

7 Workers Killed In Kishtwar Accident

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Seven persons including two from Jharkhand were killed and three others critically injured after a vehicle ferrying workers of a power project rolled down a hill in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Union minister Jitendra Singh, and leaders from almost all political parties expressed their grief over the accident which occurred near Dangduru power project site in remote Dacchan area around 8.35 am.

Since the accident, the officials said, hundreds of workers have been staging a protest at the work site demanding the company to compensate the families of the victims and pay for the treatment of the injured.

Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav said the accident took place amid heavy rains in the area.

"Seven persons are confirmed dead and three others critically injured in the accident," Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmad Poswal told PTI.

He said the injured were rushed to a hospital by the rescuers who were helped in the operation by locals.

According to the officials, the driver of the vehicle lost control while negotiating a blind curve and drove down the hill.

The vehicle turned into an iron mangle after falling down several hundred feet before coming to halt, they said, adding six persons were found dead on-the-spot, while one more succumbed while on way to hospital.

Victims were identified as Itwa Singh and Rahul Kumar of Jharkhand, Sudesh Singh of Kangra, Akhter Hussain of Dangduru, Abdul Rashid of Banjwar, [| More on P10](#)

G20 Delegates Visit Gardens, Go Shopping On Last Day In Kashmir

Participate In Special Yoga Session At Royal Spring Golf Course



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The G20 delegates, who attended the 3rd working group meeting in Srinagar, besides visiting imperial Mughal Gardens, participated in a special Yoga session at Royal Springs Golf Course situated on the foothills of Zabarwan range on their last day of Kashmir visit.

Officials said some visiting delegates drove to Royal Spring Golf Course (RSGC) Wednesday morning and participated in a special Yoga session, while few of them also participated

in the G20 golf tournament organized by the Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar there.

A group of foreign guests along with their families, visited Mughal Gardens, including Nishat, Chashma Shahi and Pari Mahal.

Delegates in groups visited the refurbished polo-view market in the heart of the city in the afternoon.

Few delegates including those from the United States and Korea, according to sources, left Srinagar Wednesday afternoon while the rest

of them are scheduled to leave for Srinagar Airport on Thursday morning.

Nearly 160 people including family members of G20 representatives, sources said had arrived in Kashmir on Monday.

Sources said that heightened security arrangements were put in place in Srinagar and in and around SKICC, the venue for 3rd G20 working group meeting to avoid any untoward incident.

Sources said the G20 attendees' later had a grand lunch at The [| More on P10](#)

G20 Meeting In Srinagar Successful: Korean Ambassador

The G20 Tourism Working Group meeting here was a success, South Korean Ambassador to India Chang Jae-bok said on Wednesday, adding that Kashmir is a wonderful place with kind people. The Korean ambassador said Seoul strongly supported India's presidency and expressed hope that New Delhi will make the G20 meetings successful.

He told PTI, "The G20 meeting (in Kashmir) was successful." Jae-bok and other delegates to the working group meeting also visited the



refurbished Polo View Market in the Residency Road area here. He said Kashmir is a wonderful place and the people are very kind. "It is a wonderful place, the people here are very kind. I hope more people come here to discover the beauty and diversity of India," he added. The Korean ambassador further said, "India is becoming a global power. Right now, India is the fifth biggest economy and it will become the third biggest economy very soon. We hope that India and Korea will continue to have good relations," he said. YN Bruggeman, a delegate from [| More on P10](#)

Govt Hires 350 Shikaras For G20 Delegates

Auqib Javed

Over 350 special boats or Shikaras, were hired by the Jammu and Kashmir government to offer a ride and to showcase the beauty of Dal Lake to the visiting G20 delegates in this capital city. The Shikaras were hired by the Tourism department of the Union Territory administration to take the foreign delegates for a boat ride around the Dal Lake, Wali Mohammad Bhat, President of Shikarawala Association told Kashmir Observer on Wednesday. [| More on P10](#)

Restoring Historical Glory Of Srinagar Our Prime Objective: LG

Visits Jhelum Rajbagh Riverfront, Spends Memorable Moments With People



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that his government's prime objective is to restore the historical glory of Srinagar and create infrastructure that improves quality of living for all the citizens and to provide better and improved urban services. Sinha made these remarks

while visiting the Jhelum Rajbagh Riverfront on Wednesday and spending a few memorable moments with the people, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, enquired about the works and directed the CEO, Srinagar Smart City to establish a visiting room and other facilities like Library and reading room for the students.

"The Jhelum [| More on P10](#)

To Inaugurate Arch Truss Wayil Bridge Today

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will inaugurate the much-awaited two-lane arch truss bridge at the Wayil area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said.

An official said that the bridge, being opened to ease out traffic movement, would be first-of-its-kind in Kashmir. "LG Manoj Sinha will inaugurate the bridge on May 25," he said. [| More on P10](#)

OUR PRIME OBJECTIVE IS TO RESTORE the historical glory of the city, create infrastructure that improves quality of living for all the citizens and to provide better and improved urban services."



G20 delegates pose for a picture inside Mughal era Nishat garden on their last day of Kashmir visit on Wednesday.

Persons With Disabilities Now Have Grievance Redressal Officers

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday nominated grievance redressal officers for persons with disabilities in all the departments concerned in the Union Territory.

The appointment of these officers has been made to ensure that the persons with disabilities enjoy the rights to equality, life with dignity and an appropriate environment with zero tolerance for discrimination on the ground of disability, an official spokesman said, quoting a notification.

He said the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act makes it mandatory to follow certain principles for empowerment of persons with disabilities.

These inter alia included respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including freedom to make one's own choices

and independence of persons, full and effective participation and inclusion in society.

It also comprises respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, accessibility, equality between men and women and respect for evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

The spokesman said the Social Welfare department framed the Jammu and Kashmir Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules for effective implementation of provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

The sub-rule (2) of Rule 14 of Jammu and Kashmir Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules provides that the grievance redressal officer appointed by every department shall maintain a register of [| More on P10](#)

AMARNATH YATRA:

Leave Of Doctors, Paramedics Cancelled

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The authorities have cancelled all leaves of doctors and paramedical staff members, except those granted time off on maternity and medical grounds, from June 19 in view of the start of the annual Amarnath Yatra.

The annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre cave shrine is scheduled to commence on July 1 from the twin tracks – the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-kilometre shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

According to a circular issued by Director - Health Services (Jammu) Rajeev K Sharma, "In view of the Shri Amar Nath Ji Yatra, all types of leaves of



doctors and paramedical staff except maternity leave and commuted leave on medical grounds, stands cancelled with effect from June 19."

The first batch of pilgrims is expected to leave the Jammu base camp for Kashmir one day ahead of the start of the two-month-long yatra.

Sharma also directed the chief medical officers, medical superintendents and block medical officers not to sanction or forward leave applications of doctors and paramedics to ensure [| More on P10](#)

Every Water Source 'Is And Shall Remain' Govt's Property: HC

Says No Individual Or Group Can Claim Exclusive Right Over Natural Resources

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that every water source in the State is and shall remain the property of the Government, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held that no individual or group can claim any right to exclusive use of natural resources.

"Under Article 39 of the Constitution of India it is the goal of the State to ensure that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good," a bench of Justice Rajesh Oswal said, adding, "The respondents (authorities) have undertaken the exercise to ensure fair distribution of the natural resources and no individual or group of individuals can claim any right to exclusive use of natural resources."



The court made the observations while dismissing a petition, filed by residents of the village Qasba Yar of Shopian district, in which they had sought directions to the authorities not to change, divert or take any water from Yari Kohal (a local water body). Further, they had sought

directions to restrain the authorities from raising and completing the construction of the new Kohal. Further, they had sought directions to the authorities that the water of Yari Kohal be utilized for the purpose of irrigating the local agricultural land, contending that it was the [| More on P10](#)



Humour Appreciation Found To Involve ‘Work’ Brain Circuits

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have found that high-frequency neural activity, seen in tasks that require a lot of cognitive engagement, such as work, is also a mark of humour appreciation.

The scientists from Institut Du Cerveau (Paris Brain Institute), France, and Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel, studied the cognitive and neuronal mechanisms on which appreciation of humour was based.

They have described their findings in the journal Neuropsychologia.

Previous studies have shown the involvement of the temporal lobe in the processing of droll stimuli, or stimuli associated with goof.

The scientists analysed intracerebral electrophysiological recordings of 13 epileptic patients, which made it possible to look at neuronal activity directly with a high spatial and temporal precision (at the millisecond scale) in several cortical areas.

So far, the preferred technique for these studies was fMRI. However, the researchers of this study said, the signal obtained via fMRI does not allow the detection of the entire spectrum of electro-

magnetic waves generated by the brain: part of the information is lost.

The patients being studied had been implanted with deep brain electrodes as part of a pre-surgical assessment of re-fractory epilepsy.

The researchers asked the patients to watch a three-minute excerpt from Charlie Chaplin's Circus (1928) while their brain activity was measured live. Beforehand, the amusing nature of each sequence had been evaluated, frame by frame, by a group of healthy volunteers.

The team then compared the patients' neural activity recorded during the funniest scenes in the film with that recorded during the least funny scenes.

"We observed that the funniest sequences were associated with an increase in high-frequency gamma waves and a decrease in low-frequency waves.

"These results indicate that high-frequency neural activity, which is seen in tasks that require a lot of cognitive engagement, such as work, is also a mark of humour appreciation.

"Conversely, scenes that are not funny, such as transition sequences where the character moves from one



place to another without doing anything, promote inattention and introspection... and a preponderance of low frequencies," explained Vadim Axelrod, who led the experiment.

More importantly, the scientists said, this inverse relationship between high and low frequencies was observed in temporal lobe regions but not in others. It seemed that humorous content was not

processed in the same way throughout the cortex and depended on brain areas and functions.

According to a dominant theory, the treatment of humour is based on two complementary mechanisms and involve two neural circuits - cognitive and emotional.

Cognition is first employed to detect an incongruous element of reality. For example, in Charlie Chaplin's The Gold Rush (1925), the hero eats shoelaces like spaghetti.

Following this, a positive emotion related to this incongruity emerges through the emotional neural circuit.

What is funny would, therefore, be both unexpected and pleasant.

"Our results support this theory, as we confirm the prominent role of the temporal lobe in the appreciation of humour.

"As the anterior parts of this area are involved in semantic memory, we can imagine that their activity is linked to the analysis of the scene and the detection of its incongruous content.

"Conversely, the activation of its posterior parts could correspond to understanding the unusual and, therefore, amusing aspect of certain social interactions," said Vadim Axelrod.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal

Tele/fax No:- 0194-2416040(email dshogbl@gmail.com)

TECHNICAL SECTION

Advertisement Notice

In Response to circular regarding Holistic Agriculture Development Program issued by Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Kashmir vide No. DSHOK-Tech/I/DSHK Sheep Husbandry Kashmir (Out Side district)SEC/I/212032/2023, all the desirous unemployed youth/Group of individuals , FPOs, SHGs and Co-operative societies /Entrepreneurs from District Ganderbal are hereby informed through medium of this notification that they can now apply for different schemes of Sheep Husbandry Department under HADP through official website of Agriculture Production Department <http://hadp.jk.gov.in>.

This move is aimed at making the application process more accessible and convenient for interested farmers, thereby encouraging more people to take up Sheep farming as an employment generating source. Therefore all the interested persons/parties can apply online by visiting the HADP web portal on <http://hadp.jk.QOV.in>. For any queries contact visit nearest Sheep Extension Centre/ concerned Veterinary Assistant surgeons office during working hours.

Scheme	Description
Establishment of Multiplication (Commercial) farms of 50 Ewes Sheep/Goat unit in private sector	50 Ewes breed multiplication unit on ISDS pattern with 50% subsidy to a Maximum celling of Rs.2.50 lacs per farm
Infrastructure strengthening at HLP and en route migration	Construction of Kothas/dokhas with paddock@ Rs. 2.00 lacs per structure.

DIPK-1998/23
dated: 24-05-2023

District Sheep Husbandry
Officer Ganderbal

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama

Ph. No. 01933-241215 Fax-phone : 01933241215 Mail ID: dshopulwama@gmail.com

TECHNICAL SECTION

NOTIFICATION No. 2

In continuation to this Office Notification No.1 vide No. DSHOP/Tech/2023-24/421-33 Dated 16/05/2023 , all the interested Individuals/Groups of Individuals/FPO's/ SHG's, cooperative societies etc. from District Pulwama are hereby again informed through the medium of this notification to apply for these below mentioned schemes of the Sheep Husbandry Department on official website of Agriculture Production Department <http://hadp.jk.gov.in> or www.hadp.jk.gov.in wherein the interested applicants will be required to fill in their personal/ other related details and the type of scheme they wish to apply for. Applicants are advised to provide accurate and complete information in their application forms to avoid any rejection of their application.

This move of submitting online applications is aimed at making the entire process more accessible and convenient for the interested farmers, thereby encouraging more people to take up Sheep related enterprise as their main activity. In case applicant faces any difficulty while applying on line, He/She may contact the nearest Block Office of Sheep Husbandry Department Pulwama.

The detail of the schemes is as under:

S.No	Activity	Brief description
1.	Establishment of Multiplication (Commercial) farms (Sheep/Goat) in private Sector	-Twenty (20) such commercial farms are to be established in District Pulwama @ 50% subsidy to a maximum ceiling of 2.5 lacs per farm during current Financial Year.
2.	Clusterization, common facilitation centers	-One (01) common facilitation center to be established in district Pulwama during current financial year for which Rs. 18 lacs shall be provided by the department.
3.	Construction of Kotha/Dokas with Paddock	-One (01) such Kotha/Dokha with paddock to be constructed during current Financial Year in Pulwama for which Rs.2.00 lacs per such structure shall be given.
4.	Creation of multi-functional FPO's	- Build an integral network of different stakeholders for aggregation, value processing and Marketing for wool and pelt. - Financial assistance of Rupees 5.00 lacs shall be provided. - One FPO to be established during current financial year.

Note:
Official website for applying online application=
1.<http://hadp.jk.gov.in>
2. www.hadp.jk.gov.in

DIPK-1992/23 dated: 24-05-2023

Sd/=
District Sheep Husbandry Officer
Pulwama.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Hospital And Central Heating Division Srinagar

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-----

Gist of e-tender

NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2023-24/16/e-tendering

Dated: 23.05.2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered , reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion	TS No.	AAA accorded	Earnest Money (In Rs.)
Dismantling of existing CGI Shed structure of operators for housing of new Hot Water Generator Boiler of capacity 6 lac kcal/hr along with various allied civil works at Govt Bone & Joint Hospital Srinagar.	1.72	200	10 days	MHCHD/TS/10 Dt: 05/23	47, MCS of 2022, Dated: 24-09-2022	3500

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 23.05.2023 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 24.05.2023 (10.00 hrs).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 24.05.2023 (11.00 hrs) to 05.06.2023 (14:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 06.06.2023 (14.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, Srinagar.

No: MHCHD/TS/1179-84,
DIPK-2030/23 Dated:24-05-2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA (AIIA)

(An Autonomous Organization under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)

Gautampuri, Sarita Vihar, Mathura Road, New Delhi - 110076

E-mail: director@aiia.gov.in

Advt. No. AIIA/Recrt/05/2023

18th May, 2023

The Institute invites applications for the following non-teaching posts to be filled up on direct recruitment/ deputation basis at AIIA, New Delhi :-

Sl. No.	Posts	No. of Posts/ Category	Pay Scale	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Yoga Instructor	2 (UR), 1 (OBC)	Level-6	Direct recruitment
2.	Assistant Administrative Officer	1 (UR)	Level-6	Direct recruitment
3.	Accountant	2 (UR), 1 (OBC)	Level-6	Direct recruitment
4.	Radiology Assistant	1 (UR)	Level-5	Direct recruitment
5.	Lab Assistant	6 (UR), 3 (OBC), 1 (SC), 1 (EWS)	Level-5	Direct recruitment
6.	Lab Attendant	5 (UR), 3 (OBC), 1 (SC), 1 (EWS)	Level-2	Direct recruitment
7.	LDC	1 (UR), 1 (OBC)	Level-2	Direct recruitment

For details of qualification, experience, prescribed format of application, and terms & conditions, please visit AIIA's website <https://aiia.gov.in>. Last date of receipt of applications is 20th June, 2023.

