

G20 Event In Kashmir Kicks Off Amidst Tight Security

Delegates Given Rousing Welcome with Traditional Folk Music, Dance



Minister of State in the PMO, Jitendra Singh, Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant addressing a joint press conference on the first day of 3rd tourism working group meeting at the SKICC Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Delegates from different G-20 countries arrived in Srinagar amid unprecedented security cover on Monday to attend the 3rd Tourism Working Group Meeting at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on the banks of Dal Lake.

The delegates arrived at the Srinagar International Airport in a chartered flight and straight away drove to SKICC.

The highest number of delegates are from Singapore, reports quoting the officials said, adding that the main event is scheduled to be held on Tuesday where a side event on 'Film Tourism for Economic Growth

and Cultural Preservation' was held on Monday.

The discussion and deliberations will revolve around five key priority areas like Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, MSMEs and Destination Management.

As per the officials, a panel discussion aligned with the 5th priority of **| More on P10**

People from All G-7 Countries Present in Kashmir: Kant
Says question of negative travel advisories irrelevant

Amitabh Kant, the Sherpa-G20 stated on Monday that the people from all G-7 countries were present in the G-20 meeting in Srinagar making the negative travel advisory on J&K irrelevant. "People and the representatives of all G-7 countries have come to Srinagar. There is a significant rise in foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir since the past few months. Where comes the question of negative travel advisories of foreign countries or the ban on traveling to Kashmir by foreign countries," Kant said while replying to a query. He said the "question itself is irrelevant when people from all G-7 countries are very much present in the Srinagar event." **| More on P10**

No Takers For Hartal Calls In Kashmir Anymore: Singh

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Kashmir has undergone a change and there are no takers for strike calls anymore, Union Minister Jitendra Singh told a gathering on the sidelines of a G20 meet here on Monday.

"If such an event was held earlier, a strike call would be given from Islamabad and shops on Residency Road (in the city centre of) Srinagar would close. Now there is no hartal even if the call for hartal has come from here or there," Singh said.

"This change has happened. Common people on the streets of Srinagar want to move on. They have lost two generations (due to militancy)," the minister said addressing the delegates from G20 countries at a side event on "Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation".

The event is a part of the three-day third Tourism Working

Group Meeting of the G20.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office expressed hope that the delegates would become Kashmir's ambassadors and highlight the positive situation in the valley.

"I hope that when our friends go back, they will be our ambassadors...about the situation here and how it appears," he added.

Singh said yesteryear star Shammi Kapoor not only became a star out of Kashmir but also promoted the destination as well.

"Dus Lakh (1996 movie) was entirely shot in the hotel which was known as Oberoi. Many songs were shot here. Movies became a huge source of revenue and vocation (in Kashmir) till 1990 (when militancy erupted in the valley)," he said.

The minister said popular filmmaker Raj Kapoor experimented with shooting in Europe for **| More on P10**

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Chalking Strategy To Boost Kashmir Tourism: Reddy

Film tourism has emerged as a powerful medium to promote the tourism industry and the government is chalking out a comprehensive strategy for its growth in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Monday. He said tourism helps in creating employment opportunities in hospitality and gastronomy. "We are chalking out a comprehensive strategy for tourism growth. Film tourism has emerged as a powerful medium to promote tourism, to promote a destination," Reddy, the Minister for Culture and Tourism, said. He was addressing the delegates from the G20 countries at the side event 'Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation' at SKICC here. The event is a part of the three-day third Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20 countries **| More on P10**

LG Okays Transport Nagar At Parimpora
New Court Complex In Bandipora



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday approved upgradation of Transport Nagar in Parimpora here, besides construction of new court complex in Bandipora district of North Kashmir.

The LG approved these decisions while chairing the Administrative Council (AC) meeting with his Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Principal Secretary Mandeep Kumar Bhandari and Chief

Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta here on Monday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the upgradation/revamping of Transport Nagar, Parimpora will be carried out at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.58 Crore.

Revealing details about the components, the spokesperson said that it includes laying of road network, sewerage & drainage network, electric network to the tune of Rs. 30.00 Cr.

The project, he said, also includes **| More on P10**



Delegates of all G20 countries enjoyed a ride in illuminated shikaras inside Dal Lake on the first day of their arrival in Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo

Srinagar Records Hottest Day of Season

MeT Predicts Light To Moderate Rains From Today, Advises Farmers To Stop Farm Operations

Srinagar: Several areas of Jammu & Kashmir including Srinagar, the summer capital of the Union Territory on Monday recorded the hottest day of the season so far while the weatherman here has predicted light to moderate rainfall from tomorrow (Tuesday).

Reports said Srinagar, Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara, Kokernag, Jammu and other places recorded the hottest day of the season today.

Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng said that Srinagar recorded hottest day of season at 30.4 degree Celsius while Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara, Kokernag and Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 30.4 degree Celsius, 26.0 degree Celsius, 29.1 degree Celsius, 28.6 degree Celsius and 42.0 degree Celsius respectively today, marking season's hottest day in the areas.

He, however, said that there is a possibility of rainfall from tomorrow (Tuesday) till Wednesday afternoon, saying that the rainfall would bring the temperature down by 5-14 degree Celsius. He said that the maximum fall in the temperature is expected on Wednesday.

The officials in the Meteorological department (MeT) said that from May 23-26, there is a possibility of fairly widespread light to moderate rain, thunder and lightning in J&K.

The officials also said that there is a possibility of hailstorm and gusty winds at a few places.

The MeT also said that a few places over higher reaches may receive light **| More on P10**

'VERY DISTURBING SCENARIO'
HC Raps Govt Over Non-Release Of PSA Detainee

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has termed as "very disturbing scenario" the non-release of a detainee whose detention order under Public Safety Act was quashed by it last year and ordered Deputy Commissioner Baramulla to be personally present before it and also produce the detainee before it next week.

Hearing a petition filed by one Muzamil Manzoor War through his father, a bench Justice Rahul Bharti observed that the "rule of Law is meant to govern and is governing this Country irrespective of place or region."

In the plea, Waseem contends that despite quashment of his preventive detention by the court on 11 February 2022, he has not yet been released and his liberty from "illegal confinement at the hands" of the officials continues.

"Through this writ petition, a very disturbing scenario has been presented before this Court which cannot be left to be dealt with in a routine manner except at the cost of undermining the Rule of Law which is meant **| More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

Gujarati Couple Dies In Rafting Accident

A couple from Gujarat died on Monday in a rafting boat accident at the hill station of Pahalgam in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Police sources said that due to fast-blowing winds, a rafting boat capsized in river Lidder drowning the couple, besides another woman from Mumbai. They said the bodies of a Patil Sharmilaben and her husband Patel Bhikhabhai Ambalal, resident of Saijapurpobgha, Ahmadabad were retrieved by rescue teams **| More on P10**

Leopard Mauls Uri Girl To Death

In yet another incident of man-animal conflict, a minor girl on Monday was mauled to death by a leopard in the border town of Uri in Baramulla district. 10-year-old Asifa Rashid was grazing cattle at Zamboor village of Uri on Monday afternoon when a leopard appeared there and attacked her, reports said. The minor girl, reports said, suffered grievous injuries in the surprise beast attack. She passed away even before she could receive medical assistance. A pall of gloom **| More on P10**

NIA Court Asks 5 Militants To Surrender

A special NIA court in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district issued proclamation orders on Monday against five militants involved in various crimes and targeted killings, asking them to surrender before it or the investigation agency. "Special Court, Kulgam designated under NIA Act issued proclamation orders under section 82, CrPC against five active terrorists involved in various terror crime and target killing cases, including killing of lady teacher **| More on P10**

Youth Hangs Self To Death In Jammu

A youth on Monday allegedly strangled himself to death in the winter capital of the Union Territory. 25-year-old (name withheld) committed suicide by hanging from himself with a tree in railway colony Jammu, a police official said. He said that soon after the incident, police rushed to the spot and took the body into their custody for legal-medico formalities. He added that investigation has been taken up to find the reason behind taking this extreme step the officer added—(KS)

Dr Sharma Assumes Charge As DHSJ

Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma on Monday assumed the charge of Director Health Services (HQ) Jammu prior to joining as Director Health Services Jammu. Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma joined as Assistant Surgeon in the Health Department. He has done a Master of Surgery (MS) in ENT. Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sharma served the department in various other capacities as Medical Superintendent Govt. Hospital Sarwal and Chief Medical Officer Reasi.

Police Nabs Drug Peddler In Baramulla

Police have arrested a drug peddler in Baramulla district of north Kashmir and recovered contraband substance from his possession, officials said. "A police party led by SHO Police Station Sheeri under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Baramulla Sajjad Bukhari-JKPS during naka checking at Fatehgarh Sheeri intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully," a police spokesperson said, adding, "During the search, 140 grams of Charas **| More on P10**



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2 Lakh Tech Employees Lose Jobs In 2023 To Date, More In The Offing

IANs

The year 2023 has become the worst year for tech employees as nearly 2 lakh tech employees -- from Big Tech firms to start-ups -- have been sacked to date globally, as companies like Meta, BT, Vodafone and many others announced further plans to lay off more employees in coming months.

As per the data by layoffs tracking site Layoffs.fyi, 695 tech companies have shown the doors to around 1.98 lakh employees so far this year.

In comparison, 1,046 tech companies laid off more than 1.61 lakh employees in 2022.

In January alone this year, close to 1 lakh tech employees lost jobs globally, dominated by companies like Amazon, Microsoft, Google, Salesforce and others.

In total, about 3.6 lakh tech employees have now lost their jobs in 2022 and till May this year.

As more and more Big Tech companies continue to sack employees, they listed various reasons behind the move -- over-hiring, uncertain global macroeconomic conditions, strong tailwinds from the Covid-19 pandemic and more.

Meta (formerly Facebook) is reportedly going to start laying off more employees next week in its third round of job cuts.

While the exact number has not been



confirmed, it is expected that the company will lay off approximately 6,000 employees in this round.

Amazon India laid off around 400-500 employees from its Cloud division AWS as well as People Experience and Technology Solutions (PXT) or HR and support verticals this month.

Fintech unicorn Zepz is laying off 420 employees, or 26 per cent of its workforce.

The UK telecommunication giant BT Group

has announced plans to slash a massive 55,000 jobs by the end of the decade.

Global telecom carrier Vodafone said it plans to reduce 11,000 jobs over the next three years, with an aim to "simplify" both headquarters and local markets.

Meanwhile, Microsoft will not give any raise to salaried employees, including senior leaders, this year as global macroeconomic conditions continue to haunt Big Tech.

Twitter To Add 15-Second Forward, Back Buttons Along With Pic In Pic Mode

Agencies

Twitter boss Elon Musk has said the microblogging platform will add 15-second forward and back seek buttons during video playback, along with picture-in-picture mode for users to watch while scrolling.

Replying to a user on Twitter who asked Musk to add 15-second forward and back seek buttons, he said, "Coming next week, along with pic in pic, so you can watch while scrolling".

Picture-in-picture (PiP) mode shrinks a video into a small player so users can keep watching while using other apps on their mobile devices.

Moreover, these new features will enable users to seamlessly watch videos while scrolling through their timelines.

Several users expressed their thoughts on this development on Twitter.

"Thanks. Exactly this feature is one I too want and thought was lacking," a user commented.

"Thank you, I skip so many videos because of this," another user said.

One more user wrote, "All these suggestions are pretty much "make it as good as YouTube" - I wonder how much it would cost to clone YouTube's features probably cheaper now with AI helping to code".

Meanwhile, Twitter is gearing up to take on YouTube as it has now allowed paid users to upload videos up to two hours in length on the platform.

The microblogging platform also changed its Twitter Blue page and announced that the video file size limit for paid users has been raised from 2GB to 8GB.

The tech billionaire had also announced the voice and video chat feature earlier this month, along with other features such as encrypted DMs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Majid Bashir Mintoo S/O Dr Bashir Ahmad Mintoo R/O Ward no 4 Malipath Kishtwar have purchased plot no 298 in Housing colony Baghimehtab from Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Aziz Bhat R/O Baghimehtab Srinagar originally allotted in favor of Mohammad Yousuf Dar S/O Abdul Ahad Dar R/O Aali Kadal Qutubdinpora Srinagar. The following original paper issued by the J&K housing board stands misplaced / not traceable

1) Allotment 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 a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. However no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period

Majid Bashir Mintoo
S/O Dr Bashir Ahmad Mintoo
R/O ward No 4 Malipath Kishtwar

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr. Mohd Iqbal, S/O Mr Abdul Rashid Ganai R/O Old Airport Road Rangreth, Srinagar. Kashmir intends to apply in the department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style **M/s Wilderness Tour and Travels** situated at **Rangreth Srinagar, 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 100000), Site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by sub-Registrar, printing material (letter / Visiting card), photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and two passport size photographs to the department of the tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for the registration by the competent authority, the matter is hereby notified for the information of the general public/Financial institution /Bank /Organization, etc for the objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (Email: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 Days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

im

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class Contractor Card" from the office of the PWD R&B Bramulla Kupwra. 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.

Mansoor Ah Lone
S/O Gh Mohd Lone
R/O Qazipora Tangmarg

bmj

Court Of The 2nd Additional Munsiff Judicial Magistrate 1st Class At Srinagar

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR: JKSG03-015020-2023
Date of filing 20-05-2023

Habibullah Dar F/o Javiad Ahmad Dar
R/O Usman Abad, Shaltang Srinagar

Applicant

Versus

Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

Non-Applicant

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Javiad Ahmad Dar S/o Habibullah Dar R/o Usman Abad Shaltang Srinagar has born on 16-07-1985 the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the birth particulars, Javiad Ahmad Dar, in the concerned register of births and deaths.

Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated, this 20th day of May 2023.

