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) zonal director for questioning on Thursday in connection with the case, but he did not appear that day.

The central agency booked Mr Wankhede and four others on May 11 for alleged criminal conspiracy and threat of extortion, besides under provisions pertaining to bribery under the Prevention of Corruption Act on a complaint by the NCB.

Officer Who Arrested Aryan Khan Questioned By CBI For Over 5 Hours It was Sameer Wankhede's first appearance before CBI after the case was registered against him.

Mumbai: The CBI on Saturday questioned former Mumbai NCB chief Sameer Wankhede for more than five hours in a case in which he is accused of demanding a ₹25 crore bribe from superstar Shah Rukh Khan for not implicating his son Aryan in the Cordelia cruise 'drug bust' case, an official said.



HC Stays Official Notification For Conduct Of Gurdwara Prabandhak Board Elections Across Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has stayed a notification issued by the divisional commissioner, Jammu, early this month for conduct of elections to the Gurdwara Prabandhak Board (GPB) across the division.

Hearing a petition filed by Satinder Singh on Friday, high court judge Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said the Sikh Gurdwaras and Religious Endowment Act and the rules framed thereunder provide that the Board is a single constituent body and its members -- 15 in all -- can be elected by a single process both at Kashmir and Jammu divisions simultaneously and not otherwise.

"The divisional commissioner, Jammu, has issued the notification (on May 9) illegally by directing conduct of the elections in Jammu division only Subject to objections and till next date of hearing before the bench, the operation of the impugned notification shall remain stayed," the judge said, listing the case for next hearing on May 26.

Singh had earlier moved a petition challenging the process of conduct of the elections to the Gurdwara Prabandhak Board issued in terms of notification on January 28.

"It has been brought to the

notice of the court by the applicant, appearing in person, that the said process of conduct of the elections to the aforementioned Board was also challenged in Srinagar Wing of this Court in a writ petition in which a co-ordinate bench of this court (on February 22) has shown indulgence and granted status quo with regard to the holding of the elections to the board although in a different context.

"The applicant appearing in person has further brought to the notice of the Court that after passing of the status quo order by the Srinagar Wing of this Court in the aforesaid writ petition, the process of election to the Board so far as it pertains to the Kashmir/Jammu Division in terms of Notifications (January 28) by the concerned Returning Officers of Jammu and Kashmir Division - the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu and the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir - was deferred," the court said in its five-page order.

Further, the court was informed that the Board consists of 15 members, eight from Jammu division and seven from Kashmir division, which clearly shows beyond any shadow of doubt that the members are to be elected for both the divisions and the election process has to be a composite election process.

Centre's Ordinance Travesty, Against Spirit Of Cooperative Federalism: Omar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the ordinance by the Centre on transfer of bureaucrats in Delhi was a travesty and against the spirit of cooperative federalism.

Abdullah, however, said it was a shame that the AAP did not realise the danger when it sided with the BJP in August 2019, when the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370.

"What has been done to Delhi is a travesty and goes against the spirit of cooperative federalism. That said Raghav, it's a shame the AAP didn't realise the danger of its actions when it happily sided with the BJP in August 2019.

"JandK was dismembered



and reduced to a Union territory and the people have been disenfranchised for five years. Sadly your chickens have come home to roost now," he said in a tweet.

Abdullah's assertions came in response to AAP leader Raghav Chadha's remarks over the issue.

The Centre promulgated the ordinance on Friday to create a National Capital Civil Service Authority for transfer of IAS and DANICS cadre officers and disciplinary proceedings against them.

Founder Rouble Nagi Art Foundation Calls On LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ms Rouble Nagi, Artist, Author and founder Rouble Nagi Art Foundation called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Saturday.

Ms Nagi discussed with the Lt Governor her endeavours to introduce Hashtag Art to Srinagar city including #KASHMIR, #SRINAGAR, #DALLAKE & #POLOVIEW and enhancing the visual appeal of the Selfie points with a touch of Art, meticulous installation that will resonate with the subject matter and target audience.

The Lt Governor appreciated her contribution to Jammu Kashmir and the world of art.

DC Shopian Conducts Extensive Tour Of Town

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb Saturday conducted an extensive tour of Shopian town to assess the developmental initiatives required for its holistic and sustainable development.

During the tour, the DDC visited several areas including Kanipora, Main Chowk to take first hand assessment of requirements of the town, and made a comprehensive strategy for its development in terms of all developmental

parameters.

The DDC discussed the plans with concerned development officers on initiatives to be taken on a wide range of issues including rehabilitation of street vendors, identification and creating green spaces, development of parking lots, better utilization of resources for better traffic management.

He instructed the concerned executing agencies of various developmental projects to execute the projects as conceived during plan formulation, for making the town smart and beautiful.



A CRPF COMMANDO POINTS his gun during a special security drill inside Srinagar's Dal Lake on Saturday.
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

MeT Predicts Widespread Rain From May 22-25

Night Temp Rises But Hovers Below Normal In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for mainly dry weather for now and widespread rains from May 23 to 25, night temperature recorded a rise but hovered below normal in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of 9.7°C against 9.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 7.6°C against 7.0°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.6°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 3.6°C against 2.7°C on the previous night and it was 2.3°C below normal for the

famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 8.3°C against 6.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 8.3°C against 7.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 4.8°C against 3.0°C on previous night and it was below normal by 2.0°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 22.6°C against 21.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C below normal for J&K's winter

capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 9.3°C (below normal by 2.4°C), Batote 13.0°C (1.1°C below normal), Katra 18.6°C (2.3°C below normal) and Bhaderwah 9.6°C (below normal by 0.8°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 1.6°C and 6.2°C respectively, he said.

Regarding the forecast, he said, till May 22 weather is likely to be mainly clear. However, he said, a brief spell of rain/thunderstorm may occur at a few places towards late afternoon and evening.

From May 23 to 25, the weather department forecast widespread light to moderate rain/thunder/lightning with possibility of hailstorm and gusty winds at few places. (GNS)

CS launches G-20 Quiz & Photo Competition on My Gov portal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Saturday launched the open quiz and photo competition about "G20 in Jammu and Kashmir" on the MyGov portal here in presence of Commissioner Secretary, IT, Purna Puri.

Both these competitions are available on the Jammu & Kashmir web portal that could be accessed by logging on to www.jk.mygov.in and going to the active link of the competition there from.

Dr Mehta called these initiatives a way of celebrating the prestigious international event happening under the presidency of our country. He encouraged all residents of UT, especially the students, to participate in these contests to gain knowledge about this big forum and the local customs, traditions and locales.

On the occasion it was given out that the main objective of holding the quiz is to focus on the various aspects of G20 in Jammu and Kashmir and the questions can range from Culture, Tradition, Tourism and



IT Initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir. Further, it is aimed at promoting G20 awareness and its understanding among the citizens.

It can also foster critical thinking skills amongst students by asking challenging questions that require them to think deeply about important summits thereby broadening their horizons, igniting their passion for global affairs, and providing valuable experiences.

After completion of the Quiz participant will get a certificate of participation also.

Regarding the G20 Photo Competition the participants have to submit photographs capturing G20 landscapes in

J&K in a creative way to capture the essence and impact of this important international event. The photographs can have specific categories like cultures, traditions, tourism or people and relevance to the G20.

Each photo entry should include a maximum of one photograph with caption, location and date inscribed in it. It should be less than 5 MB and downloadable in JPG format only. The entry should be original and should not have been previously published in any print or digital media without any copyrighted or trademarked images and logos and need to be submitted on MyGov portal till 22nd June 2023.