CBC 17219/12/0007/2324

Director



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA (AIIA)

(An Autonomous Organization under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)

Gautampuri, Sarita Vihar, Mathura Road, New Delhi - 110076

E-mail: director@aiia.gov.in

Advt. No. AIIA/Recrt/04/2023

18th May, 2023

The Institute invites applications for the following Faculty posts to be filled up on direct recruitment/ deputation basis at AIIA, New Delhi :-

Sl. No.	Posts	No. of Posts/ Category	Pay Scale	Mode of Recruitment
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR				Level-12
1.	Swasthavritta	1 (SC)	Level-12	Direct recruitment
2.	Ras Shastra & Bhaisajya Kalpana	1 (UR)		
3.	Rog Nidan & Vikriti Vigyan	1 (OBC)		
4.	Prasuti Tantra & Stri Rog	1 (SC)		
5.	Panchakarma	1 (UR)		
6.	Kaumarbhritiya	1 (UR)		
7.	Kriya Sharir	1 (OBC)		
8.	Dravyaguna	1 (UR)		
9.	Ayurveda Samhita	1 (ST)		
10.	Shalaky Tantra	1 (SC)		
11.	Kayachikitsa	1 (OBC)		
12.	Shalya Tantra	1 (EWS)		

For details of qualification, experience, prescribed format of application, and terms & conditions, please visit AIIA's website <https://aiia.gov.in>. Last date of receipt of applications is 20th June, 2023.

CBC 17219/12/0010/2324

Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that I have change the name of my son from Maarid Mushtaq Bhat to Muaaz Mushtaq Bhat who is studying in Class 3rd at Bilaliya Educational Institute, Nawa Bagh, Lal Bazar, Srinagar under Admission No. 1105/BEI/20.

Anybody having any kind of objection regarding the above said name change of my son can contact Bilaliya Educational Institute, Nawa Bagh, Lal Bazar, Srinagar within Seven (7) day of publication of this notice.

Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat
F/o Muaaz Mushtaq Bhat
R/o Rehamaniya Colony, Hariparbat,
Hawal, Srinagar
Mobile No: 9906685857 inf

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District And Sessions Judge At Srinagar

From the office of :-

Adv Faizan Ul Haq Mattoo
Adv Imtiyaz Aziz Baigh
Adv Manzoor Sadiq Ganie
Adv Sirmawaz Bashir Thakur

IN THE CASE OF :-
1.Tariq Ahmad Baba
S/O Nazir Ahmad Baba
2. Abrar Baba
S/o Ghulam Rasool Bab
Both residents of Mughal Mohalla Chatabal Srinagar

V/S
Public at large

IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat petetion in terms of section 148 A cpc .

The caveator has reason to believe/apprehension that non caveators may file an application /case /revision or any other proceedings before this hon'ble court on the ground of distorted facts /misrepresentation and cooked up story , therefore may succeed in obtaining some relief / order at their back /ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators may suffer an irreparable loss and injury which can't be compensated by any means later on . Therefore it would be proper to put caveators on notice so that an opportunity of being heard is given to the caveators before passing any such relief / order .
Hence this Caveat application .

nj

In the court of 3rd Additional Munisif JMIC Srinagar

Raja Mohammad A li S/o Raja Safdar Ali
R/o Panjeer Jager, At present Inside Kathi Darwaza, Rainwari, Srinagar

(Applicant/Complainant)

(Through Counsel)

V/S

Mohammad Shafi Bhat
S/ o Ghulam Qadir bhat R/o Hangal, Pahoo, Pahalgam.
Cell nop 9797299811

(Accused Person)

In the matter of: Proclamation
CORAM. Mr. Muneer Ahmad
JO CODE. JK00227

ORDER

Whereas the above titled case is pending disposal before this court and this court has issued various summons/warrants against the accused here in above
Whereas it has been reported by the SHO P/S Concerned that the accused herein above is not in his home for the last more than nine months and it appears to this court the accused is concealing himself so as to evade the execution of summons/ warrants against him.

As such through the medium of this proclamation the respondent/accused Mohamrrad Shafi Bhat S/o Ghulam Qadir Bhat R/o Hangal Pahoo Pahalgam Cell no. 9797299811 is hereby directed to appear before the court to face the trail within 30 days from the date of this publication and in case of failure he will be proceeded against under rules.
Given under my hand and seal.

nj

DLSA Srinagar Organizes “DV & Dowry Prohibition Act” Awareness Program

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of calendar of activities issued by J&K Legal Services Authority Srinagar, The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the aegis of NALSA and J & K State Legal Services Authority Srinagar/Jammu in collaboration with the Govt. Hr. Sec. School Khan- yar Srinagar organized an awareness program for the purposes of raising awareness about the Domestic Violence Act and Dowry Prohibition Act.

With a strong commitment to combating these social evils, the awareness program was organized to educate, empower, and foster change within the community.

The event was held under the guidance of Chairman DLSA, Srinagar Jawad Ahmed at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Khan- yar on 23.05.2023, brought together legal experts, educators, and students to highlight the importance of gender equality, the prevention of domestic violence, and the eradication of dowry practices.

The awareness program commenced with the address by resource persons of DLSA Srinagar, Ms. Tasneem Kauser (Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel)and Gazala Shamas Par- ray (Penal Lawyer), who emphasized the significance of unity and collective responsibility in eliminating domestic violence and dowry-related offenses from society.

The speakers high-

lighted the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act and Dowry Prohibition Act, shedding light on the legal remedies available to victims and the consequences for perpetrators.

The program was attended by the students, faculty members of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Khanyar, Srinagar and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar.

The event witnessed a series of engaging discussions and interactive sessions designed to educate attendees about the legal, social, and emotional aspects associated with domestic violence and dowry practices.

Resource persons provided invaluable insights and guidance on recognizing, reporting, and addressing instances of domestic violence and dowry demands.

Sunila Kumari (JLA) of DLSA Srinagar presented a vote of thanks and expressed his gratitude to Govt. Hr. Sec. School Kh- anyar, Srinagar for their valuable partnership and dedication towards this noble cause.

Secretary DLSA Srinagar under whose supervision the program was conducted stated, "By joining forces, we can create a society where every individual, regardless of their gender, feels safe and respected. It is our collective responsibility to break the shackles of domestic violence and dowry practices, fostering an environment of equality and justice."(CNS)



Clad in traditional Kashmiri attire, a group of women G20 delegates posing for a picture at Mughal Garden Nishat on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Dog Sterilization Drive Launched Ahead Of G20 Delegates Polo-View Visit

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a concerted effort to address the rising population of stray dogs in the city, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Wednesday launched a sterilization drive against the stray dogs in Srinagar.

Interestingly, the drive began the day foreign delegates, who are part of G-20 summit, were scheduled to visit the newly renovated Polo View market in Srinagar.

An official said the initiative is aimed at controlling the burgeoning dog population and creating a more harmonious coexistence between humans and animals.

He said that the SMC teams successfully rounded up stray dogs from various parts of the city. These dogs have been safely transported to designated veterinary centers, where they will undergo sterilization procedures to prevent

“We all have a responsibility towards the welfare of these animals. By supporting the sterilization drive and reporting any new cases of stray dogs, we can contribute to building a safer and healthier environment for both humans and animals

further breeding, he said.

Following the surgeries, the official said that the dogs will be released back into the areas from where they were captured.

“The sterilization program is a vital step towards managing the population of stray dogs in our beautiful city. By focusing

on sterilization rather than extermination, we aim to promote compassion and ensure a humane approach towards these animals,” the official added.

While the sterilization drive is expected to continue over the coming days, the SMC has appealed to the public to cooperate with the authorities.

Local residents have welcomed this innovative initiative, expressing hope that it will lead to a significant reduction in the stray dog population and related issues such as aggressive behavior and the spread of diseases.

“We all have a responsibility towards the welfare of these animals. By supporting the sterilization drive and reporting any new cases of stray dogs, we can contribute to building a safer and healthier environment for both humans and animals,” Javid Ahmad, a local said.

Massive Blaze Turns Three Residential Houses Into Ashes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three residential houses were damaged in a fire incident in the Charar-i-Sharief area of Budgam district in central Kashmir this afternoon.

An official said that

fire broke out in one of the houses in Kanidajan and engulfed adjacent structures within no time, resulting in damage to three residential properties.

Fire tenders promptly arrived at the scene to extinguish the flames,

and after strenuous efforts, the fire was brought under control.

“The mishap caused significant damage to property worth lakhs, the cause of the fire is believed to be an electrical short-circuit,” the official added.

J&K Bank logo and address: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited, Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department, Zonal Office Baramulla, Amargarh, Sopore. Phone: 01954-221082/83, E: amid.zobara@jkbmail.com

AUCTION CUM-SALE NOTICE (For Sale of Secured asset under the SARFAESI Act, 2002)

Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 14.06.2023, for recovery of Rs. 3,69,804.49 being balance outstanding as on 30.04.2023 due to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. (Secured Creditor) from Mr. Mohammad Ramzan Mir S/o. Mr. Ghulam Hassan Mir R/o Mangam Wagoora, Sole proprietor of M/S Mohammad Ramzan Mir (Borrower/Mortgagor) and i). Mr. Mohammad Maqbool Rather S/O. Mr. Ghulam Ahmad Rather R/O. Wattergam, Wagoora Baramulla ii). Mr.Farooq Ahmad Dar S/O. Mr. Shamus ud din Dar R/O. Managam Wagoora Baramulla (Guarantors). The reserve price will be Rs. 9.02 Lacs and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 90,200.00.

Description of Property

Land measuring 03 Kanals and 17 Marlas situated at Mouza Managam, Tehsil & District Baramulla standing in the name of borrower Mr. Mohammad Ramzan Mir with below mentioned schedule of property:

Khasra No.	Khatta No.	Khewat No.	Kanals	Marlas
638 Min	109	30	01	09
825 Min	109	30	01	00
1287 Min	148	34	01	08
		Total	03	17

The tender document containing full details of the properties and all the terms and conditions can be had from JK Bank Branch Office Wagoora Baramulla during office hours on all working days against a payment of Rs.100/-. The completed tenders must be received in the said Branch latest by 12.06.2023. The tender should be accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of not less than 10% of the Price Offered (which in any case should not be below the Reserve Price for the property concerned) in the form of a Demand Draft/ Pay Order payable at Sopore, Kashmir, issued by a commercial bank in favour of The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch Wagoora Baramulla.

This publication is also 15 days notice to the borrower/mortgagor/guarantors of the above said loan account about holding of sale on above mentioned date/ place if the outstanding dues are not paid in full.

Date: 22.05.2023 Place: Sopore Authorized Officer Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK19385GCO00048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-854/23 dated: 24-05-2023

J&K Bank logo and address: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited, Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department, Zonal Office Anantnag, Bakshiabad, Anantnag-192101, E: amid.zoksou@jkbmail.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s that the below described movable property/ies hypothecated/charged to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd (Hereinafter referred to as the Bank), the physical possession of which have been taken by the Bank (Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd) as per agreed terms and conditions, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" and "NO COMPLAINT BASIS" on 27-06-2023, for recovery the respective dues details whereof are given below along with interest and other charge thereof due to the Bank from the respective Borrowers.

S. No	Name & Borrower and Guarantors	Account No / Outstanding Dues	Details of Vehicle	Reserve Price and EMD in INR	E-Auction date and time
1.	Asif Ahmad Khan S/O Ghulam Qadir Khan R/O Mehman Mohalla, Anantnag (Borrower) Suhail Bashir Zargar S/O Bashir Ahmad R/O Mehman Mohalla, Anantnag (Guarantor) Ashiq Hussain Zargar S/O Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar R/O Mehman Mohalla, Anantnag (Guarantor)	0159265240 000127 Total Rs.10,00,932/-	Tata Indica JK03D-1030 (Model 2012)	Reserve Price Rs.40,000/- EMD- Rs.4,000/-	27-06-2023 Time 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM
2.	Mohammad Syed Najar S/O Ghulam Mohammad Najar R/O Mir Danter, Anantnag (Borrower) Ghulam Rasool Najar S/O Ali Mohammad Najar R/O Shangus Nowgam (Guarantor) Shabir Ahmad Misgar S/O Ghulam Nabi Misgar R/O Malaknag, Anantnag (Guarantor) Sajad Ahmad Shah S/O Mohd. Yousuf Shah R/O Mattan Nambal Anantnag (Guarantor)	0159265240 000138 Total Rs.8,34,562/-	Swift VDI JK03D-9520 (Model 2013)	Reserve Price Rs.2,10,000/- EMD- Rs.21,000/-	27-06-2023 Time 01:10 PM to 3:10 PM
3.	Bilal Ahmad Allie Son of Gh.Mohmad Allie R/o Khandipari Harnag Anantnag (Borrower) Aijaz Ahmad Bakshi Son of Gh.Mohd Bakshi R/o Gopalpora Anantnag (Guarantor) Mushtaq Ahmad Kumar son of Ali Mohmad Kumar R/o Harnag Anantnag (Guarantor)	0470265240 000379 Total Rs.11,67,585/-	Maruti Suzuki Ritz JK03C-5733	Reserve Price Rs.1,25,000/ EMD Rs.12,500/-	27-06-2023 Time 03:15 PM to 5:00 PM

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) are hereby notified to pay the outstanding loan amount as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-auction and get the property redeemed, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and costs.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the Bank's website i.e. www.jkbank.com or https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net.

Date: 19-05-2023 Place: Anantnag In Charge IAPM Zonal Office Anantnag

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK19385GCO00048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-829/23 dated: 24-05-2023

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

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS
FAJR 3:43
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 5:24
Magrib 7:35
ISHA 9:12
HIJRI CALENDAR
04 Zil-Qadah 1444

This Day In History

- 1923 - Britain recognizes Transjordan with Abdullah as its leader
- 1938 - Spanish Civil War: The bombing of Alicante takes place, with 313 deaths.
- 1940- German troops conquer Boulogne
- 1941- 5,000 drown in a storm at Ganges Delta region in India
- 1943- Trident conference in Washington, D.C. (operation plan '43 against Japan)
- 1944-Partisan leader Tito escapes Germans surrounding Bosnia
- 1945- Arthur C Clark proposes relay satellites in geosynchronous orbit
- 1946- Jordan gains independence from Britain (National Day); Abdullah ibn Hussein becomes king of Jordan
- 1949- Chinese Red army occupies Shanghai
- 1953- 1st atomic cannon electronically fired, Frenchman Flat, Nevada
- 1961- NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to 32,770 m
- 1963- Great Britain ends its amateur-professional classes in cricket
- 1979 - Israel begins to return Sinai to Egypt
- 1982 - Iranian troops reconquer Khorramshar
- 1982 - STS-4 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1983 - Fire in Nassermeer, Egypt, kills 357
- 1983 - France performs nuclear test
- 1985 - Cyclone ravages Bangladesh; 11,000 killed
- 1989 - Mikhail Gorbachev elected Executive President in the Soviet Union
- 1992 - Oscar Luigi Scalfaro elected President of Italy
- 1997 - A military coup in Sierra Leone replaces President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah with Major Johnny Paul Koromah.

From KO Archives

Centre-JK discuss truce plan

Delhi asks J&K to prepare action plan on CBM's

Observer News Service

S RINAGAR Centre today asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to prepare a comprehensive time-bound action plan to implement the Confidence-Building Measures (CBM's) announced in India and Pakistan in the recent joint declaration and on the physical structures needed to implement them.