Sd/-

(AHTZAZ AHMED)
2nd Additional (JMJC), Srinagar

NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name in electricity bill from SAGNET, Prop. Mohmmad Latif Baktoo R/o Nawab Bagh Sgr. Bearing consumer No.0204040002940 Sub Division Hawal to SAGNET Prop. Mohmmad Aslam Boktoo R/o Kalla Mohalla Baghwanpora Lal Bazar Near Cherry Park Sgr. If anybody had any objection in this regard may contact to the Ex. Engineer Sub Division Hawal within the period of 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohmmad Aslam Boktoo

sku

R/o Kalla Mohalla Baghwanpora Lal Bazar

Near Cherry Park Srinagar 941901023

Office of Adv Mufti Muhtashim & Associates

Abdul Majeed Wani
S/o Ghulam Nabi Wani R/o Tulwari Gojwara Srinagar

(Caveator)

V/S

PUBLIC AT LARGE

(Non-Caveators)

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

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

Sd/- Advocate

nj

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سر نیجر

با اعلان راجا محمد سلیم

رجسٹر ادر تھیس اینڈ ڈیٹس

نام ایس۔ ایم۔ سی۔ سر نیجر (ممول)

Abdul Rashid Najar

S/o Ghulam Rasool Najar

R/o Andor Tiploo Mohalla

Dawood Colony Soura Sgr

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تجربہ الصدمہ 22-05-2023

چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج میونسپل سر نیجر

nj

از نیابت پھالان

عنوان :- درخواست مناجب خشبو شیع دختر خمشع شام ساکنہ اندگام تحصیل پٹن برادر اڑانی

شوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ تحت SRO 294/144 بذمہ عام

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض شوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ عام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی تمام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل اندگام تحصیل پٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل مذکورہ شوشل کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنڈی سالانہ آمدنی 70800 روپے تک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوتا ہے وہ عدالت سے اشتہار اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر آج سے عذر یا اعتراض وادالت ہذا کو فونگی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے معیاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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SALARIES, TRAVEL: RTI Reveals Money Spent On Rajya Sabha MPs In 2021-23

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Around ₹200 crore was spent on salaries, allowances and facilities for Rajya Sabha MPs over the last two years with around ₹63 crore spent on their travel alone, according to an RTI reply.

In 2021-22, in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic, the exchequer spent over ₹97 crore on Rajya Sabha members.

The amount includes ₹28.5 crore on domestic travel and ₹1.28 crore on international travel. Salaries amounted to ₹57.6 crore, medical bills of ₹17 lakh and office expenses of ₹7.5 crore. It also spent ₹1.2 crore on information technology assistance to the MPs.

In the 2021-23, ₹100 crore was spent in total which included ₹33 crore in domestic and foreign travel expenses, according to the reply by Rajya Sabha Secretariat to a query filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act by Madhya Pradesh-based Chander Shekhar Gaur.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has said that during 2022-23, ₹58.5 crore was spent on the salaries of members, while ₹30.9 crore on domestic travel and ₹2.6 crore on foreign travel.

Other expenses include medical treatment (Rs 65 lakh), ₹7 crore in office expenses and ₹1.5 crore on IT services.

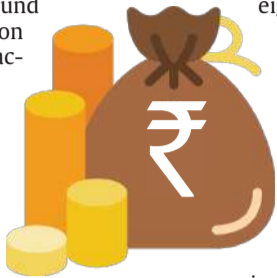
The Secretariat said that the expenditure incurred on former

MPs of Rajya Sabha under account head "Domestic Travel Expenses" was ₹1.7 crore in 2021-22 and ₹70 lakh for 2022-23.

According to records in 2021, Rajya Sabha's productivity rate was 43 percent in the Winter Session, 29 per cent in the Monsoon Session and 90 per cent in the Budget session.

The following year, its productivity was 94 per cent during the Winter Session, 42 per cent during the Monsoon Session and 90 per cent during the Budget session.

This year so far, during the Budget session its productivity reached a low of 24 per cent.



Hezbollah Conducts Wargames Near Lebanon's Border With Israel

Agencies

Lebanon's Hezbollah movement has carried out military exercises near the country's southern border with Israel in a show of its military power.

About 200 Hezbollah fighters used live ammunition and an attack drone to take part in the exercises on Sunday in Aaramta, 20km (12 miles) north of the Israeli border.

The drills took place ahead of the anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon on May 25, 2000. It was the largest demonstration of Hezbollah's military might in years.

Hezbollah fighters carried out simulated raids involving sniper and drone attacks against Israeli targets as part of the exercise. In another case they engaged in attacks across a mock border. The group displayed heavy and light arms, including anti-aircraft weapons, rocket launchers and rocket-propelled grenades.

ons, rocket launchers and rocket-propelled grenades.

"If some people in the Zionist entity [Israel] dream of doing something foolish, ... we will rain down our precision missiles and all the weapons at our disposal," senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, was quoted as saying by the Agence France-Presse news agency.

The Israeli military, which occasionally conducts exercises simulating a war with Hezbollah, did not comment on the event.

Elias Farhat, a retired Lebanese army general who is a military affairs researcher, told The Associated Press that Hezbollah's "symbolic show of strength" appeared to be in response to the recent escalation in Gaza, in which Israel killed 30 Palestinians and injured more than 90 in air attacks.

He said it could also be a response to the Israeli nationalist "flag march" on Thursday in occupied East Jerusalem.

PM Modi Arrives In Sydney As 3-Nation Tour Set To Conclude On Wednesday

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Sydney on Monday for the third and final leg of his three-nation tour during which he will hold talks with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese and attend a community event to celebrate the country's dynamic, diverse Indian diaspora.

PM Modi is visiting Australia from May 22-24 as a guest of the Australian Government.

"Landed in Sydney to a warm welcome by the Indian community. Looking forward to various programmes over the next two days," PM Modi tweeted.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, in a tweet, said Prime Minister Modi arrived in the vibrant city of Sydney on his second visit to Australia.

"Two days of constructive engagements with Australian leadership, business community and diaspora members await," he added.

Ahead of Narendra Modi's arrival, Prime Minister Albanese said in a statement, "I am honoured to host Prime Minister Modi for an official visit to Australia, after receiving an extremely warm welcome in



India earlier this year." "Australia and India share a commitment to a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Together we have an important role to play in supporting this vision," he said, amidst China's aggressive behaviour in the region as well as its efforts to expand its influence.

Prime Minister Modi has also said that he was looking forward to his meeting with Mr Albanese on May 24.

During the visit, the Prime Ministers will attend a community event in Sydney to celebrate Australia's dynamic and diverse Indian community, "a core part of our multicultural community", the Australian government said in a statement.

PM Modi arrived here from

AUSTRALIA AND INDIA SHARE A COMMITMENT TO A STABLE, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Together we have an important role to play in supporting this vision," he said, amidst China's aggressive behaviour in the region as well as its efforts to expand its influence.

2019 Lok Sabha Elections Were Fought On Bodies Of Our Soldiers: J-K Ex-Governor Satyapal Malik

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: Former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik again attacked the government over the Pulwama attack issue, saying the 2019 Lok Sabha elections were "fought on the bodies of our soldiers", and the then home minister would have to resign had there been a probe into the incident.

He claimed he had informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the attack just after the incident but "he told me to keep quiet".

"Elections (Lok Sabha 2019) were fought on the bodies of our soldiers and no investigation was done. Had an inquiry been done, the then home minister (Rajnath Singh) would have to resign. Many officers would have been jailed and there would have been a



huge controversy," Malik said at an event in Bansur of Alwar district.

Malik has been vocal about the issues related to Jammu and Kashmir where he was the governor before the state was divided into the two Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

He said during the event on Sunday that when the Pulwama attack happened on February 14, 2019, the prime minister was in a shooting at the Jim Corbett National Park.

"When he came out from there I got a call (from him). I told him that our soldiers have been killed and they got killed by our mistake. He told me to keep quiet," Malik said.

Malik was recently questioned by the CBI over his claim that he was offered Rs 300 crore as bribe to clear files related to an insurance scheme during his tenure as Jammu and Kashmir governor between August 23, 2018 and October 30, 2019.

He also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Adani issue. Malik said Adani has created much wealth in just three years, and asked those present if they had been able to increase their wealth.

He said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told Parliament that Adani had got Rs 20,000 crore and asked the government 'where did it come from'.

Documentary On Modi: Delhi HC Issues Summons To BBC On Defamation Suit

Press Trust of India

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a summons to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on a defamation suit filed by an NGO claiming that its documentary cast a slur on the reputation of India, its judiciary and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Besides the BBC (UK), Justice Sachin Datta also issued notice to the BBC (India) seeking its response on the suit filed by Gujarat-based NGO Justice for Trial.

The plea said BBC (India) is the local operation office and BBC (UK) has released the documentary -- "India: The Modi Question" -- which has two episodes.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the NGO, said the



suit for defamation against the BBC is in relation to the documentary which has "defamed" India and the whole system including the judiciary.

He contended that the documentary also makes insinuation against the prime minister.

It was argued on behalf of the plaintiff that the documentary makes defamatory imputation and cast slur on the reputation of the country.

The high court said, "Issue notice to the respondents through all permissible modes" and listed it for further hearing on September 15.

President, Not PM, Should Inaugurate New Parliament Building: Rahul

Press Trust of India

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that the president should inaugurate the new Parliament building and not the prime minister.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the newly-constructed Parliament building on May 28.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met Modi on Thursday last and extended an invitation to inaugurate the new building, the Lok Sabha Secretariat had said.

Taking to Twitter, Gandhi said, "The President should inaugurate the new Parliament House and not the Prime Minister".

Veteran Parliamentarian and former deputy leader of the Congress in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma and some other opposition leaders were also of the same view.

"It will not be Constitutionally correct for the PM to inaugurate the new building of Parliament. Jury is out whether it was required at all. No major democracy has done this. Westminster is the seat of the British Parliament and Capitol Hill of the US Congress for hundreds of years," Sharma said on Twitter.

He said Parliament is the custodian and pride of India's Constitutional democracy and its glory must not be undermined as the sovereignty of the people is vested in it.

Article 79 of the Constitution is unambiguous that the President is the head of Parliament which comprises Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, he contended.

"The PM is the leader of Lok Sabha. It is the President who alone can summon the Parliament - Article 85," he said.

"Rashtrapati addresses the joint session only flanked by Rajya Sabha Chairman - Vice Presi-



dent and Lok Sabha Speaker. PM and leader of Rajya Sabha are seated in Central Hall. The Constitution must be respected in letter and spirit and the President should inaugurate," Sharma said in a series of tweets.

CPI general secretary D Raja also said the prime minister leads the executive organ of the state and Parliament is the legislative organ. "It would have been appropriate for Smt. Droupadi Murmu as Head of the State to inaugurate the new Parliament," he said.

"Obsession with self-image and cameras trumps decency and norms when it comes to Modi Ji," Raja alleged on Twitter.

RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha had earlier said, "Shouldn't the honorable President of India be inaugurating the new 'Sansad Bhavan'? I leave it at that...Jai Hind."

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi too had raised objections to the prime minister inaugurating the new Parliament building.

"Why should the PM inaugurate Parliament? He is head of the executive, not legislature. We have a separation of powers and Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker and RS Chair could have inaugurated. It's made with public money, why is the PM behaving like his 'friends' have sponsored it from their private funds," Owaisi said on Twitter.

NEWS MAKERS

Iran Replaces Head Of National Security Council

Agencies

President Ebrahim Raisi has appointed the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Strategic Center, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, as the new Secretary of the National Security Council.

Ahmadian will replace Admiral Ali Shamkhani, who held the position for 10 years.

Via Twitter, Shamkhani posted an excerpt from an Iranian poem on Sunday "alluding to media speculation about his resignation," Iran's semi-official Tasnim news outlet reported.

According to the Iranian Nour News outlet, the Twitter post means that "Shamkhani will definitely resign."

Ahmadian began his career as the commander of the IRGC navy in 1997, and in 2000 became the chief of the IRGC Joint Staff. He is a Tehran University graduate who received a Ph.D. in strategic management from the Supreme National Defense University of Iran.

His replacement of Shamkhani "marks a significant shift in the country's security leadership" and "reflects the dynamic nature of Iran's political landscape," Chinese-based news outlet BNN Breaking wrote on 22 May.



"Effective leadership remains crucial in addressing complex security concerns, and Ahmadian's appointment signals a commitment to navigating these challenges with a new perspective," it added.

Shamkhani played a leading role in the country's political scene for decades and was among the main Iranian officials involved in the recent Chinese-brokered restoration of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The news comes days in the wake of a speech by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei stressing the importance of "flexibility" in foreign policy, adding that flexibility "does not have to compromise one's principles."

This is the second time Tehran has restructured its leadership in a year. Following the assassination of several nuclear scientists and IRGC officials between 2021 and 2022, Iran replaced the head of the country's intelligence unit, who had held the post for 12 years.

Indian-Origin Sikh Man Becomes UK City's First Turban-Wearing Lord Mayor

Press Trust of India

LONDON: A local British Sikh councillor based in Coventry has made history for the central England city by becoming its first turban-wearing Lord Mayor.

Jaswant Singh Birdi, who was born in Punjab and spent some time as a child in Calcutta in West Bengal, moved to Coventry 60 years ago and has served as a local councillor in the city for 16 years.

He recently took formal charge of his new post of Lord Mayor with the official Chains of Office with his wife Krishna by his side as the Lord Mayoress. "I am so proud to become Lord Mayor of my adopted home city," said Mr Birdi.

"It has given so much to myself and my family over the years and I will be honoured to show why I love it so much and to promote the city and the wonderful people who live here," he said. "As a Sikh, it also means so much that I will be wearing the Chains of Office and the turban. It will help show what a happy multicultural city we have and may-be inspire others as well," he added.

Apart from being a councillor,



Mr Birdi has been actively involved in setting up religious, social, and community projects in Coventry.

Now in his role as Lord Mayor as an ambassador of the city, his chosen charities for support for the year include Muscular Dystrophy charity, the Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind, and University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire Charity.

He served as Deputy Lord Mayor for the past 12 months and was presented with the Chains of Office at the Annual General Meeting at Coventry Cathedral last week, a ceremony attended by members of his family. He succeeds Councillor Kevin Maton in the role of Lord Mayor and Councillor Mal Mutton has been named as the Deputy Lord Mayor for the coming year.

"Won't Accept Flowers Or Shawls. People Can Give Books": Siddaramaiah

Agencies

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that he would prefer books over flowers or shawls given by people as a mark of respect at various events.