Massive Searches In Ramban, Security Stepped Up Along Banihal Highway

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Security forces on Saturday carried out massive searches targeting the houses of militants who have crossed over to Pakistan and those belonging to their associates in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, police said.

The vigil along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway was also intensified as part of the stringent security arrangement across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of next week's G20 meeting, they said.

The officials said police and security force personnel conducted the raids on houses of militants who moved to Pakistan 15-20 years ago and those who have returned to the Union territory via Nepal, slain ultras, militant sympathizers and supporters and other suspected persons in Banihal and Khari tehsil of Ramban, they said.

No one was arrested during the day-long operation, the officials added.

J&K Has Made Big Strides Towards Digital Transformation In 2 Years: CS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta launched the integration of different services offered by Government Departments with online platform Umang and Digilocker.

Those who were present at this launch event includes Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary Health and many other concerned officers and officials.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary recalled that over the past 2 years the J&K has made big strides towards digital transformation and has launched 'Digital Jammu & Kashmir' programme in mission mode aiming at empowering its citizens by providing quality service delivery to them that also at the comforts of their homes.

Dr Mehta reiterated the Government commitment to 'Zero Tolerance to Corruption' and provision of all G2C services at the doorstep without need for visiting Government offices. He underscored the need to facilitate accessibility of services at a single place.

Peace, Unity; Development Only Agenda Of DPAP: Azad

Press Trust Of India

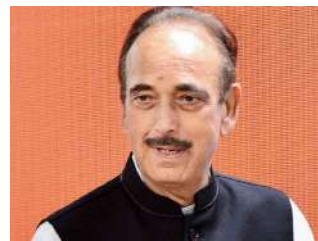
JAMMU: Peace, unity and development are the only agenda of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), its chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad said as he started a three-day tour of Doda district on Saturday.

"Chenab valley (comprising Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts) is my main focus and we will ensure it is developed and connected properly with the rest of the country," Azad said, interacting with party workers and members of various delegations.

He said it was the duty of his party leadership to reach out to people at their doorsteps instead of making them run from pillar to post to seeking redressal of their grievances.

"I have directed my party leaders to reach out to every person of our Union Territory and hear them patiently," he said, claiming that the downfall of the Congress started when the leaders lost connection with the public.

Azad, who resigned from the Congress and floated the DPAP last year, said Congress workers were forced to run here and there to seek appointment with their leaders for resolu-



tion of any issue.

Reiterating the demand for early assembly elections and restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, he said all issues faced by the people will be addressed when there is an elected government in the Union territory.

"People are waiting for so many years for a popular government...," he said.

He also cautioned people against politics of polarisation.

"We are living in an era where politics is played by triggering regional and religious issues and dividing people to gain electorally. We do not believe in the politics of polarisation and hatred. We are strong when we are united and we will work to strengthen peace and brotherhood," he said.

Peace, unity and development are the only agenda of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party, he added.

Vaishno Devi Shrine Gears Up For Heavy Pilgrim Influx

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Anticipating an increase in the footfall of devotees with the onset of summer holidays in many states across the country, authorities on Saturday called for extra measures for the safety of the pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Executive Officer of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Anshul Garg exhorted that security forces and other personnel deployed at all entry points should remain vigilant so that no pilgrim without frisking and registration enters the track for the pilgrimage.

He also stressed on verification and census of pony porters, besides any suspicious element on the track.

More than 33 lakh pilgrims have visited the famous shrine from January 1 to May 15 this year, marking an increase of nearly four lakhs compared to the same period last year, officials said.

Garg was chairing a meeting with security agencies for a comprehensive security and operational preparedness in anticipation of the burgeoning of devotees over the next couple of months.

The meeting discussed foolproof measures to ensure the best pilgrimage experience to the visiting devotees, an official release said.

"As summer holidays are inches closer in the country and the shrine being a tourist

destination, we are expecting heavy influx of the devotees. There is a need for action on diverse fronts for hassle-free pilgrimage, including issuance and verification of RFID cards and effective crowd management," Garg said.

He also highlighted augmentation of holding areas on the track and in Katra town, working out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the Bhawan area, separation of entry, exit routes at Bhawan and all time surveillance through dedicated CCTV network of over 700 cameras.

In addition, the CEO also reviewed in detail various components of the disaster management measures including fire fighting preparedness to ensure quick and most effective response from all stakeholders in the wake of any emergent situation, the release said.

Besides, he directed for regular announcements for the decongestion of the crowd on the track.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Amit Gupta talked about major challenges for the deployed personnel in coming days for managing the expected influx of pilgrims.

"Ample deployment of forces is already in place and beat system is prevailing at Bhawan in coordination with SMVDSB and other security agencies on the track to ensure foolproof security and effective yatra management, besides multi-tier security grid comprising police, CRPF and other paramilitary forces," the officer said.

ARTO Bandipora Cracks Whip On Traffic Violators

Recovers 50,000 From Offenders, Blacklists 5 Vehicles

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In an effort to ensure road safety and discipline, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora has launched a crackdown on traffic violators and booked numerous offenders and implemented a vehicle blacklisting initiative to curb repeated offenses.

During checking, an amount of Rs 50000 was on-spot recovered from traffic violators besides a total number of 05 vehicles were blacklisted.

Sharing details, the ARTO Bandipora, Bilal Ahmad Mir said they conducted a series of operations and checkpoints on Sumbal-Bandipora road. He said the aim was to identify and penalize individuals violating traffic rules, thereby creating awareness and promoting responsible driving habits.

The operations targeted various traffic violations such as overspeeding and reckless driving besides special focus



was laid on the installation of speed limiting devices and document checking.

In addition to the penalties imposed on the violators, the ARTO Bandipora has implemented a vehicle blacklisting system to deter repeat offenses. Under this initiative, vehicles involved in severe traffic violations or multiple offenses will be blacklisted, leading to restrictions on their use on public roads.

Sebi Proposes To Cut Down IPO Listing Timeline To 3 Days From 6 Days

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Saturday proposed to reduce the time taken for the listing of shares on stock exchanges after the closure of initial public offerings (IPOs) to three days from six days at present.

The proposed reduction in timelines for listing and trading of shares will benefit both issuers as well as investors.

"Issuers will have faster access to the capital raised thereby enhancing the ease of doing business and the investors will have opportunity for having early credit and liquidity of their investment", Sebi said in its consultation paper.

The markets regulator, in November 2018, introduced Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as an additional payment mechanism with Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) for retail investors and prescribed the timelines for listing within six days of closure of issue (T+6). 'T' is the day of closure of the issue.

Over the last few years, Sebi has ensured that a series of sys-



temic enhancements have been undertaken across all the key stakeholders of the IPO ecosystem to streamline the activities involved in the processing of public issues which will pave the way to reduce the listing timelines from T+6 to T+3.

In its consultation paper, Sebi has suggested the reduction of the time period from the date of issue closure to the date of listing of shares through public issues from the existing six days to three days (T+3).

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public till June 3 on the proposal.

This comes after Sebi has done extensive back-testing and simulations by all stakeholders including stock exchanges, sponsor banks, NPCI, depositories and registrars in respect of various key activities involved in the public issue process.

Withdrawal Of Rs 2,000 Note Will Have No Impact On Economy: Ex-Finance Secy

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes is a 'non-event' and will have zero impact on the economy and monetary policy, former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said on Saturday.

The higher denomination currency note of Rs 2,000, he said, was pressed into service at the time of demonetisation in 2016 for 'accidental reasons' to meet the temporary currency shortage.

With rapid growth of digital payments over the last five-six years, Garg said withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes, which is actually a replacement by other denominations, will not affect total currency in circulation and therefore will have no monetary policy effect.