Meanwhile Centre and J&K government are actively considering a ceasefire with militants in the state. This was revealed by the union home secretary V K Duggal during a press conference here today.

Asked whether there would be a ceasefire between the security forces and the militants, he said; "That is the objective, and I have spoken to the state governor and the chief minister about this but it has to be a consultative process."

"The main important CBM is dialogue process. Any CBM which involves the movement of people, transport, goods and services and implementation of trade needs a dialogue process... When can we start and how can we start," Mr Duggal said.

He said the central government would provide all infrastructure support to the state administration for opening meeting points between the Kashmiris of India and Pakistan, increasing bus services across the border and facilitating trade through the new routes.

He said the other important component of the CBMs is the infrastructure needed to implement them.

"The slate government has been asked to prepare the report? What all it can handle and where it needs the support of the central government so that we can consider that," he added.

"PM Manmohan's intentions are very clear on this. We have specific instructions that these CBMs should be taken forward most-religiously and in a dedicated time-bound manner. Money and resources should not act as constraints in implementing these measures," he added.

On possible talks with separatist leaders, Duggal said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was opposed to talks with Hurriyat Conference.

"The Prime Minister is most open to talks with anybody who has a concrete plan. However, a mechanism has to be put in place for holding such talks," he told reporters. Duggal said important and positive steps were being taken in Kashmir to restore normalcy. "The return Kashmiri Pandit migrants, and the Amarnath yatra are positive steps. I think Kashmir is on its way to peace.

(Kashmir Observer, 25 May, 2005)

"Ties In T20 Mode": PM Modi Describes Rapid Rise In India-Australia Relations



Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today used cricket analogy to describe the rapid upswing in India-Australia ties as he said that the bilateral relations have entered the "T-20 mode".

PM Modi made the comments after holding wide-ranging talks with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese that focused on further expansion of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

The PM also invited Prime Minister Albanese and Australian cricket fans to India for the Cricket World Cup tournament which is taking place in the country later this year.

"I am visiting Australia within two months of my friend Prime Minister Albanese's visit to India. This is our sixth meeting in the past one year. This reflects the depth in our comprehensive relations, the convergence in our views and the maturity of our ties," PM Modi said in his media statement.

"If I may say in the language of cricket, our ties have entered the T-20 mode," he said in the presence of Prime Minister Albanese.

Prime Minister Albanese visited India in March to attend the annual India-Australia summit.

"I invite Prime Minister Albanese and all Australian cricket fans to come to India for the Cricket World Cup to be held in India this year. At that time, along with cricket, you will also get to see the grand celebration of Diwali," he said.

PM Modi also highlighted the importance of India-Australia relations for the region.

"The scope of India-Australia relations is not limited to merely our two countries. It is also linked to regional stability, peace and global welfare," he said.

"A few days ago, along with Prime Minister Albanese, at the Quad Summit in Hiroshima, we also discussed the Indo-Pacific. India-Australia cooperation can also be beneficial for the progress of the Global South," PM Modi said.

WRESTLERS PROTEST: Thousands March To India Gate To Show Support



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The protesting wrestlers on Tuesday decided that the scheduled maha panchayat outside the new Parliament building on May 28 will be held under the leadership of women and youth, and any big decision on the future course of action will henceforth be taken by them.

On Tuesday, thousands of supporters of the wrestlers marched from Jantar Mantar to India Gate under extremely heavy security and raised slogans demanding the arrest of former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The protesting grapplers, including Olympic medallists

Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik and Asian Games gold medalist Vinesh Phogat, have been demanding Brij Bhushan's arrest alleging that he has sexually harassed several women wrestlers, including a minor.

The supporters braved the extreme heat and the late-evening dust storm as they marched towards India Gate peacefully in unprecedented numbers, which could have led to a stampede but fortunately, no untoward incident occurred.

Waving hundreds of tricolours, the supporters, who had arrived from bordering states, echoed the same sentiments as the aggrieved wrestlers and demanded the strictest of punishments for Brij Bhushan.

Pakistan Considering Banning Party Of Ex-PM Imran Khan: Minister

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is considering banning former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party for attacking the state, the defense minister said on Wednesday, a decision likely to enrage his supporters and exacerbate his confrontation with the military establishment.

The former cricket star is embroiled in the latest, critical phase of a decades-old rivalry between civilian politicians and the powerful military, which has ruled directly or overseen governments throughout Pakistan's history.

The face-off has brought widespread protests by Khan's supporters, raising new fears about the stability of the nuclear-armed country as it struggles with its worst economic crisis in decades.

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif told reporters that Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party had attacked the "very basis of state," which could not be tolerated.

"It is under consideration to ban PTI," he said, adding the parliament would have to



give final approval for a government decision to ban the party.

The minister referred to protests by Khan supporters, who this month attacked military installations, including army headquarters, and government buildings.

PTI party lawyer Ali Zafar said any such move would be challenged in court. He said an entire party cannot be blamed for acts committed by individuals.

Khan became prime minister in 2018 with the tacit support of the military, though both sides denied it at the time. The military saw Khan, with his conservative, nationalist agenda, as likely to

ensure the protection of its interests.

But Khan later fell out with the generals after being seen as having tried to interfere in key promotions in the security sphere, and he was ousted as prime minister after losing a confidence vote in 2022.

Khan, 70, has since then been campaigning for a snap general election, rallying supporters across the country. But the prime minister who replaced him, Shabbaz Sharif, has rejected the call for an election before one is due late this year.

Khan is also facing corruption charges that he has dismissed as being cooked in a bid to banish him from politics.

DEFENSE MINISTER KHAWAJA ASIF TOLD reporters that Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party had attacked the "very basis of state," which could not be tolerated.

Ex Army Chiefs Grand Daughter Held For Attack On Pak Army House

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: The granddaughter of Pakistan's former Army Chief Asif Nawaz Jangua was arrested as a "key instigator" in the attack on the Corps Commander House here following former prime minister Imran Khan's arrest on May 9, police said on Wednesday.

Khadia Shah, a fashion designer by profession, is among the several women arrested for their alleged involvement in attacks on military installations on May 9 that erupted in the wake of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief's arrest in a corruption case. Khan, 70, was later freed on bail.

Lahore police said in a statement that Shah, the daughter of former finance minister Salman Shah, was one of the key instigators of the May 9 attack on the Lahore Corps Commander House, also known as Jinnah House. She has been arrested under terrorism charges



and might be tried under the Army Act, police said.

Shah, an active PTI supporter, had gone into hiding since police started carrying out raids for her arrest.

"Ms Shah was produced before the anti-terrorism court Lahore which was sent to jail for an identification parade," police said.

The government declared that the identification of more than 500 women, wanted for the May 9 incidents, has been completed and 138 cases have been registered against them.

Law enforcement agencies arrested around 8,000 people across the country, mostly par-

ty leaders and workers of the PTI for their alleged involvement in the violence that erupted in the wake of Khan's arrest by paramilitary Rangers in Islamabad.

Khan's party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander's house, Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad. The Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi was also attacked by the mob for the first time.

Meanwhile, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has placed the names of 700 PTI leaders and activists on a no-fly list.



Reconsider Boycott Of New Parliament Inauguration: Centre To Opposition

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi today termed as "unfortunate" the decision by 19 opposition parties to boycott the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament building and urged them to reconsider their stand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the new Parliament building on Sunday.

The opposition parties contend that President Droupadi Murmu should do the honours as she was not only the Head of

State, but also an integral part of Parliament as she summons, prorogues, and addresses it.

"Boycotting and making an issue out of a non-issue is most unfortunate. I appeal to them to reconsider their decision and join the function," Mr Joshi told reporters in Delhi on the sidelines of a national workshop on National e-Vidhan Application.

Mr Joshi said the Lok Sabha Speaker was the custodian of Parliament and he has extended an invitation to the Prime Minister, the head of government, to inaugurate the building.

Ayodhya Ram Temple Grand Opening In January, Infra Works Now On Overdrive

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: The UP government has expedited infrastructure works in Ayodhya, including expansion of its airport and railway station, as the city prepares for the grand opening of the Ram temple in January next year, according to a statement.

Work is also in progress on the Ram Path, a 13-km road from Sahadatganj to Naya Ghat, it said. The outline for the construction of the Ramjanaki Path and the Bhakti Path is also ready, the statement issued here said. The airport and the railway station are also being expanded, it added.

These road corridors are important as these will facilitate the movement of devotees to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi and the Hanuman Garhi temple, the statement said, reported Press Trust of India.

The width of the Ram Jan-

mabhoomi Path will be 30 metres and the width of the Bhakti Path will be 14 metres, it said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has invited people to come for the Ram temple's opening, it said and added that he is reviewing the progress of different works regularly.

Supporting the government's initiative to develop Ayodhya, shopkeepers, without any resistance, have given the land of their shops for the construction of the "grand" temple and its other facilities, the statement said.

There has been no complaint of any irregularity in disbursement of compensation under this project, it said.

Those evicted have been allotted shops in newly developed complexes, while many shopkeepers were rehabilitated to their old places with the cooperation of owners, the statement said.



NEWS MAKERS

Indian-origin teen who crashed truck into White House barrier says he wanted to kill President Biden

Press Trust of India

A 19-year-old Indian-origin teen accused of deliberately crashing a rented U-Haul truck into a White House barrier told authorities that he wanted to get inside the mansion to "seize power" and "kill" US President Joe Biden, according to media reports.

US Park Police arrested Sai Varshith Kandula after he crashed the truck into the security barriers on the north side of Lafayette Park shortly before 10 pm on Monday, sending multiple pedestrians running from the scene, The Washington Times reported.

The crash was a good distance from the White House gates, but the incident prompted road and sidewalk closures, and the nearby Hay-Adams hotel had to be evacuated. No one was injured in the crash.

Kandula, of Chesterfield, Missouri, rented the truck on Monday night immediately after flying from St Louis to Dulles International Airport on a one-way ticket, a Secret Service agent

said in a statement of facts filed in federal district court in Washington DC, NBC News reported.

He drove the vehicle onto a sidewalk outside the White House and into a metal barrier just north of the White House, according to the document.

Kandula put the truck in reverse and crashed into the barrier a second time before



United States Park Police officers took him into custody, according to the document.

Kandula told authorities he had been planning the attack for six months and detailed the plans in a "green book," the document says.

He "stated his goal was to 'get into the White House, seize pow-

er, and be put in charge of the nation,'" the document states.

"When agents asked how he would seize power, Kandula stated he would 'kill the President if that's what I have to do and would hurt anyone that would stand in my way,'" the document was included with a criminal complaint charging Kandula with depre-

hension of property of the United States over USD 1,000, the NBC News report said.

When Secret Service agents asked Kandula about a flag with a swastika he removed from a backpack, he allegedly said he'd bought it online because Nazis have a great history, according to the court document.



Rahul Gandhi, No Longer An MP, Approaches Court For An "Ordinary Passport"

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A court in Delhi today posted the hearing on a plea for a fresh passport by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, an accused in the National Herald case, on May 26.

Rahul Gandhi had moved the court on Tuesday seeking a 'no objection certificate' to secure a fresh "ordinary passport" after having surrendered his diplomatic travel document upon his disqualification as an MP.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vaibhav Mehta posted the matter on Friday for the filing of written submissions and the arguments of BJP leader Subramanian Swamy.

During the proceedings, Ra-

hul Gandhi's advocate sought the grant of the NOC document, saying there are no criminal cases pending against him.

Mr Mehta, however, said Mr Swamy had the right to file a reply on the application.

"The applicant ceased to be a Member of Parliament in March 2023 and as such he surrendered his diplomatic passport and is applying for a fresh ordinary passport. By way of the present application, the applicant is seeking permission and no objection from this Court for issuance of fresh ordinary passport to him," the application said.

The court had on December 19, 2015, granted bail to Rahul Gandhi and others in the case.

70 Admitted To Hospital After Eating 'Rasgulla' At Wedding Feast In UP

Press Trust of India

KANNAUJ, UTTAR PRADESH: In a suspected case of food poisoning, around 70 people, including several children, were hospitalised after eating at a wedding feast in a village in UP's Kannauj, a senior official said today.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Garima Singh said the patients ate at the function in Madharpur village on Tuesday evening.

Of the around 200 people who consumed the food, about 70 complained of vomiting and diarrhoea after eating 'rasgulla' (a milk-based sweet) served there, she added.

Arzoo (1), Yusuf (2), Shifa (4), Asra (5), Sazia (7), Irfan Khan (48), Sultan (52), and Riyazuddin (55) were admitted to the district hospital after their condition worsened, Mr Singh said.

Dr Shakti Basu, Chief Medical Superintendent of the district hospital, said the condition of all the patients in the district hospital is stable, adding that some were taken to private hospitals.

Munna, a resident of the village, said almost everyone who attended the feast had eaten the rasgulla, following which several fell ill.



CS Launches eUnnat Dashboard With Auto-Appeal System

'Breach Of Timelines In Service Delivery Of These 103 Services To Attract Penalty'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday launched the PSGA auto-appeal system for 103 services offered by different government departments through eUnnat dashboard in presence of Commissioner Secretary GAD, Sanjeev Verma; Commissioner Secretary IT, Purna Puri and Secretary Revenue, Piyush Singla.

The system shall trigger appeal to appellate authorities once the time lines specified under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) for availing these services are breached for any of them.

Dr Mehta complimented the IT Department for integrating the feature in the vital digital services offered by these Departments to the citizens. He observed that this feature is going to act as a turning point in maintaining transparency and accountability in delivery of services to the public and eradicating corruption.

He maintained that the auto escalation feature of online services is going to put an end to malpractices besides promoting fairness, a priority set by the current dispensation in all its affairs. He reiterated that it would ensure prevalence of discipline on part of both public servants and applicants itself. He made out that any sort of indiscipline or breach of timelines in providing the services would attract a penalty as per the PSGA.

It was given out that the majority of services belong to Departments providing important day to day services to the public and constitutes the bulk of G2C services provided here. These includes 25 services of Revenue Department, 26 of Industries & Commerce, 19 of H&UDD, 4 of Social Welfare, 5 of Horticul-

ture, 6 each of Forest and Labour & Employment Departments, 2 each of FCS&CA and Home Departments, 3 of Jal Shakti and 1 of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department.

On the occasion it was brought out that the delivery of services through online mode has greatly reduced the waiting period for processing of applications. It was revealed that the bulk of applications in the Revenue, Social Welfare and Housing Departments pertain to such applications and it is going to benefit a large number of people on a daily basis.

Some of the significant services brought under the Auto-appeal system are Issuance of Category Certificates by Tehsildar. It also includes Income, Property, Character, Legal Heir Certificates as well. Moreover attestation of Mutations, acquiring of Fard and Revenue Extracts from the Tehsil Offices across J&K too had been brought under this appellate system.

In addition the services like Issuance of Job Card under MGNREGA, obtaining of Water Connection from Jal Shakti, obtaining of marriage assistance, financial assistance under LadliBeti or Pensions from the Social Welfare Department, obtaining of Birth Certificate, Death certificate, Street Vending (Rehri) Licence from H&UDD, obtaining of Credit Cards by Artisans, Weavers from the Industries and Commerce Department too form part of the Auto-appeal system launched today by the Chief Secretary here.

Those who were present on this occasion includes senior officers of the IT and Scientists from NIC who worked in collaboration with each other to culminate this project in a given deadline.

Newborn Dies Hours After Found Abandoned

Agencies

KUPWARA: A newborn died on Wednesday at Handwara Hospital, hours after he was found at Nallah Hud at Kralpora in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Block Medical Officer (BMO) Kralpora Dr. Javid Iqbal said that the newborn was brought to Sub District Hospital this morning.

He said that the senior doctor along with the medical team attended to the baby. "First aid treatment required was given to the baby. The baby was stabilized," he said.

Later, the BMO said that the baby was referred to District Hospital Handwara for further required treatment.