Taking to Twitter, Siddaramaiah said, "I have decided not to accept flowers or shawls from people who often give it as a mark of respect. This is for during both personal and public events. People can give books if they want to express their love and respect in the form of gifts. May all your love and affection continue to be on me."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that as promised, the Congress government has in principle approved the 5 Guarantees announced in the party's manifesto before the elections. The chief minister was addressing the media about the decisions taken in his first cabinet meeting after assuming office.

It is estimated that ₹1,200 crore is required to implement the Griha Jyoti scheme, to provide 200 Unit free power to every household. ₹2,000 per month will be transferred to the head woman of the family, 10 kg rice will be given under Anna Bhagya

and ₹3,000/month will be given to unemployed graduates and ₹1,500 to diploma holders who have passed out during the current educational year for up to 2 years. Women, who are residents of the State, would be given free bus pass to travel in government Buses, he informed.

Guidelines are being worked out in detail and will be discussed in the next cabinet meeting, he said, adding that Cabinet has also decided to convene a legislature session from May 22 to 24, and the Budget will be presented in July.

According to preliminary estimates, ₹50,000 crore is required annually to fulfill the 5-guarantees, he said. Chief Minister also added that information about Indira canteen is also being sought and they would be started soon.

The newly sworn-in CM said that during the previous term, "We had fulfilled 158 out of 165 promises made in the Election Manifesto. We have kept our promises. Along with fulfilling the promises, we have implemented more than 30 new schemes such as Indira Canteen, loan waiver, Vidya siri, Shoe Bhagya, Pashu Bhagya etc., which were not included in the manifesto."

Rain In Plains, Snow Over Upper Reaches From Today: MeT



Kashmir Observer

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for scattered to widespread light to moderate rain and thunderstorm from May 23, night temperature recorded a rise in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

Quoting a meteorological Department official, news agency GNS that from May 23 to 26th there would be "fairly widespread to widespread light to moderate rain/thunder/lightning with possibility of Hail-storm and gusty winds at few places. He said a few places over higher reaches may receive light snowfall.

The MeT has already issued "orange warning" for "isolated heavy rain thunder lightning with gusty winds 30-40 kmph" on May 23 in J&K. Also a yellow warning for "isolated thunder and lightning isolated thunder and lightning" has been forecast on May 25 and 26.

There are four types of colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be watched, orange—government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red – action needed by the agencies.

Regarding temperature, a meteorological department official here told GNS that Srinagar recorded a low of 13.0°C against 12.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C above

normal for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 9.0°C against 8.4°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 6.2°C against 5.2°C on the previous night and it was normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 9.4°C against 8.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 11.8°C against 11.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 9.5°C against 9.0°C on previous night and it was above normal by 2.7°C for the popular skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 25.1°C and it was 0.7°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 11.3°C (below normal by 0.7°C), Batote 16.2°C (1.7°C above normal), Katra 21.6°C (0.6°C above normal) and Bhaderwah 16.6°C (above normal by 1.2°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 3.6°C and 4.3°C respectively, he said.

Spice From Gurez Among Varieties Displayed At G20 Event

Women Entrepreneurs Glad To See Their Products Being Showcased To Global Audience

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Three products from Bandipora were displayed at the ongoing third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Center (SKICC).

Black Cumin (Kaala Zeera) cultivated amidst the lush forests of Gurez Valley, organic Rajma sourced from Tulail Valley, and exquisite paper machie products from Sumbal were displayed at a stall.

Gurez black cumin is renowned for its aromatic properties, herbal benefits, and medicinal value. Organic Rajma (Kidney Beans) from the region is known across the country for its distinctive flavor and aroma while the artists of Sumbal create exquisite paper machie art pieces known for their captivating aesthetics and visual allure.

According to Shreen Shafi, the District Programme Manager of Bandipora, the G20 summit in Srinagar has brought immense benefits to the Self-Help Groups registered at the JK Rural Livelihood Mission. The event has provided them with a valuable platform to showcase their



products at the exhibition.

Shafi explained that the Kala Zeera and Rajma have been branded as "Gurez Naturals" by SRLM.

"This presents a remarkable opportunity to introduce these products to a global audience. These products are already accessible through popular online shopping platforms such as Amazon," she said.

She also said that despite the formidable terrain and isolated location of Gurez and Tulail sub-divisions within the Bandipora district, JKRLM-Umeed adopted a creative approach to foster entrepreneurship.

"They accomplished this by establishing women-led self-help groups (SHGs)," she added. She added that these groups were inspired to create an activity-focused collective and gather wild black zeera. They discovered that the spice was in high demand and possessed remarkable medicinal properties.

"Thanks to the support from JKRLM, the group successfully

launched the brand "Gurez Naturals," enabling them to sell their product online and overcome commercial isolation," she explained.

"This strategic choice gave the group a competitive advantage in the market and facilitated the establishment of their brand, 'Gurez Naturals,'" she emphasized. By leveraging online sales, the group effectively expanded their reach to a broader audience and mitigated the challenges of operating in a remote location thus avoiding commercial isolation, she said.

Officials said that the display of "Gurez Naturals" brand serves as a testament to the remarkable impact of entrepreneurship in driving positive change within both individuals and communities. "Through the empowerment of women and the provision of necessary resources and support, organizations like JKRLM-Umeed are fostering sustainable and inclusive pathways for development," an official said—(KNO)

G20 MEETING

APSCC Bats For Liberal Visa Policy For Visiting Religious Places In J&K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) on Monday welcomed the third tourism working group meeting of the G20 countries in Kashmir, but said there is a need to introduce liberal visa policy so that people from foreign nations visit places of religious importance without any hassle.

In a statement, APSCC chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said Srinagar is privi-

leged to host delegates of G20 nations, but since there are many places of religious importance in the Union Territory, it is important to introduce hassle-free visa services to the foreigners so that they visit such places without any difficulty.

"The Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh have tremendous scope of religious tourism. Religious places like Jamia Masjid Srinagar, Dargah Hazratbal, Gurdwara Chatthi Padshahi Srinagar,

Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Jammu, Kheer Bhawani Tulmulla-Ganderbal, and Gumpas of Ladakh have a mass appeal, but have not been put on the international religious tourism map so far," Raina said.

In Jammu, celebrations broke out over the G20 meeting in Srinagar.

Led by Ashok Gupta, the members of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena enthusiastically marched in the city, expressing hope that the meeting will boost tourism in J-K.

J&K Leaders Must Welcome Delegates Wholeheartedly: BJP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The BJP on Monday said all political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir must welcome the G20 delegates wholeheartedly.

The third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting began in summer capital Srinagar on Monday. It is aimed to give a boost to tourism in the Union Territory.

"I request that all big leaders of political parties wholeheartedly welcome the G20 team members," J-K BJP chief Ravinder Raina told reporters here.

"Atithi Devo Bhava, Vasudhai-

va Kutumbakam has been our tradition. Big leaders like Farooq Abdullah who have worked in constitutional positions, sometimes as chief ministers and sometimes as Union ministers, were always welcomed in different countries during their foreign visits," he said.

Now that the guests have come to our home, we must welcome them with love and an open heart, he added.

About 60 foreign delegates arrived in Srinagar on Monday for the third tourism working group meeting of the G20 countries. This is the first international meeting being held in Kashmir after the

abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - in August 2019.

Raina thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving respect to Jammu and Kashmir by holding the event in Srinagar.

"The people of J-K are highly grateful to Modi for giving an opportunity to the people to welcome the representatives of the mighty G20 group. It is for the first time that such a big event is being held in J-K. We are grateful to the nations who are taking part in the event," he said.

Apni Party Welcomes G20 Delegates

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party on Monday said that the ongoing G20 summit in Kashmir holds immense significance because of its potential to fetch investments to unlock the tourism industry's abundant potential in Jammu and Kashmir.

Also, the grand event has enabled J&K people a chance to exhibit their cultural richness and beautiful natural resources to the world.

A party statement issued here reads: "It is a moment of pride and honour for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to host the third G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar. This occasion has provided us with a

chance to showcase our tourism potential in terms of our natural resources, rich culture, and art to the outside world. Since this meeting of the high-profile international delegates from the G20 member countries is revolving around tourism-related matters, it provided us with a valuable opportunity to show the world that this blessed land has enough potential to be unlocked for the economic growth of this region."

"Apni Party welcomes the delegates from the G20 member countries and applauds the Union Government, LG Administration, and the local stakeholders to ensure such a grand event, which is full of potential, is held in Jammu and Kashmir, where

people have suffered huge economic losses and the loss of lives due to the prolonged conflict over the past more than thirty years. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are in dire need of some solace in terms of employment opportunities and economic growth here. The future of our young generation is at stake because of growing unemployment and the lack of opportunities. Therefore, we must strive for opportunities that can pave the way for outside investments so that we will be able to ensure infrastructural development here which will enable us to unlock the potential of our natural resources. In this context, the G20 summit in Srinagar sparks the hope." The statement added.

Material Recovery Facility Transforming Jammu Into Clean, Green City

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu city is rapidly transforming into a "clean and green city", with noticeable improvements in cleanliness in streets, footpaths, flyovers and residential areas.

The city is making significant progress towards achieving zero waste and at the forefront of this positive change is the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), also known as the 'Swachhta Kendra' (cleanliness centre), established in 2021.

The first-ever MRF in Jammu and Kashmir on the outskirts of the city operates under the col-

dry waste before sending it to recycling centres. As a result, it significantly contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and the effort is to make the city clean and green, he said.

"To date, we have collected 7,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste, which we have successfully segregated and recycled. From an environmental perspective, every kilogram of plastic waste collected indirectly prevents three kilograms of carbon emissions. Through our efforts, we have already reduced 20,000 to 22,000 metric tonnes of carbon emissions in the atmosphere," Arora said.



laboration of the Regional and Urban Development Agency (RUDA) and the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). It employs a sustainable approach to integrated plastic waste management and efficient recycling within the city.

"This MRF in Jammu is the first of its kind. We have established it in partnership with the Jammu Municipal Corporation. It has been operational for almost three years now, with a daily capacity to handle five tonnes of waste. Currently, we collect, segregate, and recycle approximately 150 to 200 tonnes of trash every month," Sajeev Arora, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RUDA, told PTI.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the MRF collects, separates, and processes

The city corporation employs sanitation workers who collect segregated wet and dry waste from households and public areas. The waste is then either transported directly to the MRF or delivered to mini-sorting stations for further segregation and recycling, he said.

Arora said the waste collection system also has led to a positive economic impact.

"We engage waste collectors, whose livelihoods depend on trash collection. They sell the waste to the MRF, enabling us to purchase the trash from them. Currently, we have 450 rag pickers and waste pickers, known as 'safai mitras,' who are connected to the project."

Arora said they will be setting up a material recycling centre soon in the city.

People Have To Wake Up And Defeat Divisive Forces: Azad

Press Trust Of India

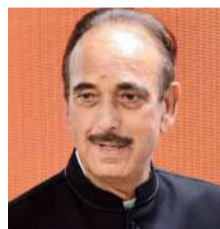
JAMMU: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi

Azad on Monday asked party workers to gear up for the upcoming polls and said the people have to wake up and defeat the divisive and communal forces.

He urged the people to maintain brotherhood and religious harmony and indulge in healthy politics that will usher in a new dawn of peace and development in the Union Territory.

"The elections for assembly, panchayats and local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir are imminent and whenever they are held, I am sure our party

will emerge as one of the largest political parties," Azad said addressing party workers at Changa in Doda district.



People have to wake up and defeat the divisive and communal forces and vote for development, peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

"When I was the chief minister of the erstwhile state, I built up its infrastructure, sanctioned colleges, hospitals, schools and road network to connect this landlocked region with the rest of country.

"If I get yet another chance to serve my people, the Chenab valley will emerge as the hub of economic and educational activities," Azad said.

8 Private Tour Ops Allotted Seats For Haj-2023 In Kashmir

Each Allotted 50 Seats Under Category II

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India has allotted seats to 8 HGOs (Private Tour Operators) in Kashmir for registration Haj-2023 after they were found eligible, an official spokesperson said.

He quoted a communication (No. haj-23/28/2022-HAJ-MoMA dated: 05-05-2023) of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India in this regard.

For the information of the public in general and aspiring Haj Pilgrims of Haj-2023 in particular, the names of these HGOs (Private Tour Operators) are hereunder.

M/s Al Safer Tour and Travels, 19 Tokar Market, Ganjiwara, Anantnag, file No. JK02346123 has been allotted 50 seats under category II.

M/s Raj Baba Tour and Travels, Meerak Abad SKUAST Road, Shalimar, Sgr. file No. JK02352823 has been allotted a seat quota of 50 under category II.

M/s Al Ghazali Tour & Trav-

els, Madina Chowk, Gawadal, Sgr, file No. JK02354423 has been allotted 50 seats under category II.

M/s Nissar Jan Wani, Qazi Complex, Magarmal Bagh Chowk, Exhibition Road, Sgr, file No. JK02362323 allotted seat quota of 50, under category II.

M/s Al Hayat Hajj and Umrah Travel Services, Crescent City Centre, 1st Floor, Main Road, Budgam; file No. JK02418423 allotted a quota of 50 seats under category II.

M/s Mohammad Abbas Pandit, Magam Narbal Gulmarg Road, Budgam; file No. JK02427623 has been allotted a quota of 50 seats under category II.

M/s Al Huda Travels, Address: Shah Complex Opp. OPD Gate, SMHS Karan Nagar, Sgr; file No. JK02439323 has been allotted a quota of 50 seats under category II.

CS Launches Revamped Portal With Latest Info About J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday launched the revamped UT portal, a single window platform for integrated delivery of information and services by various Government Departments with latest features in presence of Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri.

Dr Mehta praised the IT Department and the NIC for creating this inclusive platform offering both the services and information as well. He said that the portal would act as one stop solution for all the people availing services or seeking information about different aspects of the UT.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also enquired about the response of public over the online services. He also took note of the feedback from the applicants over RAS portal and the status of integration of services with the Auto-appeal system for timely delivery of services to the public.