"Neither will it affect the operation of India's economic and financial system. There is going to be zero impact on GDP growth or public welfare," he told PTI.

In a surprise move, the Reserve Bank on Friday announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

It is quite easy to expect almost all the Rs 2,000 currency notes in circulation to come back to RBI and there is unlikely to be any inconvenience or loss to anyone because these notes form a small part of the currency in circulation and not widely used for day-to-day transactions, he said.

Clarifying that the withdrawal of currency notes by RBI is not demonetisation, he said, it is the government which has the authority to withdraw the legal tender status of currency notes, not RBI.



Rs 2,000 currency notes will continue to remain perfect legal tender therefore, he said, adding, RBI's measures are largely an attempt to nudge people holding these notes to get the same exchanged for other currency notes in circulation.

Garg, who was Economic Affairs Secretary and in-charge of coin and currency division during remonetisation days, said Rs 2,000 notes were introduced not as a well thought out measure but something which was only available readily to latch on.

The government had perhaps approved printing of Rs 2,000 currency notes a few months before demonetisation to introduce a higher denomination note, he said. The fate of Rs 2,000 currency note was sealed even before it was introduced and it had to make its way out as soon as possible, he added. Garg said the process of reducing the circulation of Rs 2,000 notes for its eventual phase-out started soon after demonetisation.

The total value of Rs 2,000 currency notes was about Rs 7 lakh crore when an in-principle decision was taken in July-August 2017 to not print any more Rs 2,000 notes, he said, adding, a small quantity of such notes were printed in March-April 2018 to tide over the mini currency notes shortage at that time.

Dulloo Chairs UT Level Consultative Committee Meeting Of FPOs

Asks officers to eliminate bottlenecks for effective functioning of organizations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Saturday chaired a UT Level Consultative Committee Meeting of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on functioning of FPOs in Jammu and Kashmir and identifying any constraints or challenges being faced by these organizations besides suggesting measures to overcome them. The concerned officers gave several suggestions towards ensuring that FPOs are functioning efficiently and effectively in achieving their objectives.

While reviewing status of FPOs in J&K, Atal Dulloo said that there are certain road-blocks which need to be removed for successful implementation of the scheme. He asked the officers to create awareness among the farmers about the advantages of working together and forming FPOs. He also directed them to frame a calendar of activities regarding seminars and awareness camps for FPOs at the district level.

Atal Dulloo said that many farmers may lack the technical knowledge needed to run an FPO effectively so they need to



be provided requisite training to develop their management and marketing skills.

ACS said that addressing certain bottlenecks will be crucial for successful implementation of 10000 FPO scheme and for improving income of small and marginal farmers in JK. He asked the officers to sensitize the prospective FPOs regarding KYC documents required for opening bank accounts.

The meeting observed that awareness and training programs for bankers and lead banks at district level regarding credit linked schemes of agriculture sector and financing FPOs can play a crucial role in promoting rural development and increasing access to credit for small and marginal farmers.

The training programs shall cover various credit linked schemes for agriculture sec-

tor such as Kisan Credit Card, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kishi Sinchai Yojana and others. The bankers can be trained on the eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, loan processing, disbursement besides monitoring and recovery mechanisms of these schemes.

The meeting also had a thorough discussion on provision of land for creating infrastructure by FPOs, quantum of loan (Term loan/Working Capital) and collateral required for FPO financing, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Farmers Producer Organisations Financing (CGSFP)-NABSanrakshan as the Trustee, Draft Interest Subvention Policy Scheme for FPOs under UT Capex to ensure access to small loans and encourage prompt repayment by FPOs on the pattern of other states.

J&K Bank Dedicates CRM For Public In Anantnag



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Carrying forward ease-of-banking mission by expanding its digital and alternate channels network, J&K Bank today dedicated a Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) for public in Anantnag at Bijbehara.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Anantnag) Khurshed Muzaffar inaugurated the ma-

chine in presence of Chief Manager Juneed Ahmad Wani amid a gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens and local residents besides officials of the Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head urged the people to avail benefits and ease of digital banking and reiterated the Bank's growing focus on digital and alternate banking channels for the convenience

of its customers and people at large. "The idea is to reduce footfall at the branches so that quality of services provided at the branch can be improved", he said.

Locals appreciated the Bank's effort saying the terminal will address the banking needs of people beyond working hours and during all days of week including holidays.

At G7 Summit, PM Modi Calls For Building An Inclusive Food System

Press Trust Of India

HIROSHIMA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for building an inclusive food system that focuses on the world's most vulnerable people and pitched for checking the "expansionist mentality" occupying the fertiliser resources.

In an address at a session of the G7 summit in Hiroshima, Modi also strongly batted for the democratisation of technology, saying it can become a bridge between development and democracy.

There is a need to focus on the holistic use of natural resources and the development model inspired by consumerism has to be changed, Modi said.

The prime minister said efforts should be made to build an inclusive food system that focuses on the world's most vulnerable people, especially "marginal farmers should be our priority".

"The global fertiliser supply chains have to be strengthened. Political obstacles in this have to be removed. And the expansionist mentality that is occupying the fertilizer resources has to be stopped. This should be the purpose of our cooperation," he said.

The prime minister, however, did not name any country.

Modi also emphasised on preventing wastage of food saying it should be "our collective responsibility". "It is essential for sustainable global food security," he said.

The group of seven (G7), comprising the US, France, the UK, Italy, Germany, Canada and Japan, represent the world's richest democracies. Under its G7 presidency, Japan invited India and seven other countries to the summit.

Modi also underlined the need for focusing on develop-



ment, technology and democracy together.

"It is necessary to democratise technology. Technology can become a bridge between development and democracy," he said.

The prime minister also noted that the model of development should pave the way for welfare and not become a hindrance to the progress of developing countries.

"I am confident that our discussions today will be useful in creating an important link between the agenda of the G20 and the G7. And will be successful in prioritising the hopes and expectations of the Global South," he said.

The prime minister also highlighted the importance of natural farming.

"We can create a new model of natural farming as an alternative to fertilisers around the world. I believe that we should take the benefit of digital technology to every farmer in the world," he said.

Modi said that there is a need to separate organic food from "fashion statement and commerce" and instead, it should be linked to nutrition and health.

He also spoke about the advantages of millets.

"Millets simultaneously address the challenges of nutrition, climate change, water conservation and food security. Awareness should be created on this," he said.

EPFO Adds 13.4 Lakh Members In March, 1.39 Cr in 2022-23

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Retirement fund body EPFO added 13.40 lakh members on a net basis in March, taking the total addition to 1.39 crore in 2022-23, according to payroll data released on Saturday.

EPFO had added a total of 1.22 crore members on a net basis in 2021-22. Out of 13.40 lakh members added during the month of March, around 7.58 lakh new members have come under the ambit of EPFO for the first time, a labour ministry statement said.

"During the financial year 2022-23, around 1.39 crore net members have been added by the EPFO with an increase of 13.22 percent compared to the previous financial year 2021-22 wherein EPFO had added approximately 1.22 crore net members," the statement said. (Also Read: Smartphones Are Bad For

Kids, Says Ex-Xiaomi Head)

Among the newly joined members, the highest enrolment is registered in the age group of 18-21 years with 2.35 lakh members, followed by the age group of 22-25 years with 1.94 lakh members.

The age-groups of 18-25 years constitute 56.60 percent of total new members added during the month. This age-wise comparison of payroll data indicates that the majority

of the members joining the organised sector workforce of the country are first-time job seekers.

The data also highlights that approximately 10.09 lakh members re-joined EPFO membership. These members switched their jobs and re-joined the establishments covered under EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, extending their social security protection, it stated.