News agency—KNO has learnt that the baby was found at Hud Nallah in Kralpora. The baby was spotted by locals who informed the police and moved him to SDH

Kralpora for medical attention.

Meanwhile, a senior health official at District Hospital Handwara said that the baby was undergoing treatment. "The baby was admitted to the hospital for required treatment. A police team along with the team of Child Welfare Kupwara were also present at the Hospital," he said.

The official said that the baby had hyperthermia. "The body temperature goes down in this medical condition."

The official also said that the baby was in the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCUS) throughout the day. "Doctors made every sincere attempt to save the precious life of the baby but couldn't save it."

Ultimately, the official said that the baby passed away.

The official also informed that the postmortem of the newborn was also conducted.

BLOCK DIWAS

District Admin Shopian Holds Weekly Public Outreach At Chitragam

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: In order to listen and redress the grievances/issues of people at their doorstep, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Fazul Haseeb on Wednesday presided over the Weekly Block Diwas programme at Chitragam.

During the programme, various issues pertaining to rural development, developmental and welfare requirements, welfare and employment based issues were put forth by PRI members and public representatives of the areas for redressal.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of people from various spheres of life.

Issues of public importance

including availability of drinking water under JJM, construction of bridge at Satrajan Chitragam Reban road, ambulance at chitragam, establishment of Workshop at Chitragam, Rationalisation of staff in animal/sheep husbandry and health institutions, macadamization of left out roads, establishment of Fire Service Station and Hospital at Chitragam were brought into the notice of authorities.

Besides, upgradation of High school to Higher Secondary School, Health Centre at Dachoo, upgradation of infrastructure at UPS Dachoo, Playfield at Dachoo, primary school at Kashowabridge at Narwani D.K. Pora road, and various other demands were flagged-off during the weekly outreach programme.

Rains Lash Plains In J&K, MeT Predicts More

Mercury Records Drop At Most Places, Farmers Advised To Suspend All Operations For Now

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Overnight rains lashed the plains in Kashmir Valley while the weather department on Wednesday forecast more precipitation in Jammu and Kashmir till May 26.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that Srinagar received 6.9mm of rain in last 24 hours till 0830 hours, Qazigund 8.2mm, Pahalgam 22.5mm, Kupwara 10.6mm, Kokernag 10.5mm, Gulmarg 21.0mm, Jammu 8.1mm, Banihal 9.2mm, Batote 14.6mm, Katra 4.8mm and Bhaderwah 14.2mm.

He said that there will be intermittent rain/thunderstorm and snowfall over higher reaches at most places. "Possibility of hailstorm and strong gusty winds at a few places can't be ruled out."

On May 25-26, he said, the weather will be generally cloudy. "A brief spell of rain/thunderstorm may occur towards late afternoon/evening."

He said from May 27-30, weather will be "partly to generally cloudy."

The weather department has advised farmers to suspend all farm operations till weather improves.

"Commuters are advised to confirm road status from concerned traffic police prior to embarking long journey especially Zojila, Srinagar-Jammu etc."

Regarding temperature, the meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 13.5°C against 14.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 12.6°C against 10.8°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.3°C for the gateway town of Kashmir.



Woman Feared Drowned Amid Downpour In Pooch, Rajouri

JAMMU: A woman was feared drowned while three people trapped in flash floods were rescued in the nick of time as heavy rains led to sudden rise in water bodies in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri on Wednesday, officials said.

Two women — Naseema Akhtar and Kulzum Bi — were swept away while crossing Betar stream in Poonch district late afternoon on Wednesday, the officials said.

They said while Akhtar was rescued by a joint team of police and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Kulzum Bi (28) remained untraced.

A rescue operation is on to trace her, the official said, adding they were trapped by the sudden rise in the water level.

In Rajouri district, two men - Ankush Kumar of Rajouri and Sunil Kumar of Punjab were rescued by a joint team of police and SDRF in an hour-long operation after they were found trapped in flash floods in Darhali river near Tariq bridge.

Meanwhile, the civil and police officers in the twin districts issued separate advisories, asking people not to move close to water bodies, especially rivers, in view of apprehensions of flash flood amid rainfall.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded

a low of 9.2°C against 10.2°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 12.4°C against 12.6°C on the previous night and it was 2.0°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 11.4°C against 11.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.3°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 6.0°C against 9.0°C on previous

night and it was below normal by 0.8°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 21.1°C against 26.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.3°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 13.8°C (above normal by 1.8°C), Batote 13.7°C (0.8°C below normal), Katra 19.0°C (2.0°C below normal) and Bhaderwah 13.0°C (above normal by 2.4°C). Ladakh's Leh and Kargil recorded a low of 6.2°C and 9.0°C respectively, he said.

J&K Extends Timeline Of Scheme For Pck Refugees

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has extended the timeline of central assistance scheme for persons from Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) and Chamb refugees of 19651 and 1971 till March 31, 2024 after Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) conveyed its approval for the same.

In an order, the Department of Disaster Management, Re-

lief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction today ordered extension of the scheme- central assistance for one-time settlement of displaced POJK refugees and Chamb refugees of

1965 and 1971- from March 31, 2022 to March 31, 2024 within the approved outlay.

Under the Prime Minister's Development Package announced on November 7, 2015 by PM Narendra Modi in Srinagar, Rs 2000 crore were kept for the scheme.

In its order, the government

today said that the scheme shall not be extended beyond sunset of March 31, 2024.

The Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction had requested the MHA on July 12, 2022 and December 9, 2022 to extend the timeline of the scheme.

On May 3, 2023, the MHA conveyed its approval for the scheme till March 31, 2024 under the rehabilitation package approved by the J&K cabinet on November 30, 2016—(KNO)

CURBING DRUG MENACE

SED To Assign Vigilante Role To Students In Edu Institutes

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In south Kashmir's Anantnag district, School Education Department has decided to assign a vigilante role to some students to curb the drug menace in and around educational institutes.

The deputy commissioner of the district in the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting has been directed to devise a comprehensive list of tasks to be followed by each schools.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO) of Anantnag has accordingly impressed upon all the schools to adhere to the instructions given by the department.

"All Schools shall arrange special session and motivational lectures in morning Assembly once or twice a month thereby imparting awareness about ill effects of drugs and substance abuse," the CEO said.

In a circular issued by the CEO, he said that all School shall arrange a Lecture per class regarding awareness about ill effects of drugs/ substance abuse once a week.

He also said that during the

monthly Parent Teacher meeting, deliberations regarding the drug abuse and its prevention must be made.

"The trained teacher (NCORD) from each the School shall organize teaching sessions for fellow employees of the school," reads the circular.

It further states, "Students should be assigned special duties on voluntary basis to keep vigil on potential drug addict entities, both within the premises and outside the premises of school."

The CEO said that the vigilant volunteers shall be trained to share the information regarding any potential drug addict secretly to the school management, who shall in turn report it to the law and order agencies.

"All HOIs shall display the hoardings to popularise the drug de-addiction helpline number and tele-MANAS website in the school for immediate information and support and creating awareness amongst affected persons or students and their families regarding services available on the given numbers or website," it reads—(KNO)

'Good It Has Now Been Built'

Idea To Construct New Parl Building Was Proposed By Narasimha Govt: Azad

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The idea to construct a new Parliament building was initially proposed by the PV Narasimha Rao government, but "due to various reasons" it was put in "cold storage", DPAP chief Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Wednesday.

"But now, a new Parliament building has been constructed, and that is a good thing," Azad said amid 19 opposition parties, including his former party Congress, announcing a boycott of the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He ended his nearly five-decade-long association with the Congress last year and formed the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP).

Asked for his remarks on the Opposition's boycott, he told reporters that "as far as the new Parliament building is concerned, I don't have to comment on which party takes part in the inauguration of the new building and which boycotts it".

"I will not say anything on this. It is up to to those in the Parliament to participate or boycott it," Azad said.

"The idea to construct a new Parliament building emerged during the tenure of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in 1991-92, with Shivraj Patil serving as the (Lok Sabha) speaker and myself as the parliamentary affairs minister," he said.

Azad said at that time, "we developed the building plan and had extensive discussions, and we then debated with the prime minister the necessity of constructing a new and larger parliament building".

"However, due to various reasons, the proposal was sent to cold storage. But now, a new parliament building has been constructed, and that is a good thing," he said here.

Azad said the rationale behind the construction of a larger Parliament building is to accommodate more MPs in case the number of parliamentary seats increase in the future.

"There will be no increase in the number of seats until 2026, considering that the population has increased five-fold since the elections held in 1952. However, after 2026, the seats will need to be augmented to account for the population growth," he explained.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION.

TENDER NOTICE

E- NIT / GIST. Of E- NIT No.12/WSMP of 05-2023, Date:-18/05/2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (in Two Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt., for the following Work..

S. No	Name of Work	ADVT COST. (Rs. In Lacs)	EMD Cost	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS	Class of Contractor	Time Allowed For completion	Major Head of Account
1.	Shifting of PHE Utilities by Providing, Laying and Fitting of 200/150/100mm dia D.I. Supply / Sub Main Pipelines 80/65/50/40mm dia G.I. Distribution Pipeline along Batmaloo - Moominabad Road on RHS / LHS for Construction of New Cycle Track / Foot Path Taken up by SSCL (Under Deposit Contribution).	Rs.191.00 Lacs	2% of Advertised Cost	Rs. 5000/-	AAY	90 Days	Deposit Contribution

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below: -

S. No.	Description	Date		
		DD	MM	YYYY
1	Publishing date of ENIT	22	05	2023
2	Download start date	22	05	2023
3	Bid submission start date	22	05	2023
4	Bid submission end date	10	06	2023
5	Bid opening date	12	06	2023

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".
- To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
- The cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL Shakti WSMP Division Srinagar. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt).
- Besides above the bidder should also upload the following documents from "My Document" area required under "Other Important Documents" (OID)
 - i) Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
 - ii) Scanned copy of GST Registration/PAN.
 - iii) Scanned copy of Latest GST Return.
 - iv) Scanned copy of EMD and TR.
 - v) Scanned Copy of income tax return of last three years i.e (2020-2021, 2021-2022 & 2022-2023)
 - vi) Scanned copy of Experience.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL Shakti WSMP Division Srinagar.

NO: WSMP/CC/1443-53
Dated:- 22-05-2023
DIPK-2116-23
DT: 24/05/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti WSMP Division
Srinagar.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM
Thursday | 25-05-2023

G20 Meeting Takeaway

Flushed with the success of the two-day G20 Tourism Working Group meeting, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday expressed his optimism during the press conference that capped the event. The LG Sinha said that Jammu and Kashmir would soon rise as one of the world's top 50 global tourism destinations. He affirmed the government's commitment to promoting region as a diverse and inclusive destination, showcasing its natural beauty, and prioritizing sustainable tourism practices.

The G20 meeting was one of the most significant international events held in J&K since the nullification of Article 370 in 2019. By hosting this event, the Indian government showed that most of the major world powers not only endorsed the move but also acknowledged the prevailing normalcy. The effort of both the central government and the LG administration is now to build on the gains in peace and use it to bring more tourists to the region.

However, improving infrastructure, including road, rail connectivity and the accomodation, is crucial to attracting tourists. Sinha emphasized that tourism cannot thrive in isolation; it requires robust infrastructure, well-defined policies, and efficient administration, reflecting the government's recognition of the necessary factors for creating an enabling environment for tourism to flourish. Sinha is also correct in stating that J&K is more than just a tourism destination as it represents a blend of diverse cultures and histories. By leveraging this unique identity, the region can attract a global audience.

Last year, J&K witnessed a record over one crore tourists, contributing 7 percent to its GDP. To sustain this growth, the government has identified 300 new destinations for promotion, emphasizing green tourism, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the active participation of local communities. Such initiatives will not only enhance tourism but also contribute to the region's overall development. The rise in the number of movies filmed in J&K further signifies the region's increasing popularity and the positive impact it has on the local economy and people's lives.

Recently, the LG Sinha also set an ambitious goal of hosting two crore tourists in the UT. in 2023. But as rightly pointed out by him at the press conference, the administration needs to focus on building and upgrading its infrastructure before bringing more tourists to the region. Improving transportation infrastructure, providing quality accommodation, ensuring basic amenities, and addressing security concerns must be the top priority for the government. Only then can the UT truly capitalize on its potential as a tourism destination.

OTHER OPINON

Questions Remain on Adani Report

Following mayhem in markets, after the publication of a report by US-based firm Hindenburg Research, the Supreme Court had ordered the setting up of an expert committee to examine the issues raised by l'affaire Adani. The formation of the committee had, even then, touched off concerns that it raises doubts about the investigative capacity of the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Last week, this expert committee submitted its report. The report delineates the issues raised, the regulator's investigations, and its broad findings in the matter and concludes that there is no evidence of regulatory failure. Basically, no one is any the wiser.

Take the issue of minimum public shareholding and foreign portfolio investors. This matter revolves around whether the 13 overseas entities (including 12 foreign portfolio investors), that hold Adani Group stocks, are compliant with disclosure norms. As per the committee's report, the regulator has uncovered 42 contributors to the assets under management of these overseas entities. But, the "ultimate chain of ownership" in these entities is not clear. The regulators in the jurisdictions where these contributors are located have not provided the SEBI with any information. The committee notes that the "legislative policy" stance of the regulator has moved in the opposite direction of its "investigation and enforcement" — the provision requiring FPIs to disclose "every ultimate natural person" at the end of every chain in the FPI was removed. So, while the regulator may well suspect "wrongdoing", it has "drawn a blank" because of this odd "dichotomy". On the equally contentious issue of the Adani Group's share price movements, while concerns had been voiced over the companies trading at valuations considerably higher than those in the same sector, "no evidence of any artificiality to the price rise" has been found. Further, the rise in share prices could not be attributed to "any single entity or group of connected entities".

The Supreme Court has given the SEBI till August 14 to complete its probe in the matter. Considering the wider implications of such an investigation — the Adani Group holds sway across large parts of the economy — the regulator would do well to provide greater clarity than the committee has done on the issues raised, address the questions that remain unanswered, and bring finality to the matter. SEBI's duty must be towards safeguarding the interests of investors, and preserving the integrity of the Indian stock market.

Indian Express

Age Is No Longer A Number



Ivinder Gill

“
Moreover,
remaining
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mental decline
in individuals.
The refrain that
emerges is: it's the
job and not the
age that should
matter

The burden of this on the pension pot can only be imagined

When US president Joe Biden runs for president for the second time, he will be 82. Warren Buffet is still chairman of Berkshire Hathaway at 92. Ratan Tata passed on the baton to Cyrus Mistry only at 75 years of age. While these people may have the luxury of deciding how long they want to keep working, most of the world's population abides by a certain cut-off age to retire.

The concept of retirement age came about in 1881, when German chancellor Otto Von Bismarck set it at 70 years in an appeasement response to socialist ideologies in the country. Germany finally adopted 65 as the age to retire in 1916, a model that was widely replicated the world over.

By the middle of the 19th century, almost all countries had adopted a cut-off age to retire. That was then. Life expectancies were shorter than retirement ages, healthcare and medicine were not as advanced as present, and people didn't age well.

High variety gives more flexibility to produce goods and services to match a customer's requirements. Variety and volume correlate—the higher the variety, the lower the volume of products or services.

Understanding the four Vs of operations management – volume, variety, variation and visibility

Retirement Planning: How can a salaried person plan his retirement in India?

Today, as the world population tilts toward advanced years—the global median age in 2020 being 31.0, a significant rise from 23.6 years in 1950—with much higher lifespans and fitter and healthier people, the

concept of retirement age is under debate in many nations. Some like France recently legalised advanced ages to retire. Others like Germany, UK, Italy and China are also expected to advance their retirement ages soon. In India, too, which has one of the lowest retirement ages at 60, many a strong case have been made to postpone retirement age.