During the launch it was given out that the goal of this

portal is to provide the holistic information about J&K to the citizens of the country. The core functionalities provided by the portal relate to Government structure in the UT, budget, key notifications, government schemes, key functionaries, important institutions, news feed, social media and emergency contacts etc. It also provides transactional government services for citizens, business establishments and overseas people.

The various sections/features of the portal include profile of the UT and is available in three languages viz: English, Urdu and Hindi. There is a separate section providing information about the Government and its officials. It also contains the links to departments and all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Important links to some important websites like LG Office, GAD, J&K Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Traffic Police, SKIMS, EDI, JKPS, JKSSB, e-Unnat, e-Gov Initiatives, Mobile Apps, Educational Institutions, Citizen Services, Tenders & Advertisement are available on the portal.

Non-Teaching Staff In School Edu Deptt Having Over Stay To Be Transferred

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Following the transfer of teaching staff, the School Education Department Monday decided to transfer the mature stayed non-teaching staff as well.

The department is likely to adopt the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) type policy for the transfer of matured stay non-teaching staff.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a committee to Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of the region has said that the instructions were conveyed to initiate transfer process in respect of non-teaching and non-gazetted (Ministerial) staff having mature or over-stay. "In this context, it is to say that DSEK has perused the data

supplied by CEOs with regard to stay list of Junior Assistants working in their respective districts and it has been observed that more than 475 officials have already completed prescribed tenure at their respective place of postings," DSEK said.

The director accordingly requested the CEOs to take immediate necessary action for effecting overstayed non-teaching officials viz Junior Assistants, Lab Assistants, Lib-Assistants and MTS to comply the instructions of the administrative department and in terms of transfer policy and delegation of powers.

It also said that the compliance report be shared with DSEK office within two days without fail.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM
Tuesday | 23-05-2023

PM's Three-Nation Tour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi affirmed India's full preparedness and unwavering commitment to safeguard its sovereignty and dignity in a recent interview with the Japanese publication Nikkei Asia, the PM emphasized that the peace on the border was important to foster normal bilateral relations between India and its neighbors. He also underscored that the cordial India-China relationship can only be forged on the principles of mutual respect, mutual sensitivity, and mutual interests adding that normal India-China relations will benefit not only India and China but also the wider region and the world.

As for ties with Pakistan, the PM emphasized the desire for normal and neighborly relations with Islamabad provided the latter created a conducive environment free from terrorism and hostilities. The PM made it clear that the onus is on Pakistan to take necessary steps in this regard.

Talking about the Russia-Ukraine war, the PM expressed India's clear and unwavering position on the conflict, saying his country maintained communication with both Russia and Ukraine. He added that cooperation and collaboration should define our times, not conflict. The comments followed the PM's meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the Group of Seven (G7) summit in Japan Saturday, the first in-person meeting between the two since Russia's invasion began. Modi After the meeting, the PM said India would do "everything we can" to help end the war.

The PM also highlighted India's economic progress, saying the country had witnessed remarkable growth over the years. He noted that India has risen from being the tenth-largest economy in 2014 to the fifth-largest globally. While acknowledging the challenges posed by global headwinds, he stressed that India has built a strong foundation in recent years, positioning the country favorably for future growth.

Currently on a three-nation tour, the PM is in Australia on the third and final leg of his three-nation tour, after concluding his visit to Papua New Guinea where he co-hosted the first Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation summit and met leaders from the Pacific Island nations to boost bilateral ties. Modi is visiting Australia as a guest of the Australian Government. He will also attend a community event in Sydney to celebrate Australia's dynamic and diverse Indian diaspora.

The success of the tour has once again underscored India's rising geopolitical profile and diplomatic heft. The country is playing now a bigger role in influencing world affairs and working to change it for the better. India's commitment to peaceful resolutions, economic progress, and support for those in need showcases its determination to play a constructive role on the global stage.

OTHER OPINION

Withdrawal of Rs 2,000 note creates dislocation in economy

In a decision that revives echoes of the November 8, 2016 decree, the Reserve Bank of India on Friday announced withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 denomination note from circulation. There are two noticeable departures from demonetisation in 2016. One, these notes will continue to remain legal tender. And two, people have been allowed a four-month window ending on September 30 to either deposit or exchange the Rs 2,000 note. Technically, therefore, this may not be considered demonetisation — there is little clarity, also, over the status of these notes on October 1. But this decision only reinforces the view that the introduction of the Rs 2000 note directly contradicted the claims made at the time by the government that demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes was a well thought out, effective and permanent strike against black money.

From an operational perspective, Friday's decision seems unnecessary. As per the RBI's annual report, no fresh Rs 2,000 notes have been supplied by the printing presses in the past few years. And as the disposal of soiled notes has been steadily increasing, this note was in effect losing its share in the larger economy. In 2019, the Rs 2,000 note accounted for 31.2 per cent of the value of all notes in circulation. By 2022, it had fallen to 13.8 per cent. And by the end of March 2023, it had fallen further. This implies that over time the share of this high denomination note would have fallen further, and as the numbers of soiled notes rose, it could have been slowly phased out of circulation without causing disruption to the system and inconvenience to the public. The RBI, in its wisdom, has stipulated that the exchange of the Rs 2,000 note cannot exceed Rs 20,000 at a time — hopefully, it has made provisions of lower denomination notes in banks for the exchange. There may be a pattern here of disruptive policy moves that raise concerns of transparency and of costs outstripping the presumed benefits. The recent decision to include international credit card transactions under the liberalised remittance scheme, attracting a higher rate of tax collected at source, fits this pattern.

Indian Express

International Biodiversity Day
Reducing Pesticide Use,
Restoring Degraded Ecosystems

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

When we talk of Biological Diversity also known as *Biodiversity* it is the sum of all life on earth. From ordinary Bacteria, small algae or fungus found on earth to the massive blue whale found in oceans or the massive forests of Amazon, they all are constituents of our earth's biodiversity. The rich biodiversity is often found in two types of places: protected forest areas and those areas which are inhabited by *Indigenous People* who have least contact with the outside world.

The biodiversity of earth is a valuable resource. This is the primary source of our biosphere. It is the only earth which has such a systemic life web which has food, water and air available. Now one can understand how important it is to protect and preserve this biodiversity. India being party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity signed at Rio de Janeiro on the 5th day of June, 1992 enacted Biodiversity Act in 2002. Even after two decades of enactment of this law in India, the authorities at helm are not serious about enforcing the provisions of this law on ground. In Jammu & Kashmir, there are Biodiversity Committees constituted at village level which have a lot of work to do but unfortunately these committees are not supported at all. The biodiversity rich villages located near our forests are yet to create Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) which is mandatory.

From Agreement to Action

With an aim of making nations sensitive towards protection of biodiversity the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted during the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) following a four-year consultation and negotiation process. This meeting was held in two phases between 7th to 19th December 2022 at Kunming, China and Montreal, Canada respectively. This historic Framework supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs and builds on the Convention's previous Strategic Plans, sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Among the Framework's key elements are 4 goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030. How much are nations working to meet these given goals and targets?

When we talk about targets set for the next 7 years, are our government agencies serious about these?

This year's Biodiversity Day has a lovely theme "*From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity*". Governments hold conventions and conferences on environment, biodiversity and climate change, but very little action is taken on ground.

Even after more than 20 years



of enactment of the Biodiversity Act in India, I don't see even 10 to 20 of the provisions of this law are implemented on ground. How many workshops, conferences and meetings were held by various Biodiversity Committees in J&K in the last 5 years? How many People's Biodiversity Registers-PBR's have been prepared at the village level? How much information has been collected from local hakeems, vaidas about the medicinal value of different herbs? How many PBRs have been digitized?

Important GBF Targets

The implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework-GBF will be guided and supported through a comprehensive package of decisions also adopted at COP 15. This package includes a monitoring framework for the GBF, an enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing implementation, the necessary financial resources for implementation, strategic frameworks for capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation, as well as an agreement on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

In adopting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, all Parties committed to setting national targets to implement it, while all other actors have been invited to develop and communicate their own commitments. At the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2024 in Turkey, the nations will take stock of the targets and commitments that have been set.

The GBF includes 4 goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2050 and 2030 respectively. The GBF goals to protect nature are

i) Halting human-induced extinction of threatened species & reducing the rate of extinction of

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How many workshops, conferences and meetings were held by various Biodiversity Committees in J&K in the last 5 years? How many People's Biodiversity Registers-PBR's have been prepared at the village level? How much information has been collected from local hakeems, vaidas about the medicinal value of different herbs? How many PBRs have been digitised?

all species tenfold.

ii) Sustainable use and management of biodiversity to ensure that nature's contributions to people are valued, maintained and enhanced

iii) Fair sharing of the benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources.

iv) Adequate means of implementing the GBF be accessible to all Parties, particularly the underdeveloped nations and small island developing states.

The first part of COP 15 took place in Kunming, China and reinforced the commitment to address the biodiversity crisis and the Kunming Declaration was adopted by over 100 countries. The important targets of GBF to be achieved by

2030 are :

i) Restore 30% degraded ecosystems globally (on land and sea) by 2030 & to conserve and manage 30% areas (terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine) by 2030

ii) Stop the extinction of known species, and by 2050 reduce tenfold the extinction risk and rate of all species (including unknown)

iii) Reduce risk from pesticides by at least 50% by 2030 and nutrients lost to the environment by at least 50% by 2030

iv) Reduce pollution risks and negative impacts of pollution from all sources by 2030 to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions

v) Reduce global footprint of consumption by 2030, including through significantly reducing overconsumption and waste generation and halving food waste

vi) Sustainably manage areas under agriculture, aquaculture fisheries, and forestry and substantially increase agroecology and other biodiversity-friendly practices.

vii) Tackle climate change through nature-based solutions and the rate of introduction and establishment of invasive alien species by at least 50% by 2030 & secure the safe, legal and sustainable use and trade of wild species by 2030

viii) Creating Green urban spaces

Conclusion

Like other nations, states and regions, Jammu & Kashmir is also facing huge challenges as far as biodiversity is concerned. Our rivers and streams which were treasures of biological diversity are being plundered by heavy duty cranes and excavators to extract riverbed materials like sand, gravel and boulders. This is not only destroying our river landscape but is also destroying our biodiversity overall.

The GBF says that by 2030 nations have to reduce 50% risks from pesticide pollution but in J&K the use of pesticides is increasing day by day. After COP 15, no steps have been taken to reduce the use of pesticides in J&K. Similarly, our river ecosystems have been destroyed due to excessive riverbed mining and they are to be restored back. In-fact National Green Tribunal (NGT) has penalized the Govt institutions for this after I moved a petition around 2 years back but in spite of that the Geology & Mining Department is not acting on the ground. We also need urgent restoration of our Karewas which are being plundered due to excessive clay mining.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Srinagar based writer and activist. He is also an Anant Fellow for Climate Action



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Plastic Waste in Space Getting Recycled

PLASTIC waste is an ongoing problem not only on Earth but in space also. A team of scientists in renowned organisations is now testing a novel way to convert discarded plastic in space into useful material. For example NASA is experimenting with space management in space through the reactor project. The system will subject waste material from space to

high temperatures to convert it into usable material. As part of the waste to base materials program, a team of scientists recently built reactors that successfully converted space debris into useful gas. In another example,

Scientists at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory are also developing a machine that turns plastic into a material usable in space itself. In this experiment the PETase

enzyme breaks down Poly Ethylene Terephthalate (PET) plastic into its basic components of terephthalic acid, (which initiates the entire process of recycling PET in space). The acid is then fed to bacteria, which convert it into another compound that can be used to make useful nylon. Scientists have already launched a soup of bacteria and enzymes into space as part of an autonomous sys-

tem designed to convert plastic waste into usable material. The most promising aspect of the latest experiment is that it works completely autonomously, allowing the bacterial soup to slowly break down the plastic, according to latest news reports.

Vijay Kumar HK

Is Moral Existence Possible in Modern World?

Mohammad Saalim Farooq

ARISTOTLE had declared that the state existed for the moral perfection of human beings; implying that humans were morally imperfect creatures. Human existence embarks upon different “states of being”. A “state of being” entails two concepts: one is state of “being as” (something) and second is a state of “doing” or a state of activity. Morality pervades both these spheres; “being” as well as “doing”. This means morality is a constituent of character/personality –which realizes some form of presence (or present-ness), and also activity of negotiating with life; we can be morally good as well as do morally good.

An essential question with which humans have been constantly grappling concerns the nature of moral life. In other words, what does it mean to live a moral life? Different philosophies, religions, ideologies from times immemorial have dealt with this question and provided some generalized opinions, yet it remains unresolved and pertinent to the mystery of life. There is a tendency among people to be indolent and apathetic to such questions, still, we cannot escape them altogether. Our ignorance or indifference would not cease the existence of moral dilemmas, for example, which we all face at some point in our life. Thus in an attempt to live, it becomes a necessity to try and negotiate with morality, consciously or unconsciously, perhaps on an everyday basis.

As far as the reality of existence is concerned, it is an undisputed claim that human beings do not live in an empty space; rather we are grounded or embedded in a context governed by some social, moral, and political idea. Moral issues come forth in a contestation of individual moral beliefs with the already present ‘ethos’ of a society. Developing from Theodore Adorno, Judith Butler in her work Giving an Account of Oneself argues that the questions about moral philosophy not only emerge in the context of social relations but also the form these questions take changes according to the context. What it means is that the occurrence of moral dilemmas, for example, is not only in-



evitable, it also keeps on upgrading itself. In other words, moral questions relevant to a certain context change their form only to be ever-present in a changed context. Imagine the question of abortion; it may be a moral catastrophe for some or freedom for others but the issue around its moral character still surfaces in public debates about abortion. Moral questions around abortion may have changed their form (as today we argue about the point at which life begins in such debates) but the importance and urgency of such questions don't fade away.