G-20: JKEDI Starts Training For Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Observer News Service

RAMBAN- Director Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Ajaz Ahmad Bhat Saturday inaugurated a 5-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for aspiring entrepreneurs of district Ramban here at Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Banihal.

The programme has been organized under the banner of Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) by district administration Ramban.

To strengthen institutional mechanisms for skill development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for youth across the country, SANKALP has been launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India.

It works for Institutional Strengthening at National, State and District level; Quality Assurance of skill development programmes and Inclu-

sion of marginalized population in skill development programmes.

"It is true that the participants present here have undergone skill training in their chosen fields, but a successful business owner must also understand the latest nuances of doing business. It is equally important to understand marketing, branding, and other concepts related to business. Innovation and technology will define your business and will make it unique and successful," said Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director, JKEDI.

During the 5-day EDP, the participants will be apprised about basic business concepts like business plan formulation, marketing plans, accounts management, and many other topics of relevance, so that they can successfully run their businesses. The participants have already received sector-specific short-term technical training in their chosen businesses, and now will benefit from JKEDI's specially curated training modules.



Agri Min E-Inaugurates Hi-Tech Honey Testing Laboratory In Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: 17th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara was held Saturday under the chairmanship of Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi.

On the occasion, a Hi-tech Honey Testing Laboratory was online inaugurated by Narindar Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of India and offline by Director Extension Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Senior Scientist & Head KVK Kupwara and PI of the project Dr. Rizwana Khurshed.

The minister interacted with the progressive farmer of the Kendra, Ms. Pakeeza who established a unit after getting training from the Kendra.

The Director Extension SKUAST-K in his address stressed on liaison of Kendra with all the departments with respect to Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) so that the activities of the plan are carried out with line departments efficiently and time bound.

Senior Scientist & Head KVK Kupwara, Dr. Kaiser Mohiuddin Malik presented the Progress Report of 2022-23 and action plan of year 2023-24.

The meeting was attended by all district officers of line departments where they discussed various schemes of their respective departments and also appreciated the role of KVK in bridging the gap between farmers and the line departments.

Preparations Reviewed For Tourism Activities In Bangus

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, the Chief Executive officer, LBDDA (ADC Kupwara), Gh. Nabi Bhat Saturday convened a joint meeting of officers at TRC Kupwara, here to review the preparations for tourism activities to further boost the tourism potential in Kupwara district.

Chief Executive Officer, Lolab Bangus Drangyari Development Authority (LBDDA) took the detailed review of the activities to be carried out by LBDDA, Tourism department and Forest department throughout the season in Bangus and other tourist destinations of the district.

The meeting was apprised that an action plan of Rs. 2.50 crore have been approved under Capex (tourism) budget for financial year 2023-24 for LBDDA.

The CEO said that the Kupwara has a huge tourism potential which is being brought on a tourism map and tourist footfall

in the district has increased. Tourism activities in the district are providing the employment avenues for the unemployed youth of this district.

The CEO said that nature has bestowed Kupwara with scenic beauty, lush green forests and crystal clear waters which provide an enormous potential for tourism related activities and tourism development.

Kupwara district is proving a paradise for trekkers, adventurers, border tourists and nature lovers.

He asked the officers to work with synergy and convergence so that necessary facilities to the visitors are provided.

The CEO said participation of local youth is a basic requirement for sustainability of tourism activities in the district which will provide livelihood to the unemployed educated youth and also provide scope for building tourism destinations in the district.

The CEO impressed upon all the stakeholders to extend their

support in upgrading the eco friendly tourism infrastructure.

While reviewing the arrangements being done at famous tourist destination Bangus, CEO directed the concerned officers to start tourism activities in advance at Bangus keeping in mind the increased tourist footfall.

The meeting was informed that 25 Dhokas are being developed at Bangus as homestay under SSSY during the current financial year.

CEO, LBDDA emphasised that polythene and other wastes in any case should not enter into Bangus and directed that Polythene Free Bangus will be ensured by LBDDA with the help of Forest department and on monthly basis cleanliness drive will be conducted.

The general public was requested to help in keeping Bangus Polythene Free "We have to ensure the safe stay, clean drinking water, proper sanitation and cleanliness and other basic facilities for tourists visiting Bangus" CEO said.



J&K Wins T-20 Junior National Tennis Ball Cricket C'ship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K boys' team emerged as national champions in the recently held T-20 Junior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship (Boys & Girls) held at Agra in Uttar Pradesh from 17th to 19th May, 2023.

The J & K Boys team remained unbeaten in the National Championship and defeated hosts UP in the finals by 10 wickets.

After winning the toss, UP set a target of 57 runs in the allotted quota on the loss of 7 wickets. J&K thrashed the UP bowlers

and chased the target of 58 runs in just 3.5 overs without losing any wicket.

J&K girls team also showed a splendid performance in the tournament and qualified up to the finals. Tamil Nadu defeated J&K in the finals. Midhat Jan captain of J&K Junior girls team was the star performer.

Ubair Lone of J&K Junior boys team was the star performer in the entire National Championship and scored 56 runs in the finals and was declared Man of the match as well as Player of the tournament.

Sports Activities By YSS Continue Across J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) continued organising sports events across J&K on Saturday.

YSS organized an Inter District Provincial Level (Backlog 2022-23) Basketball Competition for boys and girls under the age group of 19 years at Samba.

An Inter District Provincial Level Handball Girls U-19 kicked off at Baramulla on Saturday in connection with G20 Meeting celebrations. YSS Baramulla organised a grand event showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of the youth. District teams from all districts of Kashmir division are participating in the competition. More than 1200 participants from various sports zones took part in different sports events organized by DYSSO Baramulla.

Zone Dangarpore organized a drug de-addiction rally, where in over 500 students from HSS Dangarpore to HS Shiva actively participated. Zone Chandanwari conducted an Inter School Cross Country Run for boys of all age groups, with more than 300 students participating. Zone Boniyar organized activities such as carrom, chess, and a walkathon for both boys and girls. Zone Fatehgarh conducted a Pad Yatra, with more than 200 students participating from both genders.

HSS Pattan organized a Cross

Country Run from the Railway Station to HSS Pattan, with over 100 students taking part. Additionally, Zone Sopore conducted a two-day sports festival for boys and girls.

DYSSO Bandipora also successfully organised a series of activities. The events included yoga sessions, a cleanliness drive, mass physical training, and an inter-school martial arts competition, witnessing a total participation of 700 students across the district.

Similarly, YSS Kupwara also organised series of activities in various disciplines at both the Inter School Zonal Level and Inter Zonal District Level. Students from both boys and girls categories actively participated in activities such as Yoga, Rope Skipping, and Carrom held at different venues. Zonal headquarters of Tangdar and Chamkoot, even in far-flung zones of the district, witnessed spirited Inter School Zonal Level Competitions.

The Government College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal (GCOPEG) conducted Annual College road race 2023 on Saturday from college premises to Duderhama via hospital road and back.

In Pulwama, Zone Awantipura organised different sports activities in the form of volleyball match and many minor and recreational games for school students.

IPL 2023: RCB Play GT, Eye A Playoff Spot



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Playing this IPL's last league stage match, Royal Challengers Bangalore would know what exactly is required of them to qualify for the playoffs, when they face table-toppers Gujarat Titans here on Sunday.

With batting maestro Virat Kohli back at his absolute best and skipper Faf du Plessis leading from the front with 600-plus runs this season, RCB will hope their dazzling opening duo fires in this must-win game for them.

Currently placed at fourth position, Royal Challengers Bangalore also have a better net run rate (NRR) of 0.180 than Mumbai Indians (-0.128), who take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in Sunday's first game, and Rajasthan Royals.