When it comes to economics, it is the number of years that people will live post-retirement as a result of higher life expectancies that is now a figure of concern. While this number globally was less than 20 just 50 years ago, presently people are expected to live around 23-27 years post-retirement. In India, the life expectancy increased to 70.1 years in 2020 from 61.7 in 1998. By 2047, it is estimated that about 140 million people will be above 60 years of age in India.

The burden of this on the pension pot can only be imagined. And, while governments might have economics behind the reason to delay retirement—getting more people to stay in the workforce and needing to pay lesser pensions and social securities—nature has its own argument as well.

Medical evidence indicates that cognitive abilities are well preserved in the seventies. Even though the brain's prefrontal cortex (the area that controls attention, memory and executive functioning) starts to decline after 45 years of age, this is adequately compensated for by other areas of the brain. In fact, studies indicate that some aspects of cognition, such as crystallised intelligence (which means accumulated knowledge that can be applied to new situations) and social cognition (behaviour patterns in interpersonal interactions) actually

improve with age. Moreover, remaining occupied in a working role checks both physical and mental decline in individuals. The refrain that emerges is: it's the job and not the age that should matter.

And while this might be contested for jobs requiring rigorous manual labour and optimal physical condition, a cut-off retirement age no longer seems valid in general.

The issue of different retirement ages for men and women also needs to be tackled. Ironically, in most countries, women are forced to retire earlier despite having higher lifespans than men.

However, retirement cannot be an individual's call in most cases. This calls for some mechanisms that can be put in place by governments and even organisations to assess a candidate's work potential. These could include multiple, layered evaluation of cognitive and physical fitness required for the job. Of course, this will involve certain investments, but in return workplaces get to juice a skilled professional to the maximum instead of letting people go who still have the chops.

The French said it right while effecting new retirement laws that “retirement age is not set in stone”. Jacinda Ardern hanging up her political boots at 42 or a celebrity Australian online toy seller earning over \$130,000 a month deciding to retire at 11 clearly took the cue.

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



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

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Pink is Turning Yellow

The RBI's decision to abolish the 2000 (pink) note has not caused the uproar seen which we witnessed during the first demonetisation process, but the underlying unease cannot be overlooked. Also reasonably long time of four months, allowing individuals to exchange their pink notes for smaller currency, may have kept

tensions bearable. The scramble for gold (yellow metal), on the other hand, is a definite evidence of the volatility generated by the second demonetisation process. Those who had accumulated a big quantity of pink notes appear to favour yellow metal as their new parking lot. Jewellery buying is jumping in the last few days according to reports. Yellow

metal abundance has consistently instructed high brow snot esteem, and no huge Indian festivals and functions are complete without a huge quantity of yellow metal. De-adapting the pink notes has abruptly supported large numbers of these negative shades. India has the biggest crowd of secretly held yellow metal. The government has been trying for a long

time to free this largely unproductive stash and turn it into a force for growth and production. In any case, the most recent RBI choice will just support the propensity to keep yellow metal secured.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K

Entertainment for Pattern Seeking, Puzzle Solving Apes

Somdev Chatterjee

Humans are not only compulsive information hunters, we are also avid pattern-seekers and puzzle solvers. We see people and objects in the arrangement of stars in the night sky. We see faces in random marks on the wall. If a crow sits on the branch of a tree and immediately a fruit falls, we infer that the action of the crow caused the fruit to fall.

We are driven to seek patterns and meaning in the information we gather about the world, and if there are no patterns, we often impose them. Pattern seeking and pattern recognition have obvious survival advantages. Being able to recognize a hidden lion from just a few spots of yellow behind green foliage may mean the difference between life and death. Being able to correlate changes in the seasons with cycles of animal movements can give you a predictable source of food. The better you are at detecting patterns and drawing useful inferences from them, the more opportunities you are likely to have for gainful action. But this instinct can also go too far, and create a cognitive bias, which is called a narrative bias or narrative fallacy. Once we have hit upon a narrative to explain a set of events, we tend to interpret new information to fit that narrative. And whatever information cannot fit in is usually ignored. An everyday example of this bias at work is in the way we create post-facto explanations for events we could never have predicted. History for example, is often presented as a grand narrative leading to an inevitable conclusion rather than a chaotic mishmash of random events that led to unforeseeable consequences. As Daniel Kahneman points out in *Thinking Fast and Slow*, if history actually had as neat an order as it seems to have in most books, why can't historians ever predict the future? Stock market pundits are as good at explaining yesterday's market movements as they are hopeless at pre-



dicting what will happen tomorrow. And yet, we are drawn to the 'analysis' of these pundits, instead of sifting through the raw data ourselves - and admitting that there is no discernable pattern.

In life this tendency can lead us horribly astray, and in his book Kahneman offers advice on how to counter this bias, but for our purposes the important insight is this - narratives are seductive because they create an illusion of understanding of the world. They are so powerful that we often prefer them to unfiltered reality. This might explain why structure and plot are so important in narrative. In his *Poetics*, Aristotle assigned primary

importance to plot (mythos) and considered it the very "soul" of a tragedy. In *Aspects of the Novel*, E.M. Forster famously illustrated the difference between story and plot:

Story: The King died and then the queen died.

Plot: The King died and then the queen died of grief.

It is the causal connection of the plot that gets us hooked. We want to understand why.

No wonder narratives which have a well-defined causal link between events and an end that rewards the reader/audience with a deeper understanding of the

story-world are usually preferred to ones that present a world of random events without causal links or clear resolution.

Stories offer opportunities to exercise our capacities for pattern detection at multiple levels. We detect personality traits from patterns of action and speech. We infer psychological states and conflicts from variations and inconsistencies in those patterns. In my favourite scene from the 2005 film *Pride and Prejudice* Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet insult each other in the rain right after she refuses his proposal for marriage. She says she hates him and he is the last man she would consider marrying. But then her eyes go

down from his eyes to his lips. He makes a small movement towards her mouth and she reciprocates but then with visible effort, both stop themselves and Darcy says a cold goodbye. The tension in the scene is electric and we are fascinated because we detect at least two patterns - a pattern of speech signifying hatred and anger, and a second, conflicting one of gestures and looks, signifying attraction. As in music or poetry, in story too patterns create expectations which can then be subverted or contrasted with other patterns. This allows the audience to draw deeper, more subtle inferences - and continuously derive pleasure from the very act of successful pattern detection.

There are patterns of action - plots and counterplots by protagonists and antagonists. There can be patterns in the rhythm of speech not only in dramatic verse but in the work of many dramatists or screenwriters writing in prose. There are patterns in the design of the story - exposition, conflict, rising action, crisis, climax, resolution, etc. There are patterns in the design of characters - how they contrast with or set-off each other. There are patterns in the use of themes, or motifs. There are patterns that we immediately grasp without any effort, and there are patterns which can be discovered by audiences or teased out by critics years or even centuries after a novel or play has been written.

Complete absence of pattern is boring - there is no meaningful inference to be drawn from it. A completely predictable pattern is boring too - it does not repay the effort invested in continuing to pay attention. A pattern with the right degree of unpredictability is fascinating - there is reason to continue to pay close attention and new, rich inferences to be drawn at every moment. Once more, everything becomes relevant.

Excerpted from Why Stories Work: The Evolutionary and Cognitive Roots of the Power of Narrative

Food Insecurity: A growing threat to global stability

Jose Andres

Threats to security are not just measured in missiles, armies and terrorists. Political and economic turmoil can also be overwhelming.

That's why fighting hunger and thirst is no longer just a challenge for aid workers. The scale of the global crisis is so great that hunger now represents a threat.

Don't take a chef's word for it. Over the past decade or so, the US intelligence community assessed the likely impact of global food and water insecurity.

The agencies predicted a world, right around now, when water shortages and floods would "risk instability and state failure, increase regional tensions."

The time has come for us all to prioritise food in our public policy - at home and internationally.

Consider one of the most divisive factors in politics today, both in the United States and in Europe: immigration from the Global South.

What is driving so many families to risk their lives on perilous journeys through the jungle, across rivers or on the open seas?

Violence and lack of opportunity are nothing new in the Western Hemisphere. Though they are clearly factors in the surge to the US southern border, there is something new about what is moving so many people today.

That is food. To be precise: malnutrition, hunger and food price inflation.

Three years ago, the majority of migrants came from the Northern Triangle countries: Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Now, most migrants at our border come from other countries, including Venezuela, Colombia, Nicaragua and Cuba.

What ties these countries together? Cuba is suffering extraordinary food shortages and price hikes. About three-quarters of Venezuelans live on less than



\$1.90 a day, which, economists say, is nowhere near enough to feed one person, never mind a family. In some regions of Nicaragua, almost 1 in 4 children under the age of 5 has chronic malnutrition.

I could tell you the same stories about

the Northern Triangle countries a few years ago. Or I could tell you about the Honduran family we fed as they sheltered under a bridge in McAllen, Texas. They recognised the logo of World Central Kitchen, the non-profit, because it had fed them in

Honduras the year before, when back-to-back hurricanes wiped out their farm.

As severe drought devastates crops across South America, the World Food Programme recently warned that "the whole continent is on the move."

We cannot build a wall high enough to stop the army of mothers with hungry children in their arms.

Our problem is not that we lack the resources or know-how to relieve these unbearable pressures. Our problem is that we lack focus.

The United States spends around \$25 billion a year on Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Texas alone wants to spend \$4 billion on the border.

That's what the United States spends on feeding the whole planet through the World Food Programme in a normal year. It's four times what the administration proposes to spend on stabilising the democracies and economies of Central America to help stop migration.

Food is not just an existential challenge beyond our borders. In the United States, about half of the adult population either has diabetes or is prediabetic. Two in five adults are obese. Last year, supplies of baby formula collapsed because of contamination at one factory, and the shortages endure.

The Government Accountability Office recently found that the federal government leads 200 different efforts across 21 different agencies to improve our diets. Yet US still cannot match the farming subsidies to its nutritional needs.

Everybody and nobody is in charge of food.

Food can be the solution to multiple crises: from our health to our climate, from immigration to global security. But only if we think differently and prioritise our food.

The global food systems are broken, and it urgently needs structural change.

Jose Andres is a chef and founder of the new Global Food Institute at George Washington University.

Study Uncovers Details About Cells' “Self-Destruction” Mechanism

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have uncovered details about how infected or damaged cells eliminate themselves by starting a built-in “suicide” program and that a specific protein, called ninjurin-1, serves as a breaking point for cell membrane rupture.

They found that ninjurin-1 assembles into filaments that work like a zipper and open the cell membrane, thus leading to the disintegration of the cell.

Publishing their results in the journal Nature, the researchers from University of Basel, the University of Lausanne and ETH Zurich, Switzerland, have provided new insights into the final step of cell death, which prevents the development of tumors and the spread of pathogens in the body and is crucial for all organisms.

Every day, millions of cells die in our body and contrary to what is generally assumed, cells do not simply burst at the end of their lives, they say.

Various signals, such as bacterial components, trigger the cell death machinery at the final stage of which, the cell's protective membrane is compromised by tiny pores which allow ions to stream into the cell.

"The common understanding was that the cell then swells until it finally bursts due to increasing osmotic pressure," explained Sebastian Hiller who heads a research group at the Biozentrum, University of Basel.

"We are now resolving how the cells really rupture. Instead of bursting like a balloon, the protein ninjurin-1 provides a breaking point in the cell membrane, causing rupture at specific sites," said Hiller.

Using highly sensitive microscopes and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, the scientists have elucidated the cells' destruction mechanism by which ninjurin-1, a small protein embedded in the cell membrane, induces membrane rupture at the level of individual atoms.

They found that upon receiving the suicide command, two nin-

jurin-1 proteins initially clustered together and drove a wedge into the membrane."Large lesions and holes are formed by many further proteins attaching to the initial wedge. In this way, the cell membrane is cleaved open piece by piece until the cell disintegrates completely," explained Morris Degen, first author of the study.

"The cell debris is then removed by the body's own cleaning service," said Degen.

"It is now evident that the cells do not burst without ninjurin-1. They do swell to a certain extend due to the influx of ions, but membrane rupture is contingent on the function of this protein," said Hiller.

Since some tumour cells have been known to evade programmed cell death, this deeper understanding of cell death could facilitate therapeutic interventions to treat cancer.

On the other hand, interfering with premature cell death observed in neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease through drugs could be a potential treatment option.

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Special Sub Division Uri Notice Inviting E-Tender

eNIT No. 05 of 2023-24/616-25/R&B SSD Uri e-tendering

DATED: 23-05-2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on a percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of T/Doc.	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Internal Electrification work with Control Panel, Protective controlling devices etc for Sub Treasury Building at Lagama Uri.	3.92	Rs 7850/-	Rs 200/-	25 Days	MH 4059 Capex	Electric Card Holder

Project Authority: Director Treasuries Kashmir

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds Available

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below: -

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23.05.2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23.05.2023 (11:30 AM) to 30.05.2023 (4:00 PM)
3.	Bid submission Start Date	23.05.2023 (11:30 AM)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	30.05.2023 (4:00 PM)
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	31.05.2023 (11:00AM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date with NIT No. & sr. No) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri (tender receiving authority).

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids. 6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process. 6.2 In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate. 6.3 Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted. 6.4 Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances. 8 The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Special Sub Division Uri, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).

9 Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

11 Price escalation and Taxes: -

11.1 The allotted cost shall be calculated after adding 18% GST on the quoted amount by the lowest bidder.

11.2 The allotted cost shall be deemed to include price escalation and all other taxes up to the completion of the work. Other Taxes and levies shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.

12 Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.

13 All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information. (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

• All bidders must upload copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address. • A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.

• Treasury Challan/Earnest money

• Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card

• A Civil Contractor who does not own HMP and is bidding for Bitumen Macadam Works is required to upload an MoU with HMPO, from whom the material/machinery for the subject work will be procured. The Memorandum of Understanding must be registered and duly executed in the Hon'ble Court of 1st Class Magistrate, specifying clearly that failure on the part of the HMPO shall be deemed failure on the part of the bidder, and vice versa

• Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable, ending 03/2022.

14 Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2022-23.

15 Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation.

16 The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.

No.:SSDU/2023-24/616-25

DIPK-2088/23 Dated: 24-05-2023

Sd/= Executive Engineer, R&B Special Sub-Division, Uri.

Office of the Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) Irrigation Division Pulwama. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SHORT TERM NIT NO. (09) OF 2023-24 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K U.T, e-Tenders are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K U.T. for the following work.

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost In Lakhs	Cost of Tender Doc. In Rs.	Earnest Money in Rs.	T.O.C	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1	Temporary Restoration of Main canal L.I.S. Wasoora from RD 0 to RD 50 Mts. by way of laying of Polythene and filled E/C Bags.	1.02	200	1880	15- Days	DEE	2702-M&R
2	Temporary Restoration of Main canal L.I.S. Wasoora from RD 290 to RD 365 Mts. by way of laying of Polythene and filled E/C Bags.	0.94	200	1880	15- Days	DEE	2702-M&R
3	Deepening and widening of Parigam Nawa Scheme.	0.63	200	1260	10- Days	DEE	2702-M&R
4	Restoration of main canal KLIS from RD 8200 m to 10000 m by way of desilting (at spots).	0.58	200	1160	10- Days	DEE	2701-M&R
5	Restoration of main canal KLIS from RD 3900m to 8000m by way of desilting (at spots).	0.58	200	1160	10- Days	DEE	2701-M&R
6	Removal of silt from main canal LIS Pati Kawani.	0.56	200	1120	10- Days	DEE	2702-M&R
7	Re-sectioning of vatnar checkpora scheme at spots.	0.33	200	660	07- Days	DEE	2702-M&R
8	Construction of temporary diversion bund and removal of mulba/ silt from intake channel and sump of LIS wasoora.	0.29	200	580	07- Days	DEE	2702-M&R
9	Mulba/ silt clearance of sump/ intake works of Pump station for LIS Bravo Bandina.	0.16	200	320	07- Days	DEE	2702-M&R

Position of funds= Budgetary Provision.