When it comes to our contemporary life, a pertinent question one needs to ask is: what is the status of our collective moral existence? Where does morality stand in our everyday life? If we suspend much clichéd Existential or Postmodern critique (which has its own complexities and counter critiques) for a while, we will find that this question forms an immense relevance

for a “fluidly modern” society like ours. It's important because our experience of the ‘modern’ somewhere develops a tension with the ‘traditional’ or, the authentic mode of life. This authentic has an inherent meaning and purpose, an authentic life in other words is a life with a purpose which supplies it with a meaning. It is a life where ideals still sustain and constantly try to inform how to deal with our moral dilemmas, while on the other hand the ‘modern’ is where these ideals have lost their credibility and are no longer sustained because of an increased tendency towards a market oriented life. For the sake of argument let's understand friendship. In its ideal understanding friendship is perhaps an association wherein two or more people are emotionally related to one another by sharing some commonality of, maybe, interests or vulnerabilities. It has its sanctity in the virtue of being exclusive, closed, and trustwor-

thy. But how does the ‘modern’ experience corrode the ideals of friendship? A website namely RentAFriend.com allows its users to rent a local friend if they find themselves lonely in some foreign place, in other words you can buy a friend for some bucks to do away with your loneliness. The question remains, if we buy a friend even if she is loyal will this association be called a friendship? The point is when we add money to rent a friend for some time it loses its meaning. Michel Sandel highlights many other such cases in his book What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets. It then means that modern market forces can intervene with the meaning of otherwise abstract and morally intelligible ideals. Slavoj Zizek, in one of his interviews, makes a similar comment about the nature of love. He argues that the act of ‘falling in love’ which otherwise involved bearing the risks and vulnerabilities of its spontaneity, has now

disappeared. We tend to look for someone to love as an arrangement of preferences and choices that involves conscious decision-making and remaking of it. This proclivity towards having a mechanistic consciousness of the world and things within it however abstract they are has a bearing on our moral existence. It makes cost-benefit analysis or sometimes even hedonistic calculus as the only metric of our ethics –a benchmark of making ethical judgements in the acts we do or the choices we make or even the ideals we hold.

This phenomenon is reductionist and minimalistic with respect to the complex human existence as it doesn't allow an inherently vibrant human nature to express itself. Some important aspects of being human like simplicity, subsistence, altruistic care... are lost in a mad race for frivolous pleasures. For instance, consider the case of Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai, which was recently thrown public for common people to visit. The hotel is jeweled with kingly luxury where even toilets are plated with 24 karat gold. There is no utility of such a luxury other than creating a fetish around commodities and standardizing the cost of living in such places. The benchmark it creates leaves a variety of other human tendencies unentertained. We find people desire to visit such places and witness the luxury because the benchmark somehow even sets the sense of aesthetics for us.

This is precisely where the tension between the ‘modern’ and the authentic becomes apparent, which creates crises in our moral existence and makes us oscillate between being sensitive to the gravity of the situation and being apathetic to it altogether. The problem is; however insensitive we remain, these questions would resurface to us. The need of the hour is to have a deeper engagement with the question of moral and philosophical importance, and not shy away from the complexity of their nature. This is where a case for doing philosophy becomes almost inevitable.

Author is a postgraduate in Political Science with primary interests in Philosophy and Ethics

How AI Will Transform Project Management

Antonio Nieto - Rodriguez
and Ricardo Viana Vargas

Sometime in the near future, the CEO of a large telecom provider is using a smartphone app to check on her organization's seven strategic initiatives. Within a few taps, she knows the status of every project and what percentage of expected benefits each one has delivered. Project charters and key performance indicators are available in moments, as are each team member's morale level and the overall buy-in of critical stakeholders.

She drills down on the “rebranding” initiative. A few months earlier, a large competitor had launched a new green brand, prompting her company to accelerate its own sustainability rollout. Many AI-driven self-adjustments have already occurred, based on parameters chosen by the project manager and the project team at the initiative's outset. The app informs the CEO of every change that needs her attention – as well as potential risks – and prioritizes decisions that she must make, providing potential solutions to each.

Before making any choices, the CEO calls the project manager, who now spends most of his time coaching and supporting the team, maintaining regular conversations with key stakeholders, and cultivating a high-performing culture. A few weeks earlier the project had been slightly behind, and the app recommended that the team should apply agile techniques to speed up one project stream.

During the meeting, they simulate possible solutions and agree on a path forward. The project plan is automatically updated, and messages are sent informing affected team members and stakeholders of the changes and a projection of the expected results.

Thanks to new technologies and ways of working, a strategic project that could have drifted out of control – perhaps even to failure – is now again in line to be successful and deliver the expected results.

Back in the present, project management doesn't always move along quite as smoothly, but this future is probably less than a decade away. To get there sooner, innovators and organizations should be investing in project management technology now.

Project Management Today and Path Forward
Every year, approximately \$48 trillion are invested in projects. Yet according to the Standish Group, only 35% of projects are considered successful. The wasted resources and unrealized benefits of the other 65% are mind-blowing.

For years in our research and publications, we have been promoting the modernization

of project management. One reason we have found why project success rates are so poor is the low level of maturity of technologies available for managing them. Most organizations and project leaders are still using spreadsheets, slides, and other applications that haven't evolved much over the past few decades. These are adequate when you are measuring project success by deliverables and deadlines met, but they fall short in an environment where projects and initiatives are always adapting – and continuously changing the business. There has been improvement in project portfolio management applications, but planning and team collaboration capabilities, automation and “intelligent” features are still lacking.

If applying AI and other technological innovations to project management could improve the success ratio of projects by just 25%, it would equate to trillions of dollars of value and benefits to organizations, societies, and individuals. Each of the core technologies described in the story above is ready – the only question now is how soon they will be effectively applied to project management.

Gartner's research indicates that change is coming soon, predicting that by 2030, 80% of project management tasks will be run by AI, powered by big data, machine learning (ML), and natural language processing. A handful of researchers, such as Paul Boudreau in his book Applying Artificial Intelligence Tools to Project Management, and a growing number of startups, have already developed algorithms to apply AI and ML in the world of project management. When this next generation of tools is widely adopted, there will be radical changes.

6 Aspects of Project Management that Will Be Disrupted

We see these coming technological developments as an opportunity like none before. Organizations and project leaders that are most prepared for this moment of disruption will stand to reap the most rewards. Nearly every aspect of project management, from planning to processes to people, will be affected. Let's take a look at six key areas.

1. Better selection and prioritization

Selection and prioritization are a type of prediction: which projects will bring the most value to the organization? When the correct data is available, ML can detect patterns that can't be discerned by other means and can vastly exceed human accuracy in making predictions. ML-driven prioritization will soon result in:

Faster identification of launch-ready projects that have the right fundamentals in place

Selection of projects that have higher chances of success and delivering the highest

benefitsA better balance in the project portfolio and overview of risk in the organization

Removal of human biases from decision-making

2. Support for the project management office

Data analytics and automation startups are now helping organizations streamline and optimize the role of the project management office (PMO). The most famous case is President Emmanuel Macron's use of the latest technology to maintain up-to-date information about every French public-sector project. These new intelligent tools will radically transform the way PMOs operate and perform with:

Better monitoring of project progress

The capability to anticipate potential problems and to address some simple ones automatically

Automated preparation and distribution of project reports, and gathering of feedback

Greater sophistication in selecting the best project management methodology for each project

Compliance monitoring for processes and policies

Automation, via virtual assistants, of support functions such as status updates, risk assessment, and stakeholder analysis

3. Improved, faster project definition, planning, and reporting

One of the most developed areas in project management automation is risk management. New applications use big data and ML to help leaders and project managers anticipate risks that might otherwise go unnoticed. These tools can already propose mitigating actions, and soon, they will be able to adjust the plans automatically to avoid certain types of risks.

Similar approaches will soon facilitate project definition, planning, and reporting. These exercises are now time-consuming, repetitive, and mostly manual. ML, natural language processing, and plain text output will lead to:

Improved project scoping by automating the time-consuming collection and analysis of user stories. These tools will reveal potential problems such as ambiguities, duplicates, omissions, inconsistencies, and complexities.

Tools to facilitate scheduling processes and draft detailed plans and resource demands

Automated reporting that is not only produced with less labor but will replace today's reports – which are often weeks old – with real-time data. These tools will also drill deeper than is currently possible, displaying project status, benefits achieved, potential slippage, and team sentiment in a clear, objective way.

4. Virtual project assistants
Practically overnight, ChatGPT changed

the world's understanding of how AI can analyze massive sets of data and generate novel and immediate insights in plain text. In project management, tools like these will power “bots” or “virtual assistants.” Oracle recently announced a new project management digital assistant, which provides instant status updates and helps users update time and task progress via text, voice or chat.

The digital assistant learns from past time entries, project planning data, and the overall context to tailor interactions and smartly capture critical project information. PMotto is a ML-enabled virtual project assistant that is already in use. A user can ask PMotto “Schedule John to paint the wall next week and allocate him full time to the task.” The assistant might reply, “Based on previous similar tasks allocated to John, it seems that he will need two weeks to do the work and not one week as you requested. Should I adjust it?”

5. Advanced testing systems and software

Testing is another essential task in most projects, and project managers need to test early and often. It's rare today to find a project major project without multiple systems and types of software that must be tested before the project goes live. Soon, advanced testing systems that are now only feasible for certain megaprojects will become widely available.

The Elizabeth line, part of the Crossrail project in the United Kingdom, is a complex railway with new stations, new infrastructure, new tracks, and new trains; it was, therefore, important that every element of the project went through a rigorous testing and commissioning process to ensure safety and reliability. It required a never-before-seen combination of hardware and software, and after initial challenges, the project team developed the Crossrail Integration Facility. This fully automated off-site testing facility has proven invaluable in increasing systems' efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and resilience. Systems engineer Alessandra Scholl-Sternberg describes some its features: “An extensive system automation library has been written, which enables complex set-ups to be achieved, health checks to be accurately performed, endurance testing to occur over extended periods and the implementation of tests of repetitive nature.” Rigorous audits can be run at the facility 24-7, free from the risk of operator bias.

Advanced and automated system testing solutions for software projects will soon allow early detection of defects and self-correcting processes. This will significantly reduce time spent on cumbersome testing activities, reduce the number of reworks, and ultimately,

deliver easy-to-use and bug-free solutions.

6. A new role for the project manager

For many project managers, automating a significant part of their current tasks may feel scary, but successful ones will learn to use these tools to their advantage. Project managers will not be going away, but they will need to embrace these changes and take advantage of the new technologies. We currently think of cross-functional project teams as a group of individuals, but we may soon think of them as a group of humans and robots.

With a shift away from administrative work, the project manager of the future will need to cultivate strong soft skills, leadership capabilities, strategic thinking, and business acumen. They must focus on the delivery of the expected benefits and their alignment with strategic goals. They will also need a good understanding of these technologies. Some organizations are already building AI into their project management education and certification programs, and Northeastern University is incorporating AI into its curriculum, teaching project managers how to use AI to automate and improve data sets and optimize investment value from projects.

Data and People Make the Future a Reality
When these tools are ready for organizations, how will you make sure your organization is ready for them? Any AI adoption process begins with data, but you must not fail to prepare your people as well.

Training AI algorithms to manage projects will require large amounts of project-related data. Your organization may retain troves of historical project data, but they are likely to be stored in thousands of documents in a variety of file formats scattered around different systems. The information could be out-of-date, might use different taxonomies, or contain outliers and gaps. Roughly 80% of the time spent preparing a ML algorithm for use is focused on data gathering and cleaning, which takes raw and unstructured data and transforms it into structured data that can train a machine learning model.

Without available and properly managed data, the AI transformation will never happen at your organization – but no AI transformation will flourish if you don't also prepare yourself and your team for the change.

This new generation of tools will not only change the technology on how we manage projects, but will change completely our work in the project. Project managers must be prepared to coach and train their teams to adapt to this transition.

The article was originally published by Harvard Business Review

New Study Reveals That Friendships Make Up For A Bad Start In Life



The most important result of our research is that early life adversity and adult social relationships have independent effects on survival. That is, both early life environments and adult social bonds have strong effects, but they don't depend on each other.

Childhoods can predict a great deal about how adult lives might play out. For instance, research has shown that people whose childhoods involve poverty, abuse and neglect have poorer health and shorter lives than those who have happy, stable childhoods.

Is there a way to overcome a bad start? The evidence suggests that strong social ties may be one way to make up for adversity in early life. People (and other animals such as killer whales, hyraxes and baboons) with strong adult friendships are healthier and live longer than those without such bonds.

I am a biologist working on how social environments affect development and lifespan. I recently collaborated with statisticians and other biologists to understand whether harsh conditions in early life led to weak social relationships and poor health, or if close friendships could develop in adulthood in spite of a tough childhood. We also wondered if having close friends could potentially even make up for a poor early life.

To answer these questions, we studied a population of wild baboons in Kenya. Scientists often use animal models to test hypotheses that are difficult to study in humans. Baboons are a useful proxy for humans because they are similar in their life cycle, social relationships, physiology and behaviour. And research has shown that the effects of early adversity and social bonds on lifespan in humans are paralleled in baboons.

The most important result of our research is that early life adversity and adult social relationships have independent effects on survival. That is, both early life environments and adult social bonds have strong effects, but they don't depend on each other.

This has been an important question for social scientists, because one possibility is that the effects of adult social bonds on survival are solely a

result of the fact that early life adversity tends to lead to poor social bonds in adulthood and also to poor survival. In that scenario, the two effects are not independent. Everything is driven by early life adversity.

But our data shows that both effects matter. What's more, our results suggest that strong social bonds can make up for some of the negative effects of early adversity for baboons. If that's true for human too we don't know that yet interventions early in life and in adulthood could improve human health.

Baboons' lives

Baboons live in social groups with many complex relationships and interactions. They have an accelerated life cycle compared to humans (they mature at around 4.5 years and females live about 18 years). Like humans, they evolved in a savannah environment and are highly adaptable and behaviourally flexible. These traits make them an ideal species for exploring our research questions and linking results to humans.

We study the baboons of the Amboseli ecosystem in Kenya. The lives of these baboons have been documented since 1971 as part of the Amboseli Baboon Research Project. We have complete lifespan data for many individuals and can track families across generations. Direct observation also offers a complete picture of their development and behaviour.

We used data collected by the senior field team of biologists in Amboseli between 1983 and 2019 and examined six sources of early life adversity in the baboons:

- experiencing a drought in the first year of life
- being born into an unusually large social group (crowding)

- having a low-ranking mother
- having a socially isolated mother
- having a younger sibling born soon after them
- losing their mother when they are young.