Besides playing in front of their beloved home crowd that will back them vociferously come Sunday, the other

advantage for du Plessis' side is that they feature in the last game of the league round on Sunday evening, by which time RCB would know the outcome of the duel between MI and SRH in Mumbai.

However, it will mean nothing if they lose to defending champions Gujarat Titans, a formidable outfit without an iota of doubt and led admirably by star all-rounder Hardik Pandya throughout the season, the reward of which is a top-two finish in the league stage with a real chance of retaining the title they won in their inaugural season.

While Gujarat Titans lead the pecking order with 18 points after winning nine matches and losing four, RCB are equal with MI, RR on points ahead of their game at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Entering this game, both teams are coming off big wins, GT over Sunrisers Hyderabad by 34 runs and RCB by eight

wickets over the 2016 champions by eight wickets after a sparkling hundred by Kohli, his sixth overall across IPL.

RCB would certainly take confidence from the manner in which they chased down a target of 186 in their previous outing against SRH, with both Kohli and du Plessis firing.

The match against GT, however, is going to be a different ball game altogether considering the kind of resources RCB's opponents possess and the confidence they carry into their matches.

It will be interesting to see how the trio of Kohli, du Plessis, and Glenn Maxwell go about their tasks against GT.

South African du Plessis, who holds the Orange Cap for scoring the most runs, has so far amassed 631 runs in 13 games. He also leads the chart for hitting the most sixes (34). Meanwhile, Kohli is sixth in the list for top scorers with 438 runs.

Match starts at 7.30PM IST.

CSK Seal Playoff Berth With 77-Run Win Over DC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Devon Conway, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Deepak Chahar brought their 'A' game to the fore as Chennai Super Kings cantered to a 77-run crushing victory over Delhi Capitals to seal an IPL play-off berth here on Saturday.

Playing a must-win game, Conway (87 off 52) and Gaikwad (79 off 50) smashed brilliant half-centuries to help Chennai Super Kings post a challenging 223/3 after captain MS Dhoni opted to bat.

Skipper David Warner, DC's best batter this season, waged a lone battle, scoring 86 off 58 deliveries. But in the end the home team could manage only 146/9 in 20 overs after Chahar dealt a killer blow removing a couple of top-order batters within Powerplay overs.

It was another shameful performance from DC batters as save Warner, none of the others could cross individual score of 15. The profligate Indian core of likes of Prithvi Shaw, Yash Dhilli, Lalit Patel and Aman Hakim Khan continued to em-



barrass and never looked like belonging to this level.

Even the crowd was supporting the visitors as it continued to chant 'Dhoni Dhoni' through out the game and even cheered when Delhi lost wickets.

Chahar (3/22) was the standout bowler for the visitors while Maheesh Theekshana (2/23) picked up two wickets in the last over.

With the win, CSK moved up to 17 points and become the second team to move to the qualifiers. With a net run rate of 0.652 CSK are likely to finish in the top two as only Lucknow Super Giants, who play Kolkata

Knight Riders later in the evening, can finish on 17 points and they have a NRR of 0.304.

Conway and Gaikwad came all guns blazing, hitting boundaries and sixes at will at the tacky Kotla pitch. The two put on 141 runs for the opening stand and smashed a total of 14 fours and 10 sixes.

Delhi's 2023 IPL campaign ended how it began -- with a defeat. Their match performance was representative of their dismal season -- underwhelming bowling, losing wickets in clumps and an overseas batter doing the heavy lifting with the bat.



Decision By Khap Panchayat Could Hurt Nation: Vinesh

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The protesting wrestlers on Saturday warned that a "big decision", which might "not be in the interest of the country", could be taken on Sunday to protest the "inaction" against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for his alleged sexual harassment of women grapplers.

The wrestlers have set May 21 as the deadline for the khap mahapanchayat to decide on taking the agitation forward.

The wrestlers have been protesting at Jantar Mantar since April 23 demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan, who they have accused of having sexually harassed seven female wrestlers, including a minor.

Asian Games gold medalist Vinesh Phogat said the decision of the khaps could hurt the country just like the farmers' agitation, which lasted nearly 13 months.

"The decision our elders take (on Sunday) could be big one, one that might not be in the interest of the country. It could hurt the nation," said Vinesh at a press conference at Jantar Mantar.

She said that it wasn't an easy fight and that the wrestlers too had suffered a lot in terms of missing out on training and competition.

"We too have suffered a lot. An issue that could have been solved in a minute has taken a month... the farmers' agitation lasted 13 months and definitely hurt the nation, so if there is another agitation (like that), definitely the country will suffer," warned Vinesh.

Olympics bronze medalist Bajrang Punia said the marches to create awareness about their plight would continue with a candle-light march planned at the India Gate on May 23.

"We will organise a candle-light march at 4:00 pm at India Gate on May 23," said Bajrang.

"Be it mosque, temple, gurdwara, church we will take our message for justice everywhere," added Vinesh.

Asked if the wrestlers had missed an opportunity by not marching to the Ferozeshah Kotla stadium where the IPL match between the MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals is taking place, Vinesh said, "We are doing our best and will continue to do so (to create awareness)."

Pakistan's Dutch Hockey Coach Resigns After Not Getting Paid For 12 Months

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan's Dutch hockey coach, Siegfried Aikman has resigned from his post after not getting paid for the last 12 months.

Aikman, who had joined the national team last year, took to social media to announce he had officially resigned as head coach.

Though Aikman had returned home from Pakistan late last year over a salary dispute, he didn't relinquish the post waiting for his arrears to be cleared. But with no resolution in sight, he has decided to resign.

Around the time Aikman sent in his resignation to the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), another Dutch coach, Roelant Oltmans, arrived in Pakistan and will fly out with the nation-

al junior squad to Muscat for the Asia Junior Cup on Sunday night.

PHF confirmed that Oltmans had arrived in Lahore and taken charge of the junior team for the continental event.

PHF has not indicated who will pay Oltman's salary or whether Aikman's dues will be cleared.

Aikman had been hired by PHF after the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) said it would pay the Dutch coach's salary. A standoff between the PHF and PSB over elections and constitutional issues led to a situation where the state-controlled body has stopped funding to the PHF.

"Even the (funding of the) team we have sent to Oman has been done by raising money through private donors and sponsors," said a PHF official.



Manchester United In Sight Of Champions League Return After 1-0 Win

Agencies

BOURNEMOUTH: Manchester United is in touching distance of a return to the Champions League after beating Bournemouth 1-0 on Saturday to strengthen its place in the top four of the Premier League.

The win — sealed by Casemiro's close-range overhead kick in the ninth minute — moved United three points clear of fifth-place Liverpool, which drew 1-1 with Aston Villa and only has one game left to play.

United only requires a point from its final two games, at home to Chelsea and Fulham, to get back into the Champions League after a one-season absence. That would be yet another positive for United in a strong first season under Dutch coach Erik ten Hag, who has already guided the team to the English League Cup trophy as well as a spot in the FA Cup final against Manchester City on June 3.



Being in the Champions League should see United attract bigger names in the off-season transfer window, while adding more value to a club that is up for sale and the subject of offers from Qatar and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe. It was maybe fitting that a goal by Casemiro moved United so close to that top-four place, with the Brazil midfielder playing an influential role since joining from Real Madrid last year and running the game at Vitality Stadium.

His goal came from a rare foray forward. Christian Eriksen clipped a pass over the

defense and into the penalty area toward Casemiro, who reacted to the ball taking a slight deflection off a Bournemouth player by adjusting his body and acrobatically volleying in off the post with his back to goal.