Position of T/s= Accorded.

Position of AAA= Accorded.

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, Set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	22-05-2023 (06.00 pm)
02	Date of start of downloading.	22-05-2023 (06.00 pm)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	22-05-2023 (06.00 pm)
04	Bid submission end date.	29-05-2023 (04.00 pm)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	30-05-2023 (10.00 am)

2. Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH: 0702-PWD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority), and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR from any schedule or nationalized bank pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority).

3. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority).

4. The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid

Bidders are advised to use the (My Documents) area in their user on www.jktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below:

a. GST, Adhaar Card, 16- Digit Bank Account No. and PAN No.

b. Registration card with the latest renewal.

c. Treasury challan (0702)

d. Scanned copy of EMD.

e. Card verification letter.

f. Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.

g. BOQ.

h. Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of GST returns of previous quarter.

i. Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of Income Tax returns of Previous financial year.

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 Days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-Tendering process:-

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para- 3.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black & white option.

8. The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH: 0702-PWD Remittance) in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR as applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid.

10. Price Escalation and Taxes:- The item wise cost/ offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

No.:PID/CS/1001-22.

DIPK-2016/23

Dated:24-05-2023.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Pulwama.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Uri

Email:- ee.pmgisyuri@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 02/EE/PMGSY/Uri/e-Tendering of 2023-24, Dated 21/05/2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/ Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost including GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Renewalcoat / Macadamisation of road from Pehlipora Hilan, Length 0.146 Kms, Package No JK03-59. (Balance work)	5.43	300.00	0.108	45 day's	03-06- 2023 (11.00 am)	AAY with HMPO or AAY Class Civil/ B Class Civil / C Class Civil Registered MoU with HMPO
2	Renewal coat / Macadamisation of road from Nowshera Javind, Length 0.380 Kms, Package No JK03-144. (Balance work)	7.73	300.00	0.154	45 day's	03-06- 2023 (11.00 am)	AAY with HMPO or AAY Class Civil/ B Class Civil / C Class Civil Registered MoU with HMPO
3	Renewal coat / Macadamisation of road from Bella Salamabad Hillad Peernia, Length 3.00 Kms, Package No JK03-148.	60.52	1600	1.21	45 day's	03-06- 2023 (11.00 am)	AAY with HMPO or AAY Class Civil/ B Class Civil Registered MoU with HMPO

Position of AAA :- Accorded

Position of T.S :- Accorded

Major Head of Account :- 5054 (C&T)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:-

a) Performance security shall be furnished by the contractor within 10 days of issuance of LOA, Opening of Bid, failing which the concerned tender issuing authority shall forfeit the performance security and recommended contractor for blacklisting and issue a fresh tender forthwith.

b) The contractor shall start the work after 10 days of after issuance of NTP, failing which the penalties viz, forfeiting performance security and shall be recommended for blacklisting

c) The work shall be completed by the concerned contractor as per the timeline stipulated in NIT /agreement, failing which action shall be initiated against contractor by forfeiting performance security and shall be recommended for blacklisting. Failure on part of Executive Engineer concerned shall be reflected in his/her APR.

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

e) For Macadamisation works under City & Town/Pot Holes Free roads, all Contractors having Class A/B/C registration cards other than Hot Mix Plant (HMP) Owners have to upload an undertaking stating therein the e-NIT No., Name of work and Source of procurement of macadamisation material (within 40 Kms from the work site), failing which the bid of such contractors shall be considered as non-responsive.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-05-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22-05-2023 (10.00am) to 02-06-2023 (4.30pm)
3.	Bid submission Start Date	22-05-2023 (10.00am)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	02-06-2023 (4.30pm)
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03-06-2023 (11.00 am)

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Uri and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Uri.

The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Uri at the time of allotment.

2. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw its bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.

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

4. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.

5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

5.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website Site www.pmgisyendersj.k.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

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

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

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

5.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT with technical bid online.

5.6. All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

(a) All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.

(b) A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act. with renewal side(Latest).

(c) Treasury Challan/Earnest money.

(d) Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card

(e) Since the registered Civil Contractors of applicable Class are only eligible for participating in road macadamization. However first lowest responsive bidder is required to submit documents to establish access(MoU) to plant and machinery necessary for execution of items involving bituminous work that too within 40 Kms of work sites post opening of tender before issuance of allotment/ signing of agreement, failing which LI will be treated as non-responsive. The MoU should be attested by Judicial/Executive Magistrate (Notary shall not be accepted) clearly mentioning the NIT No. Serial No. of Item and Name of Work. The contractor is supposed to satisfy himself regarding the availability of key equipment and output capacity of the plant keeping in view the time of completion of work.

Keeping in view the above condition, the MoU is not required to be uploaded with bid documents but only needs to be submitted by first lowest responsive bidder before issuance of allotment/ signing of agreement.

(f) Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the latest quarter/latest month.

(g) All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card.

(h) If verification is not done then it is mandatory to upload affidavit from First Class Executive Magistrate regarding the Genuineness of the Contractor Card. The Bidders are subject to be disqualified if they have made misleading or false representation in the forms, statements, affidavits duly attested by Magistrate and attachments submitted in proof of the qualification requirement and/ or Record of poor performance such as abandoning the works, not properly completing the contract, inordinate delays in completion, litigation history, or financial failures etc.

(i) All those Cards which stand renewed/ generated through JKPWDOMS does not require any verification as the same is authenticated by the website itself created by JK PWD.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

6. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Uri and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Uri.

8. Bidders may contact office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e- tendering process.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

10. The bidder has to quote the rate in percentage on the advertised BOQ in which unit rates and prices are in Indian Rupees and the percentage quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work unless otherwise specified.

11. Bidders are advised to quote their rates excluding GST in the BOQ. The GST of 18 % will be added while fixing of the contract with the 1st Lowest bidder.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on PMGSY e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. Defect Liability Period: The DLP shall be calculated from date of certified completion of work and period shall be 36 Months where the bitumen thickness is equal to or more than 40mm. However in case of works where bituminous thickness is less

Iran, Indonesia To Ditch Dollar, Trade In National Currencies



Agenceis

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who is on a two-day visit to Jakarta, attended a joint press conference with his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo in Merdeka Palace on Tuesday.

In this presser, Raisi hailed the good Iran-Indonesia interactions in various political, economic, commercial, regional, and international fields within the 70 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two Muslim nations.

Referring to the 11 cooperation MoUs and documents signed between Iran and Indonesia, President Raisi said that the signing of several cooperation documents shows the determination of the two countries to develop relations

in all fields.

Expanding relations with Indonesia, as one of the important and effective countries in Asia and the world and international organizations, is very important for Iran, he said.

He also expressed his hope that this trip will be expanding interactions between the two big and powerful Islamic countries in the region and the world. Raisi also added that these measures will be completed with the reciprocal visit of the President of Indonesia to Tehran.

Stating that Iran and Indonesia have common views on regional and international issues, including the Palestinian issue and the situation in Afghanistan, the president said, "The two countries are committed to supporting the rights of the Palestinian people until the liberation of the holy city of Al-Quds."

World's Richest Man Loses \$11 Billion In A Single Day After Stock Rout

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Bernard Arnault, the world's richest person, had \$11.2 billion wiped from his fortune in one day over concerns that a softening US economy will dampen demand for luxury goods.

The founder of LVMH - whose offerings include Louis Vuitton handbags, Moët & Chandon Champagne and Christian Dior gowns - had seen his wealth balloon for most of 2023 as share prices of European luxury companies surged.

On Tuesday, he gave back some of those gains. LVMH shares fell 5% in Paris - the most in more than a year - amid a broader decline that erased about \$30 billion from the European luxury sector.

Even with the selloff, the French billionaire still has a net worth of \$191.6 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. He's added \$29.5 billion so far this year.

The gap between the fortunes of Arnault and Tesla Inc.'s Elon



Musk, the world's second-richest person, has shrunk to just \$11.4 billion. Tuesday's rout came after a lengthy rally in LVMH's share price, which is still up 23% for the year. The MSCI Europe Textiles Apparel & Luxury Goods Index has surged 27%.

Attendees at a luxury conference in Paris organized by Morgan Stanley flagged a "relatively more subdued" performance in the US, according to Edouard Aubin, an analyst at the investment bank.

Deutsche Bank AG analysts Matt Garland and Adam Cochrane said in a note that they expect investors to become more selective with European luxury stocks, with slowing growth in the US a concern.

J&K Bank Wins Laurels By Earning Highest-Ever Net Profit

Auqib Javeed

The Bank Seems Well Placed To Register A Very Positive Growth In The Coming Financial Year: Expert Srinagar- The Jammu and Kashmir Bank has achieved a historic milestone in its remarkable journey of public service by earning highest-ever net annual profit of nearly Rs 1200 crore in the last financial year, earning laurels within the Union Territory and outside

With a decade-high capital adequacy ratio of 15.39 per cent and NPAs at an eight-year low of 6.04 per cent, the bank also recorded its highest-ever quarterly profit of Rs 476 crore in the last quarter

"Jammu and Kashmir Bank has recorded Rs 1,197 crore as net profit for FY 2022-23 which is the highest ever annual profit," a bank official told Kashmir Observer.

Terming the revenue figures "unprecedented", the official said that the bank has constantly worked on its expenditures and rationalized it.

"One of the expenses would be audit expenses wherein the bank would spend a whopping Rs 22 crore annually - that too was rationalized and brought down to Rs 15 crore only," he said.

Ejaz Ayoub, an economic researcher, told Kashmir Observer that the bank has been doing quite well in terms of cleaning its balance sheet from the last 6-8 quarters.

Ayoub said that bank's growth in advances has been pretty robust and the NPA coverage at 86.30 and capital adequacy at 15.39 in particular, shows remarkable stability in the financials.

"Growth in deposits has been a bit off which has resulted in reliance on costly borrowings. Growth in the investment portfolio too has not been in sync with the rest of the balance sheet," Ayoub said, adding "With core economic sectors showing signs of recovery and stable fundamentals, the bank seems well placed to register a very positive growth in the coming financial year."

The business community in the Valley also feels that the new working method and digital transformation journey of the bank has benefited the traders and other entrepreneurs.

President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I), Javid Ahmad Tenga



said that the bank's dealing with the traders is improving.

"The bank is now disciplined and the process is going on. There are some issues that we will take up with the higher authorities. We're hopeful that they will be addressed," Tenga added.

He suggested the bank to empower branch heads and zonal heads to take call on overdraft facilities to its customers. He also said that there should be the facility of one time settlement (OTS) scheme for the traders as well.

Sources said, the bank has introduced Straight Through Process (STP), extended branches, revamped credit structures, improved the customer care call system and established large credit units, popularly known as LCUs - across all Zones.

Sources further said that J&K bank has financed 96000 youth in the "Back to Village" programme of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led dispensation in a year.

Commenting upon the annual numbers, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "With historic yearly profit, highest-ever quarterly net, decadal high CRAR, best asset-quality figures over last 8 years; it's a great feeling to deliver better-than-promised annual numbers. I feel completely satisfied to see that we have gotten better at operating our business efficiently."

"Looking back to March 2022 with these sets of numbers, I see an unmistakable shift in performance as well as the functioning of the Bank. Right from financials, operations and business to compliance and vastly improved corporate governance, the leap from turn-around to transformation is quite perceptible as well as promising," he added.

However, the sources said that auditors were 'unhappy' with rationalizing audit expenses.

The people questioning the methods used in declaring financial results, they said, have now pleaded for intervention from the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The sources said that the auditors have put a "qualification" on the financial results and that the Employees Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS) implementation needs to be looked at.

"Bank sought the opinion of a leading law firm that has opined that the bank's version is justified. But as a precautionary measure the bank has not taken the amount of ESPS amounting to some 300 crores into account in the balance sheet that would otherwise further strengthen the CRAR," sources said.

In a recent interview to a New Delhi based newspaper banks MD & CEO said, "The scheme was implemented in an identical manner like ESPS (2021-22) through Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) mechanism. The scheme was over-subscribed and pro-rata allotment was made".

He said there was nothing new in the scheme from the earlier ESPS, except the amount, which according to him was validated by the same set of auditors without any observations last time.

"However, they issued a qualification this year that some employees had transferred amounts from their pre-existing general purpose cash-credit/personal consumption loans to their savings accounts for subscribing to the issue," Prakash said.

J&K Bank MD and CEO reiterated that the bank has not sanctioned any loans to its employees specifically for purchase of its own shares. "However, owing to the difference of opinion with the Auditors and as a matter of prudence and corporate governance ethics we have not included the amount of Rs 338.31 Crore mobilized through the ESPS while computing any financial parameter involving Net-Worth or Capital Ratio which despite this exclusion is well above 15%. Besides, we have made adequate disclosures regarding this matter in the 'Notes to Accounts'," Prakash said.

Some Bank Branches Run Short On Day 2 Of ₹2,000 Note Exchange: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Some bank branches ran out of cash and temporarily halted the exchange of withdrawn ₹2000 currency notes as they awaited replenishment of supply from the currency chest on the second day of note swap on Wednesday.

More than anticipated demand during the first half in some of the branches led to the shortage of ₹500 and below denomination currency temporarily at some places, sources told Press Trust of India.

Customers had to wait for some time till replenishment came from the currency chest, sources added.



However, senior officials of various banks said there were no major complaints of currency shortage for exchange.

"We are maintaining a continuous supply of ₹500, 200 and 100

denominations notes at all our all branches across Delhi circle to ensure smooth exchange process of 2,000 rupee notes," Canara Bank Chief General Manager (CGM) Bhavendra Kumar said.

Reserve Bank on May 19 announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes and permitted exchange of such notes up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time till September 30.

Unlike November 2016, when old 500 and 1000 rupee notes - constituting some 86 per cent of the currency in circulation - were banned overnight, ₹2000 currency notes continue to be legal tender for now, and the exchange window is more than double of that provided in 2016. While the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not made the presentation of a valid ID or filling of deposit forms mandatory, there were complaints from some places that banks were demanding customers to submit identity cards as proof.

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said that RBI is monitoring the situation regularly with regard to the withdrawal of ₹2,000 currency notes and expressed confidence that the entire exercise will be completed in a non-disruptive manner.

SpiceJet Hikes Salaries For Pilots To ₹7.5 Lakh Per Month

NEW DELHI: SpiceJet on Tuesday announced a substantial hike in the salary of its captains to ₹7.5 lakh per month for 75 hours of flying.

On the occasion of its 18th anniversary, the Gurugram-based carrier said that the hike will be applicable from May 16, 2023.



Meanwhile, the salaries of trainers (DE, TRI) and first officers have also been increased commensurately.

Earlier in November, the airline had earlier revised salaries for its pilots wherein the salary of Captains had been raised to ₹7 lakh a month for 80 hours of flying.

Additionally, the airline has announced a tenure-linked monthly loyalty reward for its Captains of up to ₹1,00,000/- per month which would be over and above their monthly

remuneration.

Earlier, chairman Ajay Singh told employees that SpiceJet has initiated the process of reviving its grounded planes with the USD 50 million funds received from the ECLGS scheme and from its in-

ternal cash accruals. Mr Singh urged the employees to remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of services as it looks forward to more exciting years ahead.

PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com SpiceJet operates about 250 daily flights to 48 destinations within India and to international destinations. Its fleet is a mix of aircraft including Boeing 737 Max, Boeing 700 and Q400s.

G20 DELEGATES' TIME OUT IN SRINAGAR



HC upholds dismissal of IPS officer who probed Ishrat Jahan encounter case

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday upheld a central government order dismissing former IPS officer Satish Chandra Verma, who assisted the CBI in its probe in the Ishrat Jahan fake encounter case, a month before his scheduled retirement.

Verma, a 1986-batch Gujarat Cadre IPS officer, was dismissed from service on August 30 last year, a month ahead of his scheduled retirement on September 30, 2022, after a departmental inquiry found him guilty of various charges, including "interacting with public media".