These events are like adverse childhood experiences in humans that are associated with poverty or family trauma.

Once the study subjects grew up, we measured their social bonds and their survival as adults.

Independent effects

People whose childhoods involve poverty, abuse and neglect have poorer health and shorter lives than those who have happy, stable childhoods

Our results showed that the effects of early life adversity and adult social relationships on survival were largely independent. Early life environments and adult social bonds both had strong effects on survival, but adult social bonds were not as heavily influenced by early life adversity as we'd thought. And the effect of bonds on survival didn't depend in any way on whether the baboon experienced early life adversity.

This rules out the possibility that being born into a poor environment destines a baboon to both poor social relationships and poor survival.

Our results also suggest that strong social bonds in baboon adulthood can buffer some negative effects of early adversity: friends can make up for a bad start.

For the baboons, this is especially true if a female loses her mother but can maintain strong social ties to other members of the group after she grows up. Because mothers are an important source of resources, learning and social support in baboons, maternal loss is a particularly strong source of adversity.

If this result holds for humans, it means that interventions early in life and in adulthood could help improve lifespan.

Human adversity

Our results raise the possibility that human health and survival could be improved if people with adverse childhood experiences were identified and helped to improve their social relationships in adulthood.

Researchers working with humans are asking similar questions to determine whether early life adversity and social bonds affect survival in the same way as in baboons. Future work should also ask if there are other links between a poor early life environment and survival. For example, genetics, physiology, immune responses, and other behaviours likely play a role.

Our study also shows that some of our most important human traits including the importance of social relationships for survival evolved long ago. Looking to the animals can help us learn about ourselves.



\$100 Billion! The Mighty Cost Cloud Over ChatGPT Revolution

AFP

WASHINGTON: The explosion of generative AI has taken the world by storm, but one question all too rarely comes up: Who can afford it?

OpenAI bled around \$540 million last year as it developed ChatGPT and says it needs \$100 billion to meet its ambitions, according to industry media The Information.

"We're going to be the most capital-intensive startup in Silicon Valley history," OpenAI's founder Sam Altman told a panel recently.

And when Microsoft, which poured billions of dollars in investment into OpenAI, is asked about how much its AI adventure will cost, the company answers with assurances that it is keeping an eye on its bottom line.

Building something even near the scale of what OpenAI, Microsoft or Google have on offer would require an eye-watering investment on state-of-the-art chips and recruiting prize-winning researchers.

"People don't realize that to do a significant amount of AI things like ChatGPT takes huge amounts of processing power. And training those models can cost tens of millions of dollars," said Jack Gold, an independent analyst.

"How many companies can actually afford to go out and buy



10,000 Nvidia H100 systems that go for tens of thousands of dollars a piece?" asked Gold.

The answer is pretty much no one and in tech, if you can't build the infrastructure, you rent it and that is what companies already do massively by outsourcing their computing needs to Microsoft, Google and Amazon's AWS.

And with the advent of generative AI, this dependency on cloud computing and tech giants deepens, leaving the same players in the driver's seat, experts warned.

"Heavily underestimated"

The unpredictable costs of cloud computing, "is a heavily underestimated problem for many companies," said Stefan Sigg, Chief Product Officer at Software AG, which develops software for businesses.

Sigg compares cloud costs to electricity bills and says companies that don't know better are in for "a big surprise" if they let their engineers run up bills in the mad rush to build tech, including AI.

Go First Insolvency Upheld By Tribunal, Setback For Lessors

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday upheld insolvency resolution proceedings against crisis-hit airline Go First, derailing aircraft lessors' efforts to take back their planes from the struggling Wadia group firm.

A two-member NCLAT bench directed aircraft lessors and the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) of the Wadia group firm to approach the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) regarding the claim of possession and other respective claims relating to the aircraft whose leases were terminated by the lessors after the company filed for insolvency process.

"The order dated May 10, 2023, admitting Section 10 Application is upheld," said the NCLAT bench headed by Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan.

Earlier, NCLT on May 10, 2023, admitted the plea of Go First to initiate voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings and appointed an interim resolution professional (IRP) to suspend the company's board.

The said NCLT order was challenged by Go First's four aircraft lessors - SMBC Aviation Capital Ltd, GY Aviation, SFV Aircraft Holdings and Engine Leasing Finance BV (ELFC) - owning around 22 aeroplanes.

Disposing of their pleas through a 40-page-long common order, the NCLAT said lessors are at "liberty to file" appropriate application before NCLT under Section 65 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) with "appropriate pleadings and material" regarding their claims.

However, it also added that NCLT while considering the said application "shall not be influenced by any observations made in this order".

"The appellants, as well as IRP, are at liberty to make appropriate Application before the Adjudicating Authority (NCLT) for declaration with regard to the applicability of the moratorium on the aircraft with regard to which Leases in favour of the Corporate Applicant (Go First) were terminated prior to admission of Section 10 Application, which Application needs to be considered and decided by the Adjudicating Authority in accordance with law," it said.

NCLAT also held lessors and IRP are at liberty to make an appropriate application under Section 60, sub-section (5) with regard to claims of possession and other respective claims relating to the aircraft in question, which need to be decided by the NCLT in accordance with the law.

Section 10 of IBC allows a company to approach NCLT for initiation of insolvency at a default. While section 60 (5) grants NCLT power to entertain any claim made by or against the corporate debtor including claims by or against any of its subsidiaries. It also grants NCLT power to deal any question of priorities or any question of law or facts, arising out of CIRP.

Over aircraft lessors' contention that leases with Go First were terminated prior to admission of Section 10 and moratorium as directed by NCLT order dated May 10, 2023, cannot be said to be applicable to these assets are free to claim possession, the appellate tribunal said: "the issues which are sought to be raised in this appeal have not yet been considered by the Adjudicating Authority".



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RBI Expects Return Of Most Rs 2,000 Currency Notes In Circulation By Sep 30: Guv Das

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said most of the withdrawn Rs 2,000 rupee notes are expected to be returned by the deadline of September 30.

Speaking to reporters for the first time since the surprise decision to withdraw the highest denomination currency note was announced, Das said the decision was part of currency management.

Rs 2,000 currency notes continue to be legal tender, Das added.

Indian currency management system is very robust, exchange rate has remained stable despite crisis in financial markets due to war in Ukraine and failure of certain banks in the West, he said.

The impact of the withdrawal on the economy will be "very very marginal", he said, adding Rs 2,000 currency notes made up for just 10.8 per cent of the total currency in circulation.

He said Rs 2,000 rupee notes were introduced primarily to replenish the currency that was withdrawn following 2016 demonetisation, he said.

While the withdrawn 2,000 rupee notes can either be deposited in bank accounts or exchange for other currency,



banks have been advised to make necessary arrangements for exchange, he said.

"We expect most of Rs 2,000 bank notes to come back to the exchequer by September 30," he said. "We have more than adequate quantities of printed notes already available in the system, not just with RBI but with currency chests operated by banks. There is no reason for worry. We have sufficient stocks, no need to worry."

RBI, he said, was sensitive to difficulties faced by people and would come out with regulations if need be.

Existing income tax requirement of furnishing PAN for deposits of Rs 50,000 or more in bank accounts will continue to apply for deposits of the withdrawn 2000 rupee notes, he said.

Das said liquidity in the system is being monitored on a daily basis.

FB Parent Meta Hit With A Record \$1.3 Billion Fine For Transferring European User Data To US

Associated Press

LONDON: The European Union slapped Meta with a record \$1.3 billion privacy fine Monday and ordered it to stop transferring user data across the Atlantic, the latest salvo in a decade-long case sparked by U.S.cybersnooping fears.

The penalty fine of 1.2 billion euros from Ireland's Data Protection Commission is the biggest since the EU's strict data privacy regime took effect five years ago, surpassing Amazon's 746 million euro penalty in 2021 for data protection violations.

The Irish watchdog is Meta's lead privacy regulator in the 27-nation bloc because the Silicon Valley tech giant's European headquarters is based in Dublin.

Meta, which had previously warned that services for its users in Europe could be cut off, vowed to appeal and ask courts to immediately put the decision on hold.

"There is no immediate disruption to Facebook in Europe," the company said. "This decision is flawed, unjustified and

sets a dangerous precedent for the countless other companies transferring data between the EU and U.S.," Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global affairs, and Chief Legal Officer Jennifer Newstead said in a statement.

It's yet another twist in a legal battle that began in 2013 when Austrian lawyer and privacy activist Max Schrems filed a complaint about Facebook's handling of his data following former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden's revelations about U.S.cybersnooping.

The saga has highlighted the clash between Washington and Brussels over the differences between Europe's strict view on data privacy and the comparatively lax regime in the U.S., which lacks a federal privacy law.

An agreement covering EU-U.S.data transfers known as the Privacy Shield was struck down in 2020 by the EU's top court, which said it didn't do enough to protect residents from the U.S. government's electronic prying. That left another tool to govern data transfers - stock legal contracts.

Govt To Soon Declare National Tourism Policy: Minister Reddy

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- The government is planning to hold a global tourism investment summit and will soon declare a national tourism policy, Union minister G Kishan Reddy said on Monday.

He also said there is a tremendous scope for promoting spiritual tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reddy was addressing a press conference at SKICC here after the culmination of a side event on 'Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation' as part of the three-day third Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20. Union minister Jitendra Singh and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant were also present at the presser.

"We are going to soon declare national tourism policy for India. We are planning global tourism investment summit," Reddy, the minister for Culture and

Tourism, said.

He said the Centre is allowing 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in tourism.

"Our idea is that without private investment, we cannot become a global destination," he added.

Reddy said the Union government and the Ministry of Tourism are closely working with all the ministries and the state governments to encourage tourism.

"The government of India is also working with all the G20 countries and invited countries for developing sustainable tourism," he added.

Speaking at the presser, G20 Sherpa Kant said India is hosting G20 presidency at a time of "global turbulence".

"Seventy per cent countries are facing debt crisis. People have lost jobs. But, India sees G20 as an opportunity," he said.

"We are growing at a high rate of around seven per

cent. We have built 40 million houses, provided toilet connection to 110 million people, drinking water connection to 240 million people. We have made 55,000 kilometres of road. Inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth is our priority. If there is growth, we will be able to lift people out of poverty," he said.

There is a need to transform multilateral financial institutions to ensure that resources flow to emerging countries, Kant said.

He said India thought of making G20 as people's presidency and the country is hosting the G20 events in 60 cities.

"It is unparalleled. The meeting in Kashmir is very very important for us as we believe in peace and prosperity," he said.

Minister of state in Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh said holding the G20 event in Srinagar was an achievement in itself.

New Zealand Sheep Outnumber People Less Than 5 To 1, A Record Low



AFP

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's sheep outnumber people by fewer than five to one, official figures showed Monday, clipping their lead over humans to the lowest level since the 1850s.

New Zealanders have far fewer of the woolly grazers than their Australian rivals, said the government body Stats NZ, despite frequently being the butt of their sheep jokes.

The national flock fell by 400,000 sheep -- or two per cent -- to 25.3 million in June 2022, said New Zealand's newly released five-yearly census of agricultural production.

"The ratio of sheep to people dropped below five to one in

2022, for the first time since the 1850s, when national sheep numbers were first recorded," said Stats NZ analyst Jason Attewell.

"In 1982 New Zealand sheep numbers famously sat at 22 per person," he added.

"Australia currently has three times as many sheep as New Zealand, though their ratio is only around three sheep to every Aussie."

New Zealand, home to 5.2 million people, is one of the world's main wool exporters, last year sending US\$284 million worth overseas.

But rising farming costs and falling wool prices have seen national sheep figures dwindle from a high of 72 million in the 1980s.

NEWS MAKERS

Youth Entrepreneurship Festival Concludes With 'Idea Pitching Event'

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: One of its kind Youth Entrepreneurship Festival Ganderbal concluded Monday with the Idea Pitching Event held at Govt. Degree College Ganderbal.

The concluding event was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir as Chief Guest while Major Hitesh Kumar Singh, Officer Commanding, Duderhama Coy was the guest of honor for the event. The festival was aimed at promoting entrepreneurial zeal among the youth of Ganderbal so that more and more sustainable enterprises are created in the district.

The Idea Pitching challenge envisioned by District Skill Committee Ganderbal to promote investment and startup culture started two months ago with awareness camps at various educational institutions that resulted in receiving of 121 unique ideas.

The ideas were screened after a two-tier process and 21 ideas were shortlisted for the final day pitch. Today 18 ideas were pitched in front of investors and innovation experts of which 11 were offered direct investment support from investors.

The event was held under the SANKALP Programme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GOI and was supported by

24 Rashtriya Rifles under Operation Sadbhavana, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute, and Kashmir Angel Network.

The winners of the Idea Pitching Challenge shall receive cash prizes up to ₹50,000.

Moreover, all departments dealing with livelihood generation schemes also installed their stalls showcasing their schemes in which youth from the district showed their interest and were amazed to see the number of self-employment schemes available.

Besides this, the closing cup prize distribution ceremony was held in which mementos were distributed among winners of various art, craft and skill challenges. The winners of the events shall be given cash prizes up to ₹3000.

The festival has become an example of convergence among the different departments dealing with livelihood generation and Indian Army.

The line departments provided the platform and the Indian army provided the necessary support for the success of festival. 24 Rashtriya Rifles provided the necessary support for making the venue suitable for holding the events by planting more than 150 trees besides building and amphitheater (which is in pipeline) for the students to showcase their performing art skills.

Honey Processing Cum Bottling Plant Inaugurated At Baramulla

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: In order to boost the growth of agriculture in Baramulla district, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today inaugurated Honey Processing Cum Bottling Plant and Hi Tech Polygreen House under Aspirational District Programme at Agriculture Extension Office Baramulla, here.

The processing and bottling plant, setup with award money at a cost of Rs 11.19 lakhs is the first of its kind in the district and has the capacity to process and filter honey on a daily basis.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sehrish said that the plant will provide service to farmers on a no profit basis. She informed that the district has a large number of beekeepers with an annual production of 800 qtls of raw honey. The plant will now enable the farmers to sell their honey as a marketable product and augment their incomes, she added.