United was without Marcus Rashford because of an illness and that impacted the visitors' attacking threat against a Bournemouth team already safe from relegation and with little to play for. United needed a save with his legs by David De Gea from substitute Kieffer Moore to preserve the clean sheet and win. (AP)

Ancelotti Says He Will Stay At Real Madrid Despite City Loss & Brazil Opening

Agencies

BARCELONA: Carlo Ancelotti says he will finish his contract with Real Madrid despite their defeat in the Champions League semifinals and with rumors swirling that Brazil would love the Italian to become its next coach.

"I have a contract until June 2024 and the club has already guaranteed I will see out my contract. Everyone knows that's exactly what I want to do," Ancelotti said on Saturday in his first news conference since he spoke immediately after Manchester City routed his Madrid 4-0 this week to reach the final 5-1 on aggregate.

That stinging defeat fueled speculation that perhaps Ancelotti's second stint at Madrid was near its end. Madrid has won the Copa del Rey, the Club World Cup, and the UEFA Super Cup this season, but it lost the Spanish league title to Barcelona and failed to defend its Champions League crown.

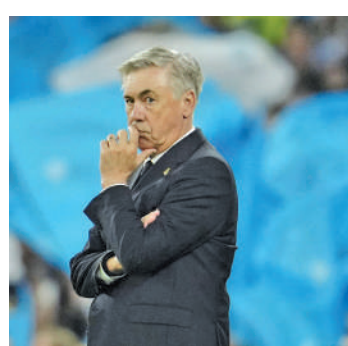
Meanwhile, Brazil is apparently ready to embrace the 63-year-old Ancelotti, the only coach to have

won four European Cups after winning it twice with AC Milan and Madrid.

Ancelotti's contract with Madrid lasts until the end of next season but speculation about his potential departure increased after Brazil said it was interested in hiring him to replace Tite. Brazil has been without a manager since the end of the World Cup, and the Brazilian Football Confederation hinted it was willing to wait until the end of the European season to hire its next coach.

Madrid president Florentino Pérez also has no trouble firing coaches who don't reach the 14-time European champion's incredibly demanding standard for success. Pérez cut Ancelotti's first stint short in 2015, just a year after he led Madrid to Champions League title No. 10. Ancelotti said on Friday he has received renewed backing from Pérez.

"We spoke yesterday, as we do most weeks. We had a meeting, assessed the match and he showed me his affection and support," the coach said. "We also spoke about



the last couple of seasons and we will continue moving forward with the same or greater hunger to do a good job."

Ancelotti admitted the lopsided loss to City left its mark on a team that in the previous season proven unbeatable after pulling off comebacks in the Champions League knockout rounds.

"It is a painful elimination, but it's a semifinal, it wasn't in the group stages or the round of 16," he said. "We're hurting but you can always come up against a team in better shape who deserve to win. We congratulate Manchester City

because those are the values of this club. Now we have to look forward and at the next Champions League campaign."

Regardless of his coach, Pérez and his club have some big decisions to make about some players who have been critical to the team for the past decade.

Karim Benzema, Luka Modric — both Ballon d'Or winners — along with Toni Kroos and Marco Asensio all finish their contracts at the end of June.

Ancelotti could say only that the club and his veterans were talking about their futures. He seemed to indicate the players have received offers for new deals from the club.

"They are being dealt with seriously and professionally," he said. "There are talks ongoing with the club, they will make the decisions they see fit. It's in the players' court right now and everything will be cleared up at the end of the season."

Ancelotti spoke in the capital a day ahead of Madrid's game at Valencia. Madrid is playing for a second-place finish behind champion Barcelona. (AP)

CBI questions TMC leader Abhishek for more than 9 hours over school jobs scam

Kolkata: CBI officers questioned TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee, who appeared before them Saturday as part of the agency's probe into the school jobs scam, for more than 9 hours before letting the young politician off.

Banerjee told newsmen keeping vigil outside the CBI's office at Nizam Palace here, that the questioning was a waste of time for both him and the investigative agency's officers, but that he "cooperated in all that was asked".

"I was questioned for 9 and-a-half hours by CBI Questioning was a waste of time for them (CBI officers) as well as for me," said Banerjee after emerging from Nizam Palace.

He claimed the real reason why he was called in was because, he had refused to be a "pet dog of Delhi's bosses" and that is why he has been "targeted".

He also alleged that while TMC leaders who were unwilling to bend were being harassed, BJP leaders who had been involved in various cases were allowed to go scot-free.

"CBI summoned me on the



basis of the letter of Kuntal Ghosh, then why were those politicians Sudipto Sen named in his letter to CBI in the Saradha scam case not summoned?" Abhishek questioned.

Sen was the kingpin of the Saradha chit fund scam, which rocked the state some years back.

"A person was caught on camera taking bribes, but the CBI never summoned him as he has joined the BJP," he alleged.

Banerjee's name cropped up

in a complaint filed by Kuntal Ghosh, a local businessman and an accused in the school jobs scam, where he alleged that central investigating agencies were pressuring him to name Abhishek Banerjee in the case.

The West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew, entered the CBI office at 10.58 am and came out at around 8.40 pm,

"I don't blame them (CBI officers), as they are acting on orders from the BJP. However, such

harassment will not deter me from continuing my mass outreach campaign or put an end to our political battle with the BJP," he said.

Reacting to the questioning of the MP and the accusations that the saffron party had a hand in it, the BJP state spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said, "The party has nothing to do with the CBI probe. If the TMC leaders have nothing to hide, why are they so bothered about being summoned and making such allegations?"

"I dare the CBI to arrest me if they have any proof of corruption against me. They have been probing many cases in Bengal for the last several years. They should arrest me if they have any proof against me," Abhishek said.

The two-time TMC MP from Diamond Harbour has been questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) twice in the coal pilferage case in the agency's office in the national capital in 2021 and also in Kolkata in 2022.

CBI officers are believed to have asked the TMC leader on

Saturday why Kuntal Ghosh has alleged that he was being pressured to name him, according to sources.

Abhishek is believed to have stated that he has no knowledge of the reasons behind Ghosh's statement.

A senior CBI officer told PTI that the TMC leader, was questioned in three shifts.

As her nephew was being questioned by the CBI, the chief minister tweeted that the centre's "agency-raj" has made her task of running the state challenging.

"The agency-raj of an authoritarian government at the centre makes our task challenging, but millions (all) over the country are with us in our march," Banerjee said on Twitter.

Before driving to the probe agency's offices, the TMC leader wrote a letter to the CBI informing it of his decision to move the Supreme Court challenging the High Court order which allows investigative agencies CBI and ED to question him.

"At the very onset, I state that I am rather shocked to find that

the notice under reference was served upon me ... providing me less than a day's time to comply," he wrote.

Stating that he was in the midst of a two-month-long state-wide yatra to connect with the people of West Bengal, he said that while he wished to cooperate with the agencies and hence was abiding with the summons, it should be noted that he had "preferred a Special Leave Petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, thereby challenging the order dated 18.05.2023 (passed by Calcutta High Court)".

Earlier in the day, the Enforcement Directorate conducted a raid at the residence of Sujay Krishna Bhadra, considered to be close to TMC top brass, in connection with its probe into the school jobs scam, an official of the central agency said.

The official said the raid which was still on, was carried out at the Behala house of 'Kalighat er Kaku' (Kalighat's uncle) as he is popularly known.

On March 15, Bhadra

appeared before the CBI for his alleged involvement in illegal appointments made in different state-run and state-aided schools in West Bengal.

While the Central Bureau of Investigation is probing the criminal aspect of the scam, the ED is looking into the money trail involved in the alleged irregularities in school recruitment.