Verma had approached the high court following the Supreme Court's order allowing him to file a plea here.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma said there was no reason to interfere with the findings returned by the inquiry authority or the order passed by the disciplinary authority when the petitioner himself has not denied the media interaction which was done without any permission or authorisation.

The interaction with media was not in the bonafide discharge of the petitioner's duties, the court observed.

"We find no merit in the writ petition. The same is accordingly dismissed," ruled the bench, also comprising Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva.



The allegations against Verma were that he interacted with public media on March 2 and 3, 2016 and, in an interview with a news channel at the official premises of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation in Guwahati without any authorisation or permission from the competent authority, spoke unauthorisedly on matters which were not within the sphere of his duties.

It was alleged that he made a statement of fact and opinion in the encounter matter which had the effect of an "adverse criticism of Central and state governments".

It was also alleged that Verma did not make it clear that the views expressed by him were his own and not that of the government.

An inquiry was conducted and it concluded that the articles of charge have been proved.

Before the high court, senior advocate I H Syed appeared for the petitioner and said the inquiry proceedings were based on unauthorised video footage purportedly downloaded from YouTube and neither the video footage nor its transcript were proved to be in accordance with law.

The Centre, represented by senior advocate Arun Bhardwaj, defended the dismissal order, saying charges were not only duly proved but the allegations have also been admitted.

The court, in its 45-page judgement, observed that the petitioner has not disputed his media interactions at any point or that he did not have any prior permission or authorisation for such interaction.

It also rejected his contention that media professionals had forcibly entered the premises and started questioning him as

it noted that the video footage clearly shows the petitioner "sitting at a place with the microphone attached to his lapel and is answering questions".

"Petitioner has not denied the interaction with the media, he has also not denied that he did not have any permission or authorisation to speak to the media. He has also not denied that he did speak about the encounter and issues that were not within the sphere of his duties.

"Clearly the interaction with the media was not in the bonafide discharge of his duties as CVO, NEEPCO (Chief Vigilance Officer, North Eastern Electric Power Corporation). He also did not specify that the views expressed by him were his own and not that of the Government," the court noted.

It said at no point of time Verma disputed the contents of either the footage or the transcript.

"It is not the case of the Petitioner that the contents are doctored, edited or altered," it added.

The court also noted nothing was on record to infer that the inquiry authority did not act as an independent adjudicator but as a representative of the government.

"Clearly, this case is not the one where the findings returned by the inquiry authority are based on no evidence and the petitioner has not showed any procedural irregularity or

HDFC Bank Opens Doors To New Recruits



Mumbai: HDFC Bank has launched Future Bankers 2.0, a pan-India recruitment program to transform young graduates into banking professionals within one year.

To be offered in association with the Manipal Global Academy of BFSI, Future Bankers 2.0 is a one-year professional diploma that aims to create a robust, future-ready talent pipeline for HDFC Bank's retail banking business – a key thrust area for the bank.

The program provides eight months of paid internship and on-the-job training at HDFC Bank's branch locations within the country to further strengthen a student's grounding in banking products, processes, compliance framework, and day-to-day banking operations. Upon successful completion of the course, a student will get a Postgraduate Diploma in Sales & Relationship Banking from Manipal Academy of BFSI and an assured job opportunity as a personal banker at the grade of Deputy Manager with HDFC Bank.

All the successful candidates will be offered an annual

CTC up to Rs.5.59 lakh.

"Future Bankers 2.0 gives a golden opportunity to post-graduates to start their careers at a certified Great Place to Work. The new hires will get to work with a banking industry leader imbibing in themselves best-in-class people practices and processes. Our continued association with the Manipal Global Academy of BFSI bears testimony to the quality of education offered by the institution and the success of Future Bankers," said Vinay Razdan, Chief Human Resources Officer, HDFC Bank.

"We are delighted to partner with HDFC Bank through this long-term initiative to create a strong candidate pool. The Manipal Academy of BFSI will focus on training them to be highly skilled, qualified executives and ensure that the services provided by them across the bank branch networks remain consistent. We are excited to shape young futures through this long-standing association with HDFC Bank," said Robin Bhowmik, Chief Business Officer, Manipal Global.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

7 Workers

Mubashir Ahmad of Doda, and Karan Kumar of Karur.

The injured – Ravi Giri of Bihar, Mohd Gareeb of Ramban, and Varun Sharma of Kishtwar were admitted in Kishtwar district hospital, the officials said.

Expressing grief over the loss of lives in the tragic accident, the Lt Governor said, "I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families and wish those injured a speedy recovery."

"I have instructed the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected persons," Sinha said.

Earlier, Union Minister Jitendra Singh termed the accident "unfortunate" as he assured all possible help to the affected families.

"Just now spoke to DC #Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav about unfortunate road accident at Dangduru Dam site Injured being shifted to district hospital Kishtwar or GMC #Doda as per requirement. All possible help, as required, will be provided," Singh wrote on twitter.

Former chief ministers Ghulam Nabi Azad of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and Mehbooba Mufti of Peoples Democratic Party, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari, J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina, the National Conference and the People's Conference also expressed grief over the accident.

Senior DPAP leader and former minister G M Saroori visited the injured in the hospital and demanded sterner road safety measures.

"I once again expect that authorities will ensure enough safety measures as occurrence of such accidents are witnessed every alternate day. Smooth traffic movement on such hilly terrain needs immediate attention," Saroori said.

G20 Delegates

Lalit Grand Palace at Gupkar Road before visiting the pedestrian polo-view market at Residency Road.

Services of Sniffer dogs were also used in and around the Polo-View Market to detect explosive substances hours before the G20 delegates visited the pedestrian market for a stroll and shopping.

Some of the delegates were seen showing keen interest in handmade Kashmiri handicrafts at Poloview Market before driving back to their

hotels.

Talking to the media at Poloview Market, Milan, a G20 member, representing Argentina said the environment in Kashmir was so pleasant and that it was like being in heaven.

Sources said that Boulevard will be thrown open for pedestrian and traffic movement on Thursday after three days, while Gupkar Road will be closed for an hour until the delegates leave for Srinagar International Airport.

G20 Meeting

The Netherlands, said the G20 meet put Kashmir back on the tourism map.

"It puts Kashmir back on the map and it has shown us that Kashmir is a beautiful place. It will help tourism in Kashmir but I hope it will also help tourism in The Netherlands," he said.

"It's been three fantastic days, Kashmir is very beautiful. The meetings were very well organised and very insightful. So I am happy to bring this all back to the Netherlands," he added.

Govt Hires 350

The Shikaras, he said, were hired for three consecutive days beginning May 21, against a fixed price of Rs 770 per hour.

On May 21, Bhat said, 100 Shikaras were made available to the tourism department for the pre-event preparations. Next day, he said, 110 Shikaras were put on disposal of G20 delegates, 107 on May 23 and 45 on the concluding day of the dignitaries visit.

The delegates from 19 of the Group of 20 (G20) nations arrived in Srinagar on May 22 to participate in the third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting during India's G20 Presidency.

"The delegates enjoyed the Shikara ride and were mesmerized by the unparalleled beauty of Dal Lake," Bhat said, adding that the tourism department had also illuminated Shikaras free of the cost.

The President of Shikarawala Association also said that the adverse tourism advisories by the west have hit the tourism sector and that he conveyed the delegates to appeal to their countrymen to visit Kashmir.

"Before 1990's, the footfall of foreign tourists was massive but due to uncertain situations and the advisories, the tourists avoided visiting Kashmir," he said.

An official from the Tourism department told Kashmir Observer that the delegates enjoyed Shikara ride so much that another round of ride was arranged for them on Wednesday. Besides delegates, he said, Shikaras were also made available for the journalists covering the high-profile event in this capital city.

"We are hopeful that more foreign tourists will come to Kashmir now. I informed guests from the Netherlands that the Valley is peaceful and more and more tourists should visit the place now," said Nazir Ahmad, a Shikara owner, whose boat was among the hundreds hired by the department.

There are 4000 Shikaras in Dal Lake—which have become major attractions for tourists.

Earlier as reported, the Union Territory (UT) administration is expecting ease in travel advisories from different countries for traveling to UT with hosting of G-20 (Group of 20) leaders' summit.

Director Tourism, Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq told Kashmir Observer that the department is expecting more footfall of foreign tourists with the hosting of G-20 meeting.

Houses Of 8

April 26 issued non-bailable warrants against 23 militants from Kishtwar operating from across the border. Earlier, non-bailable warrants were issued against 13 militants the district.

The 36 individuals from Kishtwar went to Pakistan after joining the militant ranks over a period of time. Two FIRs were registered against them after their involvement in militant activities surfaced during investigations, the SSP said.

Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma said the SIU teams carried out raids on the houses of Qari Abdul Latief, Reyaz Ahmad Bohru, Fayaz Ahmad and Mushtaq Ahmad.

"The (four) militants settled in PoK are continuously trying to revive militancy in the Chenab Valley," she said, adding that during the course of the searches, a lot of incriminating digital and non-digital evidence were collected for detailed analyses.

"The support system which is assisting the inimical elements in reviving militancy would be destroyed at any cost," the SP said.

Restoring Historical

Riverfront captures the grandeur of the city, the river, joy & enthusiasm of the people, and the walk along the river is rejuvenating and an experience not to be missed," Sinha said.

He praised the vibrant ambience and commendable work done by the SSCL.

"In the coming days, the Jhelum Riverfront will attract more visitors and provide a high quality of life for citizens. Other development works are also tapping the vast potential and vitality of Srinagar city," the LG said.

He also told the officials that the collective effort should be to make the city come alive and improve infrastructure for people.

"Our prime objective is to restore the historical glory of the city, create infrastructure that improves quality of living for all the citizens and to provide better and improved urban services," Sinha added.

Commissioner SMC and CEO Srinagar Smart City Athar Amir Khan, the spokesperson said, briefed the LG on the works for the development of the Jhelum Riverfront.

Pertinently, Jhelum Rajbagh Riverfront stretch, under Srinagar Smart City, has been transformed into a world-class public space with facilities like walkways, cycling, green space, free wifi, universal access and numerous activities. Hashtag art along with other artifacts have also been installed on the Riverfront.

To Inaugurate Arch

The present single-lane steel bridge has been causing frequent traffic jams due to which the commuters face inconvenience.

News agency KNO quoted locals as saying that tourists use this bridge to visit several famous picnic and pilgrim destinations including Sonamarg, Naranag and the Amarnath shrine in different areas of the district.

Executive Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzoor said that the two-lane bridge comes at the cost of Rs 23.79 crores, funded by the World Bank. He said the span of the bridge is 110 metres and the width is 10.50 metres besides a 10.5-metre footpath on both sides. The length of the approach roads is 330 metres, he added.

On May 22, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shyambir along with ADDC Ganderbal Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Ganderbal, Executive Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzoor and DDC Lar-A visited the newly-constructed Wafil bridge and inspected the

final work.

The DC instructed the concerned department to make proper arrangements for the inauguration.

Leave Of Doctors

availability of adequate staff members during the yatra period.

Persons With Disabilities

complaints of persons with disabilities with various particulars like date of complaint, name of complainant and date of disposal by the grievance redressal officer.

Every Water Source

only source of irrigation for their agricultural land and that the authorities, without any "authority and justification", have started the construction of diversion of Kohal through the Irrigation Division Shohan.

"A perusal of Section 3 of (Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management)) Act, 2010, reveals that every water source in the State is and shall remain the property of the Government and any proprietary ownership, riparian or usage right on such water resources vested in any individual, group of individuals or any other body, corporation, company, society or community shall, from the date of commencement of the Act, be deemed to have been terminated and vested with the Government," the court said, adding, "Further, as per Section 4 of the Act of 2010, the Government has been vested with the responsibility to prepare the State Water Policy and Plan for the purpose of satisfying the demand of water for domestic use, agriculture, power, industry, etc."

"The petitioners (villagers) have no vested right to demand any particular amount of water, particularly when the respondents have already determined the requirement of different villages, as such, the action of the respondents (authorities) for reviving the canal in order to cater to the needs of other villages cannot be termed as illegal, unauthorized and without any justification."

More so, the court said, the authorities have already taken into consideration the requirement of water for the village Qasba Yar. "As such, this Court is of the considered view that the apprehension of the petitioners is without any basis".

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

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No Role For Anchor In T20 Cricket: MI Captain Rohit Sharma

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: India captain Rohit Sharma believes T20 cricket has changed and there is no role for anchors left in the format, adding that he has been exploring what he can achieve more as a batter even though his change in approach has brought about failures.

The Indian captain across formats, Rohit says as a batter he wants to do things 'differently' now without worrying too much about the outcomes, and that power-hitting could never be his forte.

"As I see it, there is no role for an anchor now. It is just how T20 cricket is played these days, unless you are 20/3 or 4, which is not going to happen every day," Rohit told Jio Cinema.

"Once in a while, you will be in that position and then someone needs to anchor the innings and finish off to a good score. There is no role for an anchor anymore, guys are playing differently." Rohit feels a change in mindset is mandatory.

"If you do not change your mindset, you are going to get smashed. People on the other side are thinking about the game differently and taking it to the next level.

"All seven batters need to play their role, I believe that if you get a good score, it is good, but even if you get a good 30-40 off just 10-15 or 20 balls, it is (just) as good because you are doing the role for the team. The game has changed," he added.

The Mumbai Indians and India captain said he has played T20 cricket long enough for him to stick to a particular approach to batting.

"I just want to play that way and see what I can do. I have played this format for a long time and in a certain manner. But I want to do different things now. While doing that, (if) I get out, (it) does not really bother me," he said.

Rohit added, "If you see, in Chennai (vs Chennai Super Kings) and before that in Mohali (vs Punjab Kings), I got out zero.



In the third game, against RCB, I stepped down the first ball. I thought I have failed thrice in as many attempts but it is fine, this is what I am going to do."

The 36-year-old said he cannot switch to power-hitting because others are doing so and would prefer to get the runs the way he can.

"I know (that) I cannot match the power of guys like Tim David, Kieron Pollard and

Cameron Green. They are powerful hitters; they can hit 100 metres easily," he said. Rohit also doesn't believe in fetish in hitting 100m sixes.

"But my thinking is that if I am getting a six after 65-70 metres, I only have to hit 80 metres. Why do I need to hit 100 metres? I will do that once you allow eight runs for it.

"I will hit 80 metres only because I am getting six runs

for it, and for that I need to time the ball. I do not need to muscle the ball like the other guys do — that is their strength. My strength is to get the ball in the middle of the bat, which is what we call the sweet spot," Rohit added.

Rohit said batting star Suryakumar Yadav is reaping the benefits of the hard work he has put in over the last several years.

"Look at Surya; he is not hitting it big. He can also hit 100 metres but his thinking is also the same. Everyone has been watching Surya for the last one or one-and-a-half years.

"But he is a seasoned cricketer, he has been playing since 2008. If I am not wrong, he made his debut in 2010-11. So from the last 10-12 years, he is playing the Ranji Trophy.

"His bats have gone from white to red — he hits that many balls, I have seen him from age-group cricket; he has done his hard yards from local cricket to Ranji Trophy," Rohit said.

The five-time IPL winning captain Rohit admitted Mumbai Indians are a team of superstars but said the franchise has a system to create superstars from players they bring in through their impressive scouting process.

"Yes, it is a superstar team, but it is because the franchise has worked for it. All these players are part of the big auction pool — we have bought them. "Our team of scouts had worked day and night to get Jasprit Bumrah and Akshar Patel here from Ahmedabad. Hardik (Pandya) and Krunal (Pandya) were spotted in 2015 and we got them here. We have worked hard for it. It was a five-year journey from 2015-2020," he said.

Rohit claimed young players Tilak Varma and Nehal Wadhwa will be 'huge stars' not only for Mumbai Indians but also for India.