Elaborating further, the DDC remarked that the much needed plant will help in processing, filtering and bottling of honey thereby making its sale to a large extent.

After launching Varmul Honey Brand, the DDC said that the District Administration is committed to introduce the brand at National and International level.

el. She also asserted that similar profit oriented initiatives will be taken up in other areas also so that the plant will open many avenues for the farmers to market their products at large scale.

Later, the DDC inaugurated the 7th Hi-Tech Polygreen House set up at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakhs.

After inaugurating the polyhouse, the DDC highlighted the importance of Hi-tech poly houses and said that to explore the potential in the vegetable sector hi-tech poly green houses will play a remarkable role.

She said that the Agriculture department has established hi-tech poly green houses in the district to ensure round the year availability of seedlings of different vegetable crops to the farming community.

Dr Sehrish also highlighted the importance of integrated farming and asked the farmers to diversify their agriculture operations.

The DDC further added that the District Administration is committed to raising the living standards of people. She assured that the District Administration will provide all the technical assistance to the farming community to comprehensively perform their agriculture activities.

Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Yousuf Rather and Chief Agriculture officer, Yadvinder Singh besides others concerned were present on the occasion.

8 Projects Approved Under NBHM For Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: With the timely efforts of District Administration Kupwara, a total of eight projects under NBHM (National Beekeeping and Honey Mission) have got approval for development of the Apiculture sector in the district, bringing good news for farmers and beekeepers of the district.

Union Territory Level Screening Committee of National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) has given approval to 4 projects of frontier district Kupwara in the private sector with project cost of Rs.121.00 lacs for development of Apiculture sector in Kupwara district during the CPY 2023-24.

The approved projects include one project in Lolab, two at Langate, and one at Bramri Kupwara.

Two more private sector projects including a Honey packaging unit at Machil with project cost of 38 lacs and Custom Hiring Apiculture Centre at Gulgam with project cost of 75 lacs have already been approved.

Besides, establishment of centre for excellence (Apiculture) in Gana-pora Langate Handwara and District level Seminars cum Awareness programs on Beekeeping in Kupwara have been approved for develop-

ment of Apiculture Sector under National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM).

With the approval of these 8 projects in Kupwara district, Honey processing units on modern lines will be established with bottling, packaging and value addition facilities like "Walnut-Honey Blend".

Approved projects will help farmers to give a boost to the Apiculture Sector and produce pure and organic honey and other related products on modern lines in the district and its export to other states and countries which will generate employment and profit.

More than 1050 Quintals of pure organic honey is annually produced in Kupwara district with turn-over of Rs. 12 crores

More than 550 farmers are today engaged in honey production and processing in Kupwara district.

There are at present 8500 Bee colonies (Apis Mellifera) and 3500 wall-colonies (Apis cerana indica) in the private sector in Kupwara district.

Intending budding beekeepers are helped by the department through different interventions and provided bee colonies at subsidized rates to generate employment and boost the economic sector in the district.

Kohli In First Batch Leaving For WTC Final

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli will be among the first batch of India players to leave for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in London, departing in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate Mohammad Siraj will also board the same flight, a day after their team was knocked out of the IPL. Spinners R Ashwin and Axar Patel, and all-rounder Shardul Thakur, will also be on the flight as well as the team's support staff led by Rahul Dravid.

The two other players who complete the first list of seven cricketers are Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Umesh Yadav and Lucknow Super Giants' Jaydev

India won't play any warm-up game as the English County Championship is on and also this being an ICC event, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is under no obligation to arrange practice matches for the visiting team.

"Also if we play against a select county XI, it will comprise mostly second team or development squad players, as first team players are not released during the championship. Playing against a weak opposition doesn't help in quality practice," a BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

While the majority of the Indian team players are going into the title clash after two months of IPL, only three WTC-bound Australians played in the richest T20 league.



Unadkat, who is recovering from a shoulder injury.

The final will be played at the Oval from June 7-11.

"There will be two or three departures in total. The first batch leaves at 4.30 am tomorrow," said a BCCI source.

The seven players, who will stay back in India for the IPL playoffs, include skipper Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Mohammad Shami, K S Bharat and Ajinkya Rahane.

Cheteshwar Pujara is already playing county cricket in England and will link up with the squad in London.

It must be mentioned that

Last week, the great Ricky Ponting said the Aussies will be mentally better prepared for the final but the Indians will have valuable game time behind them.

"There are two ways to look at this. For someone like Virat, is he better off playing now and scoring runs at a consistent basis and have confidence going into a game rather than the Australians back home who haven't been playing much cricket but will be mentally better prepared," Ponting had said.

India, who finished runners-up in 2021, will be aiming to win their first ICC trophy in 10 years.

Hazlewood Declared 'Fit & Available' For WTC Final



Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia on Monday declared the country's seasoned speedster Josh Hazlewood "fit and available" for the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final against India and the Ashes series against old rivals England.

The WTC final is scheduled to be held at the Oval in London from June 7-11, which will be followed by the five-match Ashes from June 16 to July 31.

The 32-year-old Hazlewood returned to Australia after reporting "minor side soreness" after his recent Indian Premier League outing for Royal Challengers Bangalore two weeks ago, raising concerns about his participation in the forthcoming international assignments.

However, CA said he is fit to travel to the UK. "Josh Hazlewood returned home from the IPL last weekend after experiencing minor side soreness after the completion of his most recent IPL

match," a CA spokesperson said.

"After a brief and precautionary rest period, Hazlewood returned to high-intensity bowling last week and will continue to increase his bowling workloads in preparation for the WTC and Ashes series. Hazlewood is considered fit and available for the WTC and Ashes Series." In a relief for the pacer, scans have revealed no damage as he returned to bowling ahead of the Australian squad's departure for the UK.

Hazlewood played the last of his three games for Royal Challengers Bangalore on May 9 and bowled a total of nine overs in the ongoing IPL, from which his team was knocked out by Gujarat Titans following a six-wicket loss in Bengaluru on Sunday night.

Bought for Rs 7.75 crore by RCB during the 2022 IPL auction, Hazlewood has missed games with side strains over the last two home Test summers and suffered the Achilles injury during the SCG Test against South Africa in January.

IPL 2023: CSK Take On GT In 1st Qualifier



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The astute tactician in Mahendra Singh Dhoni will dig deep into his reserves to counter Indian cricket's new 'Crown Prince' Shubman Gill as four-time champions Chennai Super Kings will meet their match in current title holders Gujarat Titans in Qualifier-1 of the IPL in Chennai on Tuesday.

Gill, who almost single-handedly knocked out a star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore with a century for the keeps, has overshadowed Virat Kohli and will certainly force one of India's greatest captains to go back to the drawing board and make plans for him.

Gill is in the midst of a dream season and what will be Dhoni's tactical ploy to stop the dashing 'Mohali Marauder' is there to be seen.

This season, Gujarat Titans haven't played at the Chepauk, which hasn't behaved in a singular manner during CSK's seven home games and that prompted head coach Stephen Fleming to raise apprehensions about what to expect.

What makes this battle even more interesting is the fact that GT is a team that seems closest to being a proto-type of what CSK had been all these years in IPL.

A solid management and an administration team that stays in the background and never interferes in cricketing matters, which is left to the trio of Ashish Nehra, Gary Kirsten and Vikram Solanki.

A captain, who swears that his understanding of leadership is cut from Dhoni's 'captaincy cloth', and head coach

Nehra, who just like his former teammate doesn't believe in too many changes even if a couple of games go wrong.

They don't field players based on their auction worth — remember CSK bought Krishnappa Gowtham for nearly ₹10 crore and he got a single game as he didn't fit the combination.

Similarly, GT has current India T20 pacer Shivam Mavi on its roster for a whopping ₹6 crore but the team management has preferred veteran Mohit Sharma, who is executing the slower deliveries beautifully. It's all about who fits what role.

So, it becomes more interesting when two teams with similar philosophy are pitted against each other.

The teams which don't make long-term promises that are difficult to fulfil but focus on immediate process and know the roles of players required for slots.

For Gujarat, tackling the slowness of the Chepauk track will be a challenge and how well they negotiate Deepak Chahar's powerplay overs and Matheesha Pathirana's slingers at the back-end, will determine the outcome of the match.

And herein, Pandya and Nehra will find Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka's inputs handy as he has handled both Pathirana and spinner Maheesh Theekshana for the national team.

While Shanaka might be used more as an all-rounder, Titans depending on the toss can also try out left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore, who knows these conditions well.

There is a chance that Irishman Joshua Little will be back in playing XI in place of Shanaka and Sai Kishore comes in place of Yash Dayal, who is yet to get back his confidence after the five sixes assault on him by his statemate Rinku Singh.

For CSK, a good start by the crack pair of Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad will be important. But at the Chepauk, even Ajinkya Rahane could become a factor while Shivam Dube would love to add to his 33 sixes for the season.

Conway and Gaikwad have provided brisk and substantial starts for CSK, but the middle order hasn't exactly got going. With GT bowling led by Mohammed Shami and Rashid Khan (24 wickets each so far) things won't be easy for the home team's batters, Conway and Gaikwad included.

How the CSK opening duo handles the relentless Shami may prove vital and it would be important for the underperforming middle-order to step up in a crunch game.

The pitches at Chepauk so far have been a bit up and down, with a few being slow in nature while some have been good to bat on. CSK head coach Fleming said as much after the win over Delhi Capitals, claiming that the team is unsure about the conditions (at home).

If a sluggish pitch is rolled out for the match, the spinners in the two teams would have a huge part to play. If CSK has Ravindra Jadeja, Moeen Ali and Theekshana, the Titans boast of a line-up that includes Rashid and Noor Ahmad.

Match starts at 7.30 p.m.

Will Take Action Against Those Abusing Shubman Gill's Sister: DCW Chief

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Monday slammed those trolling Shubman Gill's sister on social media after the cricketer's ton guided Gujarat Titans to a victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL.

She said action will be taken against those trolling the batter's sister.

"Extremely shameful to see trolls abusing #Shubhman-Gill's sister just because the team they follow lost a match. Previously we had initiated action against people abusing #ViratKohli's daughter. DCW will take action against all those who have abused Gill's sister as well. This shall not be



tolerated!" she tweeted.

Shubman Gill reaffirmed his status as Virat Kohli's heir apparent with a magnificent hundred as Gujarat Titans knocked Royal Challengers Bangalore out of the IPL with

a six-wicket win, allowing Rohit Sharma's Mumbai Indians to sneak through as the fourth team in the play-offs.

Gill scored an unbeaten 104 off 52 balls that saw Titans chase down the target with elan.

Financial Charges Cast Cloud Over Man City's Dominance

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester City's ruthless run to the Premier League title can be traced back to the morning of Feb. 6, when the club was hit with more than 100 charges of financial wrongdoing.

City has not lost a game in any competition since then and is on track to win three trophies, having also advanced to the finals of the Champions League and the FA Cup.

But even if the accusations made by the Premier League appear to have marked a turning point in potentially the most successful season in the club's

the off-field issues were causing undue concern to supporters or players.

Instead, against a backdrop of blue smoke and explosions of ticker tape, the trophy was lifted to rapturous cheers and City manager Pep Guardiola spoke of his goal to lead the club to its first Champions League title against Inter Milan in Istanbul on June 10.

City's ongoing supremacy, however, is leading some to look again at the charges against it, with one column in a British newspaper last week asking whether it was "the greatest team or one built on years of cheating?"



history, they continue to cast a cloud over City's years of dominance in English football.

City has been England's leading club for more than a decade thanks to the lavish backing of Abu Dhabi's ruling family. The club was bought by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2008.

The latest title triumph was the club's fifth in six years and seventh in the past 11.

On Sunday, as City celebrated with its fans at Etihad Stadium — named for a sponsor deal with the state airline in Abu Dhabi — there was no sign that

City is accused of providing misleading information about its finances over a nine-year period from 2009-18 — a span in which it won three titles and signed some of the world's best players, like Yaya Toure, Sergio Agüero and Kevin de Bruyne.

During that time, City changed the landscape of European football by becoming one of the most powerful teams in the sport. The club's exorbitant spending has provided the foundation for the unprecedented success, and prompted questions about whether anyone can halt City's dominance. (AP)

FIFA Extends Rule To Suspend Contracts With Ukrainian, Russian Clubs



Agencies

ZURICH: FIFA extended a rule Monday that lets players and coaches continue to suspend their contracts with clubs in Ukraine and Russia for another season, even while it faces a legal challenge from Ukrainian club Shakhtar Donetsk.

FIFA first passed the temporary measure less than two weeks after Russia's war in Ukraine started in February 2022, saying it was "to protect foreign players and coaches who have left the territory of Ukraine or Russia due to the conflict and who do not wish to currently return in view of the circumstances."

It was renewed one year ago and will now be extended through June 2024, though not for players and coaches who joined clubs in those countries or extended their existing contracts after the first FIFA decision in March last year.

The FIFA rule is unpopular

with Ukrainian and Russian clubs who said letting their players leave on loan left them with no protection and cost millions of dollars in lost transfer fees.

Separate legal challenges were lost by Shakhtar and a group of Russian clubs at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which in January upheld the FIFA rule.

Shakhtar was seeking 50 million euros (\$54 million) in compensation from FIFA and has since filed a complaint with the European Commission.

The clubs said it took its case to Brussels "given the importance and reliance of FC Shakhtar to undertake transfer market trading with players within the European Union."

Shakhtar last year lost its coach Roberto De Zerbi, who was later hired by Brighton and excelled in leading the English Premier League club to a first qualification for a European competition. (AP)

After Abuse Against Vinícius Júnior, Spanish Football Acknowledges It Has A Racism Problem

Agencies

MADRID: Spanish football is again embroiled in a racism debate after yet another case of abuse against Real Madrid forward Vinícius Júnior, with the president of Spain's football federation acknowledging that the country has a racism problem and the player's club asking authorities to investigate the latest incident as a hate crime.

Officials, players and former players showed solidarity with Vinícius, who on Sunday considered leaving the field after facing racist taunts from fans during Real Madrid's 1-0 loss at Valencia in the Spanish league.