Abhishek Banerjee, who was on the campaign trail in Bankura in western Bengal, had rushed back to Kolkata Friday night to answer the summons sent by the central investigative agency.

The investigative agency's summons came within 24 hours of the Calcutta High Court dismissing on Thursday, a petition filed by Banerjee seeking recall of a previous court order, which said that investigative agencies such as CBI and ED could interrogate him in the teacher recruitment scam.

An attempt on Friday to get a division bench and, after that, the chief justice of Calcutta High Court to hear his revision plea did not yield results.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3 & 5

G20 Will Boost

growth and provide much needed support in developing cultural & business infrastructure. It is also a strong indicator of the rapid growth of J&K," he said.

"Srinagar city evolved and flourished around the water bodies, which contributed to the prosperity of society, local economy and the culture. However, due to neglect and degradation over the period of time, the restoration of this priceless heritage was the need of the hour and I am sure it will contribute to living standards of people and boost the local economy," he added.

He said the work on the right Riverfront side will be started soon, while a library will also be set up in days to come.

"I congratulate the people of Srinagar and Kashmir as work on Jhelum left Riverfront side was completed. Srinagar was converted into a backyard but the work done by Srinagar Smart City Ltd is worth praising. Srinagar is being developed as a world-class city and its makeover will not only boost the economy of the region but also preserve its cultural heritage," the LG added.

We are developing smart infrastructure that will preserve the cultural heritage and also unlock the huge untapped potential of the river, he added.

According to an official spokesperson, Jhelum Riverfront has been envisaged as a continuous walking and cycling promenade along with parks, and public plazas equipped with public amenities like sanitation, seating spaces, and high-quality lighting. Besides, Srinagar Smart City Limited has also taken up the project of water-transport and Jhelum cruise for the purpose of both public transport and leisure, it was informed.

No Road Digging

resurfacing and upgradation of roads is underway in the valley, we want to reiterate that there should be no violations and heads of the departments should ensure compliance with directions," the official said.

As per the directions already issued regarding the road cut permission, the application from any government institution or private agency must clearly indicate the purpose of the road cut, the scope of work, the project execution plan, and the time of completion, he explained. We are also considering re-issuing the directions already issued in this regard very soon, he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that after the resurfacing and upgradation of roads; road cuts or digging is often witnessed. While the authorities have issued a series of instructions for taking up any road cut or digging other than emergency work, the process has become tougher.

As per the 2022 circular, the road cut permission shall be issued by the competent authority only to alter the realisation of the deposit money as restoration charges from the intending department/agency, after following the due procedure.

The circular states that the road cut shall be executed by the intending agencies strictly as per the permission, with due care to the public and road safety, under the guidance of the concerned R&B Division.

Referring to the 2022 circular, the official said that any deviation in respect of the road or period shall warrant action against the intending agency under the law, including confiscation of machinery and equipment. KNO

Once Highly Sought

verge of retirement and now we can't opt for any other profession. Presently labourers earn around five hundred rupees per day, but we only earn a meagre sum of Rs 150 a day," he added.

Mohammad Hashim too learned his skills from his father.

"I used to help my father along with his technicians. There were four watchmakers in this area," he said.

Hussain feels that clocks are still being sold but mainly as decorative pieces.

"Clocks are now used for decoration in households and that is the only reason that they are still being sold. Those who used to work in the watch-making line have now switched to modern electronic shops," he added.

NIA Searches

organisations and their affiliates have been engaged in conspiring to commit acts of militancy and violence by radicalizing local youth and mobilizing overground workers with the aim of disrupting the peace and communal harmony of J&K," the spokesperson said.

Continuing with its investigations in both these cases, the official said, the NIA has been moving swiftly to take action against some of the recently launched affiliates of the banned militant organisations such as LeT, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Al-Badr and Al-Qaeda.

Among the affiliates under the NIA scrutiny are The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers and People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), the spokesperson said.

The official said the investigations so far have shown that cadres and workers of these outfits are involved in collection and distribution of sticky bombs, magnetic bombs, IEDs, funds, drugs and weapons and ammunition, as well as in spreading activities relating to militancy, violence and subversion in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kot Bhalwal

Highlighting the **lack** of certain healthcare facilities due to a shortage of staff and equipment, the officials said the jail authorities had to shift the ailing inmates to government hospitals for dental and eye treatment.

The medical officer informed Justice Tashi that out of the four sanctioned posts, three medical officers are available round the clock,

whereas, one post was lying vacant.

She also informed that an X-Ray technician is posted in the jail, whereas, no X-Ray machine was installed, the official said.

She said the dental setup was established but no dental surgeon is posted and there is no facility for eye checkups as well. So the jail inmates are referred to a dental hospital and government medical college for dental and eye treatment.

The official said Justice Rabstan inspected the barracks, dining and kitchen area, e-mulakat centre, video conferencing facility, 10 bedded hospital, vocational centres, Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) facility and mini stadium.

"All the inmates of the jail during interaction admitted that they are being served proper diet and are being represented in their respective cases by the lawyers either engaged by them or provided by Legal Services Authority," the official said.

Justice Rabstan also visited the newly installed in-house bakery in the jail which as per the superintendent would be made operational very soon, the official said.

During a visit to the library, Justice Rabstan was introduced to the two teachers deputed by the education department who informed him that 25 jail inmates were appearing in graduation course exams through distance mode and 87 were undergoing certificate courses.

The Jail Superintendent also briefed the team about security arrangements and said the jail is equipped with surveillance cameras and there is complete restriction on mobile networks within the jail premises.

Justice Rabstan also inspected the legal aid clinic established in the jail where two Paralegal volunteers (PLVs), Darshan Lal and Gaurav Sharma, expressed gratitude to the Executive Chairman for increasing the number of working days from 10 to 20 days in a month.

Justice Rabstan recorded satisfaction regarding the facilities provided to the jail inmates and also urged the PLVs to work with dedication and ensure that the benefits of schemes launched for the welfare of jail inmates reach them, the official said.

BSF Downs 3

The first drone, a black quadcopter of "DJI Matrice 300 RTK" make, was recovered from Udhar Dhariwal village in Amritsar district, the spokesperson said.

BSF troops intercepted this unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) by firing around 9 pm on Friday, he said.

The second drone, a quadcopter of the same make, was recovered from Rattan Khurd village in Amritsar district after troops fired at it around 9.30 pm.

Two packets attached to the drone containing 2.6 kg of suspected heroin were also recovered from the UAV that was found in Rattan Khurd village, the spokesperson added.

A third drone was intercepted on Friday night along this front. However, it could not be recovered as it fell on the Pakistani side, he said.

CCTV footage showed people collecting this

third drone from the Pakistan side, the spokesperson said.

The fourth drone "violated Indian airspace on Saturday night and was intercepted by firing in the jurisdiction of the Amritsar sector."

"The drone and a bag of suspected narcotics have been recovered," the official said.

Joint Forces

militancy, surveillance over over ground workers, surrendered militants, missing youths and their presence in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and radicalisation of youth," the spokesman said.

He said the participating officers shared inputs and feedback on the steps being taken to maintain law and order as well as on the counter-insurgency grid.

Addressing the meeting, Choudhary stressed upon timely sharing of actionable information among all sister agencies operating in the district, for surveillance on anti-national and anti-social elements.

Court Rejects Bail

each other in a pre-planned manner had procured the intoxicating drug on cheap rates from illegal sources and by using their personal vehicles they were going to sell these drugs among the youths in the area at exorbitant rates".

Subsequently, a case (FIR No. 55 of 2022) was registered for commission of offences under section 8/22-29 NDPS Act and investigation was started in the matter.