"It is going to be the same story with what has happened with Bumrah, Hardik and all

these guys. Tilak Varma and Nehal Wadhwa... you watch the next two years. But then people will say 'it is a superstar team'. Yes it is, we are making them here. These two guys are going to be huge stars for us (MI) and for India," he said.

Rohit, who will lead India in the final of the World Test Championship and the 50-over World Cup later this year, revealed he did not watch most of the 2011 World Cup due to disappointment of not being selected.

"2011 was a big setback year for me only because I was not a part of the World Cup squad. It just hit me really hard, I realised a lot has to change. I made a conscious effort to change my game, my routines, everything about myself.

"I used to live by myself; I said 'I am just going to stay alone'. Honestly, I did not watch the World Cup except the semis and the final, because I was so disappointed, I did not want to watch," he said.

Srinagar Youth To Play For India In Cestoball World Cup

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 20-year-old youth from this capital city has achieved a feat by earning his place in Cestoball Team of India and to represent the country in Cestoball World Cup 2023 being held at Bengaluru.

Adeeb Ahmad Wani, presently pursuing BBA at Amity University in Mumbai has brought laurels to the Cestoball Team of Jammu & Kashmir by exhibiting excellent performance in National Cestoball competition which was held in Punjab in March last year. On the basis of his performance, he cemented his place in the Indian team for the Cestoball World Cup 2023.

Teams Known world over for their prowess in Cestoball and participating in the said event which include Argentina, France, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Nepal & Kenya.

Dr. Ali Mohammad Mir,



President, Jammu & Kashmir Cestoball Association, and Fida Hussain congratulated Wani for making the Association and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir proud by securing his selection for this prestigious World Cup 2023.

"We pray for his scintillating performance in the competition," Mir said.

The Cestoball World Cup 2023 is being held at Bengaluru from May 22 to 27.

Ganderbal Shines in Provincial Level Sports Championships



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports organised a series of sports activities as part of the G-20 Celebrations at Ganderbal, wherein the host district made remarkable achievements in various sports championships, highlighting the talent and dedication of its athletes.

In the ongoing Inter District Provincial Level Judo Championship held at Srinagar, District Ganderbal's Judo player, Shah Mehfooz, from BHSS Ganderbal, emerged victorious by clinching Gold in the under 55 weight category. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Ganderbal congratulated Shah Mehfooz on his outstanding performance and wished him success in his future endeavours.

Another significant event was the Zonal Level Inter District Chess competition for Boys and Girls under the age of 17. The competition, held at GHSS Ganderbal, witnessed the participa-

tion of 40 talented players from different zones of the district. After an intense battle of wits, the meritorious student players were felicitated with well-deserved medals, recognizing their exceptional skills. While congratulating the medal winners, Director of the Department Subash C Chibber has said that the Department is committed to promote Sporting Enthusiasts and to encourage energies of the youth to the maximum possible levels.

Simultaneously, the Inter School Zonal Level Football Competition took place at MM Stadium Ganderbal for Boys under the age of 17. Despite heavy rains, the young footballers from all four zones of the district displayed their spirit and energy, making the event a grand success.

In North Kashmir's Kupwara District, the Department of Youth Services and Sports, under the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Zahoor Ahmad Wani, conducted sports activities in the remote area of Tangdar.

DYSS Holds Badminton Finals In Zone Achabal

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Achabal on Wednesday held the grand final in the sports discipline of Badminton for U-14/U-17 Boys and Girls at GHS Dialgam. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag Raja Yaqoob, Mohammad Abass Dar (District Activity Incharge), Nelofer Khan HOI GHS Dialgam and Zonal Physical Education Officer Achabal Mohammad Abass Dar inaugurated the said program with some precious



words and encouraged the students to participate more in the upcoming sports events at various levels in order to remain fit and healthy.

The chief guests later distributed medals among the position holders.

IPL Has Taken A Heavy Toll, I Have 8-9 Months To Decide: Dhoni

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Describing himself as an "annoying skipper," Mahendra Singh Dhoni said months of intense preparation for the IPL has taken a "heavy toll" on him and that he would take a call on his retirement in eight to nine months.

There have been speculations that 2023 could be a swansong season for Dhoni, who has led Chennai Super Kings to their 10th IPL final with a 15-run win over Gujarat Titans in the Qualifier 1 here on Tuesday.

"Frankly, it takes a heavy toll. I have been out of home for literally four months," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation after winning the last game of the season at Chepauk.

"I will always come to CSK. I have been out of home from January, been practicing since March, so we will see," he added.

"January 31 was when I got out of the house, finished my work, and started practicing from 2nd or 3rd of March. It takes a lot, but I have ample time to decide." "I don't know... I have 8-9 months to decide. Why take that headache now. I have ample time to decide. The auction is in December," the 41-year-old said.

Personally, Dhoni has had a quiet season with the bat, managing just 104 runs from 15 matches at an average of 34.67, and was also seen struggling with his knee especially while running between the wickets.

The World Cup-winning captain, however, has not missed a match this season. After CSK's final league game, he was also seen wearing a brace.

"I will always be there for CSK, whether that is in the playing form or sitting somewhere outside...I don't really know." The four-time champions, who had finished at the ninth spot in 2022, dished out a commanding performance to outclass Gujarat Titans.

"I think IPL is too big to say it is another final. It is 10 teams it is even tougher, it is hard work of more than two months, lots of characters, everybody has contributed, middle order didn't get ample



opportunity but very happy to be where we are.

"I won't say it is just another final. It is hard work of more than two months because of which we are standing over here. Lot of character shown by the individuals, from where we started to where we are, and I feel everybody has contributed.

"Yes, the middle order has not got ample opportunity, but in between everybody has got a chance to chip in and they have done that," Dhoni said.

"GT are a fantastic team and they've chased very well, so the thought was to get them in. But it was a good toss to lose. If Jaddu gets conditions that help him, he's very difficult to hit. His bowling changed the game. Not to forget his partnership with Moeen."

BCCI & Adidas Announce Multi-Year Partnership As Official Kit Sponsor

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and adidas have announced a brand-new partnership as the kit sponsor for the BCCI. The contract, which runs through to March 2028, will give adidas exclusive rights for manufacturing kit across all formats of the game. adidas will be the sole supplier for all match, training & travel wear for the BCCI - including the men's, women's & youth teams. Starting June 2023, Team India will be seen in the three stripes for the very first time and will debut their new kit during the World Test Championship Finals.

Cricket remains the most popular sport in India, as well as experiencing continued expansion all over the world - sellout crowds, increased elite competition and grassroots growth. Indian cricket has also evolved exponentially with a world class youth system that reliably produces great athletes, a leading domestic league and a cricketing identity that is revered globally.

The partnership between the



BCCI and adidas will drive the sport forward both on and off the pitch with the sports brand bringing its innovative designs and expertise to Indian cricket.

Speaking about the partnership, Jay Shah, Honorary Secretary, BCCI said, "We are committed to helping grow the game of cricket and could not be more excited to partner with one of the world's leading sportswear brands, adidas, in this journey. With its rich historical legacy in sports, world-class products, and strong global reach, adidas will play an important role in driving the performance and future success of different categories of Indian cricket."

Speaking about the partnership, adidas CEO Björn Gulden

said: "We are proud to partner with BCCI and Team India, the most iconic team in India. Cricket is the most important sport in India, and it is very important for us to be visible and invest in it. We could not have found a better partner than BCCI. I believe India to be the fastest growing sports market for the next decades. We are very committed to supporting our team to become the best sports brand in India."

In addition to the Men's & Women's Senior National Cricket Team, adidas will also kit India "A" Men's and Women's National Team, India "B" Men's and Women's National Team, India U-19 Men's and Women's National Team, their coaches, and staff.



Man United On Brink Of Champions League Return

Agencies

MANCHESTER: A return to the Champions League was widely regarded as the minimum requirement in Erik ten Hag's first year in charge of Manchester United.

He will secure that if his team can pick up one point from its final two games of the season, both at home, against Chelsea on Thursday and Fulham on Sunday.

Having got to this stage, it would take a remarkable collapse to miss out on a place in the top four now and hand the final Champions League qualifying position to arch-rival Liverpool.

It is a prospect United's fans dare not contemplate and one Ten Hag is not considering.

"We want to win the game, play dominant football and get the job done," the Dutch manager said Wednesday.

A return to European soccer's elite competition is vital in Ten Hag's mission to restore United to its former glories.

Having been a Champions League mainstay under former manager Alex Ferguson, the

club has repeatedly failed to qualify for it since the Scottish great's retirement 10 years ago.

United finished sixth last season, the fifth time over the past decade it has fallen outside of the top four.

Ten Hag's first job was to reinstate the 20-times league champions among English soccer's elite and a place in the top four will be confirmation of that.

Qualification to the Champions League will not only be good for United's reputation around the world as one of soccer's most popular clubs, but also bring it much-needed revenue from prize money and commercial deals. In prize money alone, it is estimated it would cost United around \$48 million if it missed out again.

For Ten Hag, extra revenue should help to fund his recruitment plans, with a prolific striker his priority.

The ability to offer Champions League soccer to prospective targets should also strengthen United's hand in transfer negotiations. (AP)

Brazilians Protest Outside Spanish Consulate After Vinicius Racism Row

Agencies

SAO PAULO: About 100 Brazilian protestors gathered outside the Spanish consulate in Sao Paulo on Tuesday to condemn the racist abuse of Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior in Spain's top-flight soccer league.

The protestors chanted "La Liga is racist" and "end with racism in Spain and in Brazil" for about an hour. They brought flares, banners and stickers that read "Vini Jr, I am with you." They projected the words "it is not soccer, it is racism" onto the walls of the consulate.

Vinicius, who is Black, has been subjected to repeated racist taunts since he arrived in Spain five years ago. Since the Spanish league season began in September, he has experienced racist abuse by fans of at least five rival teams.

Former soccer player Claudia Rodrigues, 51, one of the orga-

quickly and show the Spanish government it needs to act.

"Vini behaved as a warrior, a Brazilian man that honors our ancestors," Rodrigues said. "Vini is facing racism in Europe. Regardless of financiers, sponsors, it is very important for our society and very important for young Black people, who look at them as heroes."

Spanish police have arrested seven people accused of racially insulting the Real Madrid player. Three were detained in Valencia for alleged abuse against Vinicius in a Spanish league match on Sunday. Four were arrested in Madrid for allegedly hanging an effigy of the player off a highway bridge in January.

Representatives of several Brazilian Black movements read out loud a statement showing support for the 22-year-old soccer star. Drivers honked in support and chanted against the



nizers of the protest, said the idea was not to bring thousands of people to the consulate, which sits in one of Sao Paulo's wealthiest regions, but to act

Spanish league from their cars.

The statement said Vinicius faced aggression "of the Spanish far-right that oppresses Blacks" and "Vini Jr. makes us proud." (AP)

Man Who Spends 2 Million A Year To Look 18 Swapping Blood With Father, Son

On April 3, the tech entrepreneur Bryan Johnson, 45, turns up at a health services clinic near Dallas with his 70-year-old father Richard and 17-year-old son Talmage. They arrive early in the morning, and, over the course of several hours, the men (and boy) engage in a tri-generational swapping of their blood plasma.

Talmage goes first, having a liter of his blood removed and converted via a machine into its piece parts—a batch of liquid plasma and then a batch of red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Bryan next undergoes the same process and then has an additional procedure in which his son's plasma is fed into his own veins. Richard goes last and receives Bryan's plasma after making room for the fluids by having his own blood drained.

At this point, you probably have a lot of questions. One might be: Is this like the "blood boy" thing? And yes, it is exactly like the blood boy thing.

There's a longstanding public fascination with stories of wealthy tech types injecting themselves with the precious bodily fluids of younger people. Experiments in mice have suggested that older rodents experience rejuvenating effects by absorbing the life force of their younger counterparts. Inspired by these results, some people have opted to experiment on themselves and tap into this vampiric-sounding fountain of youth—although, it should be noted, the science here is anything but settled.

For Johnson, the plasma exchange is not an unusual hap-



pening. He's been to the Dallas-area clinic for several consecutive months and received plasma—not from a family member but from a young, anonymous donor. Johnson carefully screened the donor to make sure the person had an ideal body mass index, lived a healthy lifestyle and was free of diseases.

Johnson made a name for himself in the technology field as the former head of Braintree, a digital payments company that owned Venmo. He pocketed a fortune after selling the venture and started Kernel, a brain-machine interface company. Of late, though, he's been focused on his body through something called Project Blueprint.

As Bloomberg Businessweek reported in January, Johnson is spending millions of dollars per year on medical diagnostics and treatments combined with a meticulously crafted regimen of eating, sleeping and exercise to see if he can slow, and perhaps even reverse, the aging process. He has a team of doctors aiding in this quest; through Blueprint, Johnson is publishing the vast majority of his methods and results, hoping others can evaluate and benefit from his work.

Zimbabwe Named "Most Miserable Country In The World", India's Rank Is...



Zimbabwe has emerged as the most miserable country on renowned economist Steve Hanke's Annual Misery Index (HAMI), which judges nations on mainly economic conditions. The African country that has surpassed war-torn nations like Ukraine, Syria, and Sudan, has majorly been plagued with skyrocketing inflation, which touched 243.8 percent last year. A total of 157 countries were analysed for the rankings, as per New York Post.

"Thanks to stunning inflation, high unemployment, high lending rates, and anemic real GDP growth, Zimbabwe clocks in as

the WORLD'S MOST MISERABLE COUNTRY in the Hanke 2022 Annual Misery Index. Need I say more?" Steve Hanke tweeted.

Mr. Hanke also blamed the country's reigning political party ZANU-PF and its policies for inflicting "massive misery."

Venezuela, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Argentina, Yemen, Ukraine, Cuba, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Haiti, Angola, Tonga, and Ghana are the other countries in the top 15 list of most miserable nations.

Meanwhile, Switzerland had the lowest HAMI score, meaning its citizens are the happiest. "One reason for that is the Swiss debt brake," Mr. Hanke wrote, credit-

ing the low debt-to-GDP ratio for the nation's joyous success.

The second-happiest country was Kuwait, followed by Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Niger, Thailand, Togo, and Malta.

India, on the other hand, ranked 103 on the list, with the contributing factor to the misery being unemployment, according to the index.

The US ranked 134th on the list, with unemployment as the leading culprit of unhappiness. Finland, which has been ranked the world's happiest country for six years in a row by the World Happiness Report, was ranked 109th on the misery index.

Georgi Gospodinov writer wins International Booker Prize for darkly comic memory novel

Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel won the International Booker Prize on Tuesday for *Time Shelter*, a darkly comic novel about the dangerous appeal of nostalgia.

The book beat five other finalists to the prize, which recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English. The 50,000 pounds (\$62,000) in prize money is divided between the author and the translator.

Time Shelter imagines a clinic that recreates the past, with each floor reproducing a different decade. Intended as a way to help people with dementia unlock their memories, it soon becomes a magnet for people eager to escape the modern world.

Gospodinov, 55, said he began writing his book about the weaponization of nostalgia in 2016, the year of the election of Donald Trump and the U.K.'s Brexit referendum. He said it was a time when anxiety was in the air.

I wanted to write a novel

about the monster of the past," he said. "Because you can see in this time that populist politics, actually, they paid us with the empty check of the past."

French novelist Leila Slimani, who chaired the judging panel, said it was a brilliant novel full of irony and melancholy.

It's a very profound work that deals with a contemporary question and also a philosophical question: What happens to us when our memories disappear?" she said.

But it is also a great novel about Europe, a continent in need of a future, where the past is reinvented and where nostalgia can be a poison.

Gospodinov is one of Bulgaria's most-translated authors. *Time Shelter* has also won Italy's Strega European Prize for literature in Italian translation.

The International Booker Prize is awarded every year to a translated work of fiction published in the U.K. or Ireland. It is run alongside the Booker Prize for English-language fiction, which will be handed out in the autumn.



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