"We have a problem of behavior, of education, of racism," Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales said Monday. "And as long as there is one

fan or one group of fans making insults based on someone's sexual orientation or skin color or belief, then we have a serious problem. A serious problem that stains an entire team, an entire fan base and an entire country."

Valencia said it banned one of its fans for life and was looking to identify others who may have insulted Vinícius at Mestalla Stadium.

"From the moment that the unfortunate events occurred, the club has analyzed all the available footage, working alongside the authorities as rapidly as possible to clarify what happened in order to be able to act quickly and forcefully," Valencia said in a statement, adding it is working with police to identify more culprits.

Real Madrid asked authorities to investigate the abusive be-



havior, saying the club believed the incident to be a hate crime.

"Real Madrid strongly con-

demns the events that took place yesterday (Sunday)

against our player," the club

said. "These events represent a direct attack on the social and democratic model of coexistence of our State based on the rule of law."

The Spanish league has made nine similar formal complaints for racist abuse against Vinícius over the last two seasons, but most of the cases have been shelved by prosecutors.

"I'm curious to see what happens," said Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti, who on Sunday considered taking Vinícius out of the game after he was insulted. "Nothing will happen, because this has already taken place several times in other stadiums and nothing has been done. Nothing. We have to evaluate this situation, because it is very serious."

Vinícius, who is Black and has been subjected to repeated rac-

ist abuse since he arrived from Brazil five years ago, said after the match that the Spanish league "now belongs to racists" and that Spain "is seen as a racist country."

"You're not alone," France forward Kylian Mbappé said on Instagram. "We are with you and we support you."

Former players also quickly sided with the Brazil forward.

"Another case of racism against Vinícius in the Spanish league," said former Brazil striker Ronaldo, who spent five seasons playing for Real Madrid in the 2000s. "Until when? As long as there is impunity, there will be racism."

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and several of his cabinet ministers backed Vinícius and were critical of Spanish football.

"It is not fair that a poor boy who is winning in his life, becoming one of the best in the world, certainly the best at Real Madrid, is insulted in every stadium he goes to," Lula said.

Spanish league president Javier Tebas criticized Vinícius for attacking the league, saying the player didn't show up for talks on the subject of racism that he had requested himself.

Vinícius wasn't happy with Tebas' stance.

"Instead of criticizing racists, the league president shows up on social media to attack me," Vinícius said. "Although you may say otherwise or pretend not to notice, the image of your championship is shaken. Omitting yourself only makes you equal to the racists. I'm not your friend to talk about racism with you. I want actions and punishment." (AP)

2 Million Killed, \$4.3 Trillion In Damages From Extreme Weather Over Past Half-Century: UN Agency

Geneva: Nearly 12,000 extreme weather, climate and water-related events over much of the past half-century around the globe have killed more than 2 million people and caused economic damage of \$4.3 trillion, the UN weather agency said Monday.

The stark recap from the World Meteorological Organization came as it opened its four-yearly congress among member countries, pressing the message that more needs to be done to improve alert systems for extreme weather events by a target date of 2027.

The Geneva-based agency has repeatedly warned about the impact of man-made climate change, saying rising temperatures have increased the frequency and intensity of extreme weather — including floods, hurricanes, cyclones and drought.

WMO says early warning systems have helped reduce deaths linked to climate and other weather-related catastrophes. Most of the economic damage between 1970 and 2021 came in the United States — totaling \$1.7 trillion — while nine in 10 deaths worldwide took place in develop-



ing countries.

WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said the cyclonic storm Mocha that swept across Myanmar and Bangladesh this month exemplified how the "most vulnerable communities unfortunately bear the brunt of weather, climate and water-related hazards." "In the past, both Myanmar and Bangladesh suffered death tolls of tens and even hundreds of thousands of people," he said, alluding to previous catastrophes. "Thanks to early warnings and disaster management these

catastrophic mortality rates are now thankfully history." "Early warnings save lives," he said.

The findings were a part of an update to WMO's Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes, which previously had covered a nearly 50-year period through 2019.

Extreme temperatures were the top cause of reported deaths; floods were the main cause of economic losses.

In Africa, WMO counted more than 1,800 disasters and 733,585

deaths related to weather, climate and water extremes — including flooding and storm surges. The costliest was Tropical Cyclone Idai in 2019, which ran to \$2.1 billion in damages.

Nearly 1,500 disasters hit the southwest Pacific, causing 66,951 deaths and \$185.8 billion in economic losses.

Asia faced over 3,600 disasters, costing 984,263 lives and \$1.4 trillion in economic losses — that cost mostly due to the impact of cyclones. South America had 943 disasters that resulted in 58,484 deaths and over \$115 billion in economic losses.

Over 2,100 disasters in North America, Central America and the Caribbean led to 77,454 deaths and \$2 trillion in economic losses.

Europe saw nearly 1,800 disasters that led to 166,492 deaths and \$562 billion in economic losses.

Last week, WMO forecast a 66% chance that within the next five years the Earth will face a year that averages 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than in the mid-19th century, reaching a key threshold targeted by the Paris climate accord of 2015.

Separated By Partition, Siblings Reunite After 75 Years At Pakistan's Kartarpur

Lahore: A man and his sister, separated during the Partition 75 years ago, were reunited at the landmark Kartarpur Corridor, in an emotional meeting made possible through social media, a media report said on Monday.

Mahendra Kaur, 81, from India, reunited with her 78-year-old brother Sheikh Abdul Aziz from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir at the Kartarpur Corridor after they found out through a social media post that they were siblings separated during the Partition in 1947, Dawn News reported.

During the Partition, the family of Sardar Bhajan Singh from the Indian side of Punjab was tragically torn apart when Aziz relocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir while his other family members remained in India. He married at a young age but always had a longing to reunite with his parents and other family members.

The two families discovered that Mahendra and Aziz were indeed estranged siblings after connecting through a social media post detailing the separation of a man and his sister during the Partition.

Overwhelmed with joy, Mahendra Kaur repeatedly hugged her brother and kissed his hands and the two families also visited Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur together, sitting side by side and sharing a meal on Sunday.

Separated By Partition, Siblings Reunite After 75 Years At Pakistan's Kartarpur They also exchanged gifts as a symbol of their reunion.

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Italian Cuisine Could Soon Get UNESCO World Heritage Tag By December 2025 Italian Cuisine Could Soon Get UNESCO World Heritage Tag By December 2025

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Netanyahu Holds Provocative Cabinet Session Underneath Al-Aqsa Mosque

Agenceis

Israel's far-right government held a cabinet meeting on 21 May inside a tunnel underneath Al-Aqsa Mosque in a ham-fisted attempt to spotlight Tel Aviv's "sovereignty" over occupied East Jerusalem and the Muslim holy site.

"A few days ago, [PA leader Mahmoud Abbas] said that the Jewish people do not have links to Jerusalem and Al-Haram, therefore, I am telling him that we are holding our meetings today in the depth of Jerusalem and its Haram," the Israeli premier said during the meeting.

The tunnel in question is located under the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound's Al-Buraq Wall — also known

as the Western Wall. This is the first time since 2017 that the Israeli government has held a cabinet session in the tunnels underneath Al-Aqsa.

According to Hebrew media, during the meeting, the Israeli cabinet approved a budget of NIS60 million (\$17m) for a "five-year plan to upgrade infrastructure and encourage visits to the Western Wall plaza."

The budget also encourages more tunnels to be dug underneath Islam's third holiest site, a practice that has inevitably weakened the ancient structure and which Palestinian resistance factions consider a "red line."

Ahead of the cabinet meeting, Jewish supremacist National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir entered Al-Aqsa in one of his

regular raids of its courtyards and declared that Israel was "in charge" of the site.

"I'm happy to ascend the Temple Mount, the most important place for the people of Israel," Ben-Gvir said as he toured Al-Aqsa under heavy police protection. "All the threats from Hamas will not help, we are in charge here in Jerusalem and all of the Land of Israel," he added.

A spokesman for Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas said Ben-Gvir's "incursion at an early hour, like thieves, into the Al-Aqsa Mosque courtyards will not change the reality and will not impose Israeli sovereignty over it."

Gaza-based resistance faction Hamas said on its Telegram channel

that Israel would "bear responsibility for the barbaric incursions of its ministers and herds of settlers."

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qasem called on Palestinians to step up their visits and "stand as a rampart in the face of all attempts to defile it and make it Jewish."

"This is a dangerous escalation of the religious war waged by the Israeli occupation against the holy city of Jerusalem," Qasem added.

Under the 'status quo' arrangements, Jordan has custodianship of Al-Aqsa, and non-Muslims may visit but are not allowed to pray. However, extremist settler groups have been increasingly defying the ban under police protection, violently removing Palestinian worshippers every week.



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CONGRATULATIONS

Com.Riyaz Ahmad Bhat president JKBOA(K) & Gen. Secretary AIJKBOF on your incredible success for winning the election for the post of Joint Secretary, All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA). We all know you could do it and we are incredibly proud of you. No body else deserves it more. You set an amazing example for J&K Bank especially and for the region of J&K, Ladakh generally. No one can compare to your passion, your ability to relentlessly search for solutions to problems & find ways to improve the working. Your hard work, passion, and determination help you achieve goal after goal. Cheers to you for achieving such a place and heartfelt blessings from the whole JK Bank Family



ABBAS ADS: 7006444730

Mufti Shujaat
Gen. Sectt JKBOA (K)



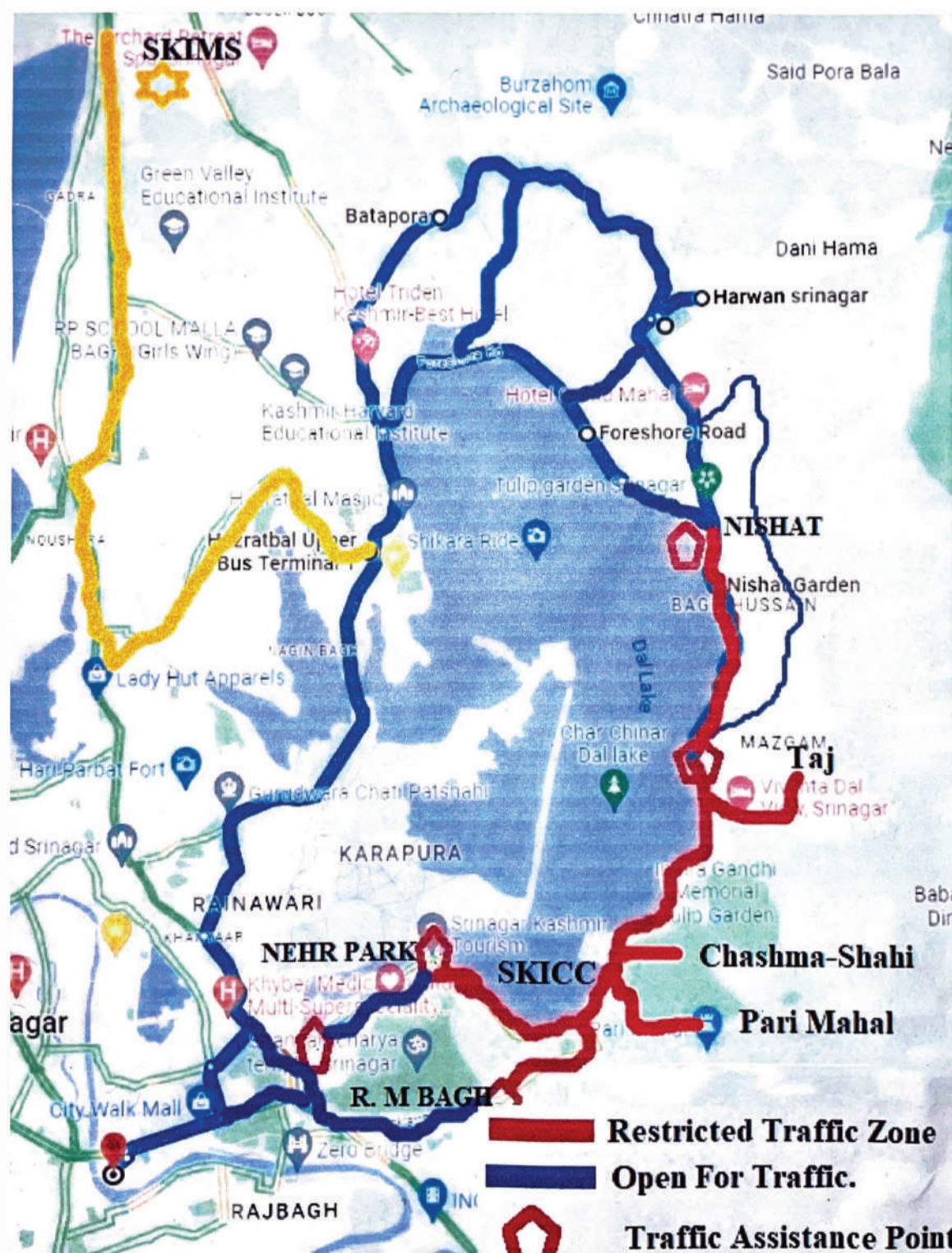
GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SRINAGAR TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICE
Tel/Fax: 01942455179, email: trafficpolicecitysrinagar@gmail.com

TRAFFIC ADVISORY For 24th May, 2023

G-20 meeting related events are scheduled to be held at SKICC on 24th 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 visit, following route plan/advisory is issued for general public to avoid any inconvenience.

- On 24th May 2023, traffic movement on Boulevard Road from Nishat upto Kralasangri shall be restricted from 0900 Hrs. till 1200 Hrs. Moreover, movement of traffic from Nehru Park and Gupkar upto Kralasangri will 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 shall be placed at Badyari, Nehru Park, Gupkar, Kralasangri & Nishat for ensuring their 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 & Habbak crossing for ensuring their 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, like wise one way shall be followed from UNO office, CD Hospital upto Nehru Park.
- Motorists intending to travel from Gulab Bagh-Zakoora-Naseem bagh-Habbak and adjacent areas should adopt Habbak - Dargah- Khanyar route to reach LalChowk 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,
TrafficCity Srinagar



Dated: 22/05/2023

DIPK-1986/23