Opposing their separate bail applications, the prosecution said that the accused are involved in commission of "heinous offences" for which they cannot claim bail as a matter of right. "The quantity of the seized drug falls within the definition of commercial quantity, as such the applications are hit by the provisions of Section 37 of NDPS Act," the prosecution said while opposing their pleas.

"The total weight of the contraband drug seized in this case comes at 289.52 grams. Whereas, in terms of the notification No. SO 1726 (E) dated 26.04.2018 the commercial quantity prescribed for Tramadol, which is a psychotropic substance, is 250 mgs and above," Principal Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Jawad Ahmad said. "Thus, the rigor of Section 37 of the NDPS Act is attracted in the present bail matters," the court said, adding, "Therefore, in terms of Section 37 of NDPS Act, bail can be granted in this case only if there are reasonable grounds available to believe that the accused/applicants are not guilty of the offences for which they are seeking bail and they are not likely to commit any offence while on bail." Subsequently the court rejected the bail pleas.

Farooq, Mehbooba

during the swearing-in ceremony.

Other opposition leaders who were present include Sharad Pawar, and Kamal Haasan.

IAF Grounds MiG-21

checks, adding they will be allowed to fly only after clearance by the teams concerned carrying out the scrutiny.

The crash of the jet had again put the spotlight on the ageing fleet of Soviet-origin aircraft which were involved in around 400 accidents since their first induction in the early 1960s.

The MiG-21s used to be the mainstay of the IAF for a long period of time. After the first induction, the IAF procured over 870 MiG-21 fighters to boost its overall combat prowess.

However, the aircraft has a very poor safety record. According to official data, MiG-21s were involved in 400 crashes in the last six decades.

At present, the IAF has three MiG-21 squadrons with a total of around 50 aircraft, according to officials.

The IAF last year finalised a timeline of three years to phase out the remaining MiG-21 fighter squadrons.

The IAF also plans to start the phasing out of the three squadrons of Mig-29 fighter jets in the next five years.

As part of the IAF's modernisation plan, the defence ministry in February 2021 sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of 83 Tejas jets.

The IAF has already procured 36 Rafale jets to enhance its combat capabilities.

It is also in the process of acquiring 114 Medium Role Fighter Aircraft.

2 Teachers Suspended

order issued by Chief Education Officer (CEO) Pulwama.

As such, pending enquiry, the CEO said that the two government teachers will remain under suspension with immediate effect.

"However, they shall report the institutions shown against each for further duties," the order reads.

It further orders one of the teachers, posted at HS Singhoo Narbal to report at GUPS Shadimarg while another one posted in GHS Rajpora has been directed to report at HS Doodimarg Lurgam.

"The suspendees are deemed to have been relieved of their duties to report to their new place by today positively," the order adds.

Criminal Booked

slapping the stringent against him," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, four alleged drug peddlers were detained under preventive action by police in Poonch district.

According to the spokesperson, Abid Ali, Wazid Hussain, Mohd Aftab and Asif Hussain Shah are addicts and used to sell drugs among youth in Poonch city. They were also lodged in Poonch district jail.

Man Found Dead

section 174/CrPc have been initiated. He said the body was shifted to Sub district Hospital Manjakote in Rajouri for postmortem and the body was handed over to family after medico-legal formalities.

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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No Jeans, Leggings Assam's New Dress Code For State-Run School Teachers

Press Trust Of India

Guwahati: The Assam government on Saturday issued a notification bringing a dress code for teachers in all state-run schools in the state and has banned jeans and leggings, officials said.

The Department of School Education of the state government has asked both male and female teachers not to wear T-shirts, jeans, leggings etc in schools.

A notification issued by the Department of School Education said that a teacher is expected to be an example of all sorts of decency especially while discharging their duties, hence it has become necessary to follow a dress code.

"It has come to the notice of the undersigned that some teachers of educational institutions are found in the habit of wearing the dress of their choice which sometimes does not appear to be acceptable by the public at large. Since a teacher is expected to be an example of all sorts of decency especially while discharging their duties, it has become necessary to follow a dress code that should reflect a sense of decorum, decency, professionalism and seriousness of purpose at the workplace," the notification said.

The department also directed the teachers that both male and female teachers should be dressed up in clean, modest and decent clothes in sober colours, which should not look flashy. Casual and party apparel should be strictly avoided.

"In view of the above, the Government in the Department of School Education is hereby pleased to prescribe the following dress code for teachers of all educational institutions. Male teachers should attend their duties in appropriate formal attire only (formal shirt-pant and not casual attire such as T-shirt, jeans etc.), Female teachers should attend their duties in decent Salwar Suit/Saree/Mekhela-Chador and not Casual Attire such as T-Shirt, Jeans, Leggings etc," said in the notification issued by Narayan Konwar, Secretary of Department of School Education.

It further said that the above order shall be complied with scrupulously by all concerned and any deviation from this may invite disciplinary action as per rules.

Reacting to this, Assam Education Minister Dr Ranoj Pegu said that the Assam government is going to introduce a school rule book for all government schools which is having broader things about how the school is to be managed, and how the classes are to be conducted.



Saudi Naval Cadets Take Part In First Joint Exercise With Indian Navy

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Cadets from the Royal Saudi Naval Forces have arrived in India to take part in three weeks of training with their counterparts from the Indian Navy, the first such collaboration between the two nations.

The Saudi contingent comprises 55 trainees and five instructional staff from the King Fahd Naval Academy. They arrived this week at a naval base in Kochi, in Kerala

state on the southwestern coast of India, the Southern Naval Command said on Thursday.

The planned 24-day exercise was "a major stride toward mutual cooperation" between the Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Forces, the command said in a series of tweets.

"On arrival, a warm welcome was accorded to the trainees," it said. "To provide firsthand experience of sail ships, the cadets would be attached to sail training

ship INS Sudarshini."

The cadets, from the Kingdom's main naval academy at the King Abdulaziz Naval Base in Jubail, arrived aboard their host's First Training Squadron vessels INS Tir and INS Sujata.

The First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy are the first ships that newly commissioned naval officers train on.

The training program for Saudis is seen as a display of growing defense ties between the two countries.

Cash, Gold Worth Crores Found In Rajasthan Govt Building's Basement

Press Trust Of India

Jaipur: Over 2.31 crore in cash and one kg of gold was recovered from a locked almirah in the basement of Yojana Bhawan in Jaipur, police said.

Seven employees of the Yojana Bhawan having access to the basement have been detained for questioning, according to officials.

The trolley suitcase kept in the almirah contained 2,000 and 500 denomination notes, police said, adding that the recovery took place on a day when RBI withdrew 2,000 currency notes from circulation.

Chief Secretary Usha Sharma, Director-General of Police (DGP) Umesh Mishra, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Dinesh MN and Jaipur Commissioner Anand Srivastava held a joint press conference thereafter at the Secretariat late Friday night.

"Files were found from one almirah and the trolley suitcase full of cash and gold from another, following which the employees informed the Ashok Nagar po-

lice station," Mr Srivastava said, adding that the cash amounted to 2.31 crore and gold weighed 1 kg.

"The files are being scanned and digitised under the e-filing project. Two locked cupboards were also opened today after their keys were found," he said.

Seven employees have been detained and are being interrogated. An investigation into the entire matter has started, Mr Srivastava said.

The Jaipur Police Commissioner said he would disclose the entire matter soon.

The cupboard from which the cash and gold were recovered was locked for several months. The basement from where the cash was found was accessed by Aadhaar-UID-linked staff. The police will question those having access to the shelves in the basement.

"Whose money is it, how did it come, investigation is being done. CCTV footage is being scanned. It seems like this wardrobe has been closed for a long time but is not even two or three years old," he said.